

Fizel Zajdman

The most prestigious bookseller-antiquarian in Częstochowa was Fizel Zajdman. People called him "*Fize'le Czap*". Why he was thus nicknamed remains a mystery which no one can explain.

He was a Jew with a *hadras punim*¹, well-to-do, who made good deals and owned property and, above everything else, he knew his books. Fize'le ran his bookstore for many decades and had the best and most sought-after antique [books] in all languages. He had those books which one could not find in any other bookstore.

He bought all the books that were brought to him - even single parts [of a larger work] and also such as had no beginning or no ending, because he knew that the missing pages or parts would [eventually] be brought to him anyway and that, in that manner, he would complete the books.

At the beginning of the scholastic year, his bookstore overflowed with clients, because he had everything and it was somewhat cheaper.

Fize'le was [still] running his bookstore at the age of 100 (one hundred) as in his younger years and, when his sight was weakened and he could not see, he remembered exactly where each book was placed and, by tapping with his finger, he recognised each book, its title and author.

When Fize'le was already in deep old age, he became an enthusiastic buyer of houses. When someone asked him why he was pitching into it so vigorously, he replied that one must provide for one's old age.

Shortly before the War, he died a wealthy man at the age of 106, leaving behind a large building on ul. Garibaldiego and a large family of children, grandchildren and adult great-grandchildren.

¹ [TN: Heb., lit. "glory of the face", viz. majestic bearded countenance, from the Talmud Bavli, tractate Shabbes, p.152a: "The glory of the face is the beard."]