

Editor Ido [Izydor Izaak] Siemiatycki

As a journalist and editor, Ido Semiatycki held a prestigious position in Częstochowa's communal life. He was born in 1892, received a general [viz. secular] education, and graduated from the journalists' school in Wrocław. As a professional journalist, he was active in the Jewish-Polish press in an entire array of newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

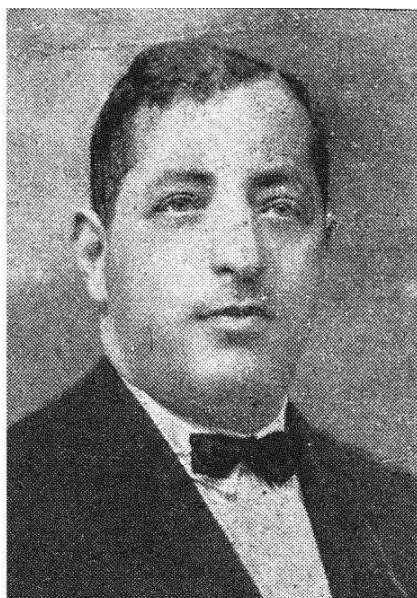


Photo №.58: Ido Siemiatycki



Photo №. 59: Felicja [Fajgla] Siemiatycka

As a man with unique capabilities, intellect and a great entrepreneurial spirit, he published several Jewish newspapers in the Polish language. The most prominent newspapers that he edited and published were:

- *Nowiny Częstochowskie* [Częstochowa News¹],
- *Echo Poranne* [Morning Echo] and
- *Ostatnie Wiadomości* [Częstochowskie; Latest CzNews].

His wife Felicja Siemiatycka, who wrote novels, poems and various articles, contributed to these papers. Mrs Siemiatycka was born in Częstochowa in 1896. She belonged to the Wolfowicz family from ul. Berka Joselewicza 15².

Editor Ido Semiatycki strove to come into contact with larger circles of readers, frequently organising different competitions and printing puzzles and challenges, [thus] drawing into his circle of readers an ever greater number of readers, [by] developing the interest of students in the prized challenges. He also developed the idea of writing amongst the up-and-coming generation, printing an entire array of works by very young, budding writers.

¹ [TN: Although a paper by this name was indeed published in Częstochowa in 1925, its editor was Adam Gallar; the author's ref. is possibly to the "Nowy Express Częstochowski" (New Cz. Express), which was edited by Siemiatycki.]

² [TN: According to the "Encyklopedia Częstochowy", Mrs Siemiatycka was the daughter of Jonasz Wolfowicz and Chasia née Rozenblat.]

During the times when anti-Semitism was on the ascent, when the Endecja bands were assaulting Jews in the streets and picketing Jewish shops, Editor Ido Siemiatycki started publishing the weekly *Polacy i Żydzi* [Poles and Jews], which set itself the task of combating the anti-Semitism and instilling peaceful relations between Poles and Jews. He and his wife worked with all their diligence and energy in that arena, penning various instructive articles, and also leading a regular polemic with the anti-Semitic newspaper *Gazetka Narodowa* [People's Gazette] which appeared in Częstochowa. His weekly *Polacy i Żydzi* gained an increasingly larger number of readers, both on part of the Jewish and Polish populations.

As one of the best chess players in Częstochowa, Editor Ido Siemiatycki was a regular frequenter of the Chess Club, taking part in all the larger meetings, conventions, banquets and press conferences.

His wife, Felicja Siemiatycka, worked in welfare institutions, dedicating her free time to the communal work.

The outbreak of the German-Polish War destroyed his editorial and journalistic activity – the entire publishing and press apparatus died out. Ido Siemiatycki, being proficient in German in speech and text, became a writer of petitions, thereby fulfilling a communal mission. At the beginning, the Germans arrested Jews on the grounds of different nonsensical, trumped-up charges and locked them up in prison, where they were threatened with death. Editor Ido Siemiatycki had a special ability in his written pleadings to prove and explain the baselessness of these accusations and, in that manner, he saved Jewish lives on numerous occasions.

The month of September 1942 arrived. The German regime tore the veil off its face and revealed itself with its bestial purposes of robbing and exterminating the Jewish people. Editor Ido Siemiatycki, seeing the brutal regime with its physical predominance over the defenceless Jewish population, became completely depressed and turned apathetic.

Together with his Jewish brothers and sisters, he perished tragically, along with his wife and son, in January in the Treblinka death camp.