

## Mojsze Gotlib

Mojsze Gotlib, the son of the *shoichet* Nechemie Gotlib, who was killed in the pogrom on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1919, was a young folklorist and novelist.

In the earliest years of his youth, he became a contributor to the *Częstochower Zeitung*, publishing fascinating novels. He was distinguished for his universal knowledge and his essays were, therefore, of a high level. In his novels, he showed the way to the new humanistic currents, mocking the [old] asceticism and scholasticism<sup>1</sup>. The heroes, who featured in his novels and his characters who break forth towards a new life, strive for knowledge and spirit.

He managed to portray, quite comically, the character of a young Jew, who was not ready for life, always hovering about in Kabbalistic contemplations, not knowing how to earn a living and how to be a part of society, and also not knowing the country's language. The leitmotif of his novels was positive living and creativity, as well as general knowledge.

Sadly, this young talent, Mojsze Gotlib, was torn away from the living world forever at the blossoming age of twenty-two<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: "Narrow-minded insistence on traditional doctrine." (Second definition of "scholasticism" in the Oxford Dictionary).]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: According to his brief biography in the "Who's Who" section of the book "Czenstochover Yidn" (p. XIV), Mojsze Gotlib "suffered of a lung disease and died at the age of thirty-six."]