

CZĘSTOCHOWSKA Szoszana Róża, actually Chaja Rojza, (1894–1980) poet, teacher. She was born on 2nd May 1894 in Częstochowa, the daughter of Beruś (Berek) and Gitla née Cygler. She came from one of the most aristocratic Hassidic families in Częstochowa.

Very early in life, she began writing poetry and quickly gained popularity and recognition as a poet. Her poems first appeared in the “*Czenstochower Tageblatt*” newspaper (the newspaper was first published in 1914), in almost every Friday edition. Later, they were published in Jewish journals in Poland and America. Invitations from cultural and literary magazines began arriving. Her work also appeared in a collection of Jewish poets published in New York.

At the beginning of World War I, she became interested in pedagogy and, at the time, in workers’ orphanages, secular school and pedagogical courses. As the result of her parents not approving of her activities and wanting to marry her off, she left for Łódź. There, she established contact with social and literary circles (Icchak Kacnelson, Tabenkin, Miriam Ulinower).

She was constantly learning and improving her knowledge of Hebrew. She soon also gained recognition as an excellent teacher and tutor. When → Majer Bałaban became director of the Jewish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, he engaged her as a teacher and tutor for his children. For several years, she worked at the Gimnazjum with great pedagogical success. She was liked by her students, parents and the teaching staff. She became well-known as a teacher, receiving invitations to meetings and lectures from other places.

In the autumn (?) of 1924, she left for *Eretz Izrael* and soon settled in the country’s largest kibbutz - Ein Harod. She co-founded children’s institutions and schools, which later served as models for all workers’ settlements and kibbutzim throughout the country. After several years of useful work, she was sent to Western Europe to learn the latest methods and achievements in the field of pedagogy and children’s education. She remained there for several months, collecting a wealth of information. She joined the Pedagogical Council of the United Kibbutz Movement. She became an instructor in all kibbutz schools, travelling around the country, giving lectures and lessons to school and pre-school teachers.

Czenstochower Yidn, pp. XLVI, XLVII. - *Listing of teachers 1924*, p. 174.

Wiesław Paszkowski