

BOCIAN Bernard Berl (1877-1939), printing house owner, publisher, charity activist. He was born on 7th June 1877 in Częstochowa, the son of Mojżesz, an innkeeper and Sura née Enzel.

In 1938, together with his father, he established a Jewish printing house in Częstochowa (at I Aleja 6, where the Bocian family lived). From 1907 following the death of his father, he ran the printing house together with his brother, Szymon Bocian, a typesetter and printer.

On 12th December 1912, his printing house published the first issue of the first Jewish newspaper in Częstochowa - the "*Czenstochower Reklamenblatt*" ["Częstochowa Advertiser"]. Bocian was the official editor-publisher, while the founders of the newspaper were → Elkana Chrobołowski, Herszele Fajwlowicz, Mosze Cieszyński and → Jakub Rozenberg. The funds for publishing the first issue of the newspaper (20 rubles) were collected (for announcements and advertising) by M. Cieszyński and J. Rozenberg, who was the finance manager and editor. The first news items were prepared by Cieszyński, while H. Fajwlowicz wrote the columns. The newspaper was published as one-off issues - nine issues were published. On 14th February 1913, he began publishing the weekly "*Czenstochower Wochtblat*" ["Częstochowa Weekly"], this time, in large format, resembling a [broadsheet] newspaper. The last issue was published on 26th December 1913.

From the beginning of 1914, together with Rozenberg, he began publishing the daily "*Czenstochower Tageblatt*" ["Częstochowa Daily"]. When the funds provided by the co-publisher (300 rubles) ran out, Bocian took over the newspaper. (As editor, J. Abramzon was brought in from Łódź.) For a certain period, the newspaper was edited by → Lejb Kopiński and Fajwlowicz, with the participation of Mendel Asz, the rabbi's son. The newspaper was published until the end of 1919 (?). From 1922 to 1939, Bocian was the publisher of the weekly "*Czenstochower Cajtung*" ["Częstochowa Newspaper"]. Edited by Izrael Płocker, it was Zionist-Orthodox in character. Over many year, → Szmul Frank worked with this newspaper.

Bocian's printing house also printed eleven other (Yiddish language) titles, among them being "*Dos Naje Wort*" (1921), "*Arbeter Cajtung*" (1922-27), "*Di Cajt*" (1924-26), "*Dos Leben*" (1926-27), "*Der Czenstochower Szpigel*" (1927) and "*Czenstochower Express*" (1932-38). From 1923, a bi-weekly was also published - "*Jedność*" ["Unity"] - and, in 1925, a one-off issue was published to celebrate the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Tickets for cultural events,

e.g., for Jewish theatre performances, could also be purchased from Bocian's printing house.

In the early 1930s, Bocian was a member of the board of the Craft Cooperative Bank. He dedicated the last years of his life to charitable activities. He was president of "*Bejs Lechem*", a member of the management committee of the "*Gmiles Chesed*" fund and was *gabbay* of the Ohel Jakow synagogue (at I Aleja 4). From the time when they were both studying at Ajzyk Masz's *cheder*, he had remained friends with → Dr. Ludwik Batawia.

Bocian died on 10th June 1939 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery (grave 824 I). In July- August 1942, his printing house was liquidated by the Germans (ransacked and destroyed).

His wife was Etká Jetta née Daniela (24th October 1882 Warsaw-), the daughter of Boruch Saul and Chaja Etká née Ciemniejska. They had four children:

- Jakub (4th December 1905 Częstochowa - 1943? Skarżysko) who, in 1926, graduated from the Verviers Polytechnic (Belgium), he gained a textile engineering degree (with honours) and, following his father's death, took over the publishing of "*Częstochower Cajtung*"
- Ezjel (30th April 1907 Częstochowa - 1943?)

In the summer of 1943, on the orders of Degenhardt, both sons were to the camp in Skarżysko. (One died from typhus, while the other was killed while trying to escape.

- Helena Hinda (28th January 1909 Częstochowa – 3rd April 1935 Częstochowa), who graduated from the Jewish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and, in 1932, graduated in classical philology at the University of Warsaw
- Frajdla (8th August 1910 Częstochowa-).

Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, p. 378; *Czenstochower Jidn*, pp. 94, 96, 98, 99, 184, 185; Brener, *Widersztand*, p. 99; Mielczarek, *Dzieje prasy częstochowskiej*, pp. 30, 83, 91, 93, 128, CXXXIX; Pawlina-Meducka, *Kultura Żydów*, pp. 103, 104, 106; Surma-Jończyk, *Spółdzielczość Żydów*, 278. - *Cała, Żydowskie periodyki i druki*, p. 186. – "*Częstochower Cajtung*" 1928, No. 44, p. 5 (regarding son Jakub), 1932, No. 29, p. 6, 1935, No. 14, pp. 1, 2, 6 (regarding daughter Helena), 1939, No. 24, pp. 1, 2, 5; "*Express Częstochowski*" 1928, No. 214, p. 3, 1930, No. 120, p. 2, No. 184, p. 4; "*Goniec Częstochowski*" 1917, No. 374, p. 4. – "*Ziemia Częstochowska*"

1976, vol. XI (W. Mielczarek), pp. 267, 268, 269, 272, 275. - USC Częstochowa, death certificate No. 123/1939; APCz, group No. 1, ref. 8841, group No, 58, record No. 75; - materials (genealogical regarding the Bocian family) in the ODDC collection.

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