

## Professor [Perec] Wilenberg

He worked in the [Jewish] Gimnazjum as professor of painting and draughtsmanship. In 1930, he redecorated Częstochowa's Old Synagogue on ul. Nadrzeczna, next to the Study-Hall.

Professor Wilenberg was an artistic painter, creating a style of his own, in which the Hebrew alphabet found its expression in an artistic manner. It was in this style that the [Old] Synagogue was decorated by him. In carrying out this work, he was aided by the talented young artist, [Heniek] Guterman. The work was completed with the greatest accuracy and, often, under complicated circumstances - lying down.

When Nachum Sokołów, the president of the worldwide Zionist Organisation, was in Częstochowa, he marvelled at Professor Wilenberg's artistic work in decorating the synagogue, which took a year to complete. Nachum Sokołów had each separate drawing photographed and took the pictures with him for the Jewish National Museum [Bezalel] in Jerusalem.

Throughout the epoch of annihilation, the artistic painter Professor Wilenberg left the Warsaw Ghetto for the city's "Aryan side", where he lived as a blind [sic mute<sup>1</sup>] beggar by the Polish churches, and in this manner he survived the War.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: According to the book "Czenstochov" (1958), p.137, "But, as irony would have it, during the Nazi occupation of Poland, in the Aryan side of the Warsaw streets, an old man went about with a sign [which said] "Mute Painter," selling the pictures he had painted of the Holy Częstochowa Mother, the Apostles, the Via Dolorosa [etc.], which the pious Poles purchased with tears in their eyes, to spite the godless Germans...This old "mute" man was [none other than] the Jewish artist Perec Wilenberg, who had dedicated his life to find a Jewish style and art...Thanks to these holy images, he survived the Nazi occupation. He feigned muteness due to his Jewish accent..."]