

The Yiddish Press

The Beginning



[TN: the above graphic shows the mastheads of the newspapers published in Częstochowa.]

Before the [newspaper] *Der Frejnd* [*The Friend*] moved from [St] Petersburg to Warsaw, and until the publishing of *Hajnt* [*Today*] and *Moment*, few Jewish papers were read in Częstochowa. The *Ha'Melitz*, *Ha'Tzifra* and *Der Frejnd* from [St] Petersburg came to only a few subscribers in Częstochowa. The two Częstochowa bookbinders and booksellers, Lapidés and Bajgele, who supplied the Jewish readers with storybooks for a loaning fee of three *grosz*, also ordered *Der Frejnd*, and one could read the paper there for one kopek, but one had to wait in line. The queue was sometimes of ten people or more. The paper would become so worn out, that the reader could barely read one whole sentence.

The first proper newspaper distributors in Częstochowa were the three associates, Mojsze-Lajb Lewensztajn, Herszke Gutfrajnd and Szlojme Frankfurter. They were the agents for the Warsaw papers, which usually arrived at lunch time. Their primary

paper-selling location was the First *Aleja*, at first next to Neufeld's wholesale chemist, [and] later at the gate of house at №7, where the loans and savings fund offices were located. Every day, masses of people would wait for the arrival of the newspapers. They also had regular customers, to whom they delivered the paper at home.

The first publications in Częstochowa itself were the proclamations of the [political] parties. Many of these proclamations were printed at [Berl] Bocian's printing press, by hook or by crook. One of the regular printers of proclamations was Symcha Kalka. The SS [Socialist-Zionist] Organisation in Częstochowa later organised its own printing press.

The first newspaper writer in Częstochowa was Mojsze Cieszynski, who would write correspondence reports about Częstochowa in the papers of Warsaw and elsewhere, under the name Mojsze Ce. As one may imagine, the big-city newspapers did not give up much space to the provinces. As a result, local weeklies began to appear in various towns to cater to the local communal life. One such weekly was the *Będziner Anonsen-Blatt*, where R. Federman printed reports from Częstochowa. This moved

the Częstochowa activists to create their own press, and the *Częstochower Reklamen-Blatt* was founded.

***Częstochower Reklamen-Blatt* [“The Częstochowa Advertiser”]**

The first issue of the *Częstochower Reklamen-Blatt* was printed on Friday, 6th December 1912, at B. Bocian’s printing press, signed by B. Bocian as editor-publisher. The founders were A. Chrobolovsky, Hersze’le Fajwlowicz, Mojsze Cieszynski, [and] Jakób Rozenberg.

The funds for the paper’s first issue were raised by Mojsze Ce., who collected for the first twenty roubles of advertisements. This was no easy task. He also wrote the local news. Rozenberg, who at the time was an employee at *Wulkan* (iron foundry), was the financier and the first editor. Hersze’le Fajwlowicz did the popular columns, and *A-Ski* was the “feature article” writer.

No special authorisation was required to publish the newspaper. In Tsarist Russia, at that time, it was permitted to publish sporadic publications just with the publisher’s signature. After it was published, a few copies would be sent to the censor.

The plan to issue a weekly newspaper by a group of penniless amateurs was a venturesome utopia altogether, but the most critical moment in the publishing of the first issue was when B. Bocian demanded that the entirety of the material to be printed - including the advertisements - should be first translated into Russian, in order to receive permission from the local gendarmerie. And Berl Bocian z”l was a hard Jew - it was difficult to convince him, or to make him submit. During the revolutionary years, even the revolvers of the SS [Party’s] members could not induce him to print illegal proclamations - and the “miracle” that Bocian was talked into allowing the printing without Russian translations, was perhaps even greater than the publishing of the newspaper itself.

The first issue of *Reklamen-Blatt*, – price - one kopek – contained:

Our Goal, which was formulated as follows:

“To provide every merchant or producer with the opportunity to make the wider public acquainted with their articles and merchandise, and also to show the customer the place and source where to purchase everything that he requires.”

Only afterwards does the promise come:

To report on the activities of the communal institutions, such as the Jewish kehilla, credit institutions [and] cultural unions and societies.

Częstochower News, [with] two news items:

- a) *The Malbish Arumim¹ Society will be giving out 167 pairs of boots and 62 coats to poor boys on the forthcoming Saturday.*
- b) *The monk Damazy Macoch was visited in his cell at the Piotrków prison by his solicitor Klajn, in order that he should sign the appeal to the Ssenate regarding a revocation [of his verdict]. Macoch refused to sign.*

¹ [TN: Heb., “(He who) clothes the naked”, an attribute of God. This phrase is taken from the “Morning Blessings” liturgy.]

[Then comes] a report from Kielce, which begins on the first page and ends on the second, signed by F. B-O (Fiszl Bimko), [and] a report from Nowo Radomsko by *Remez* [Heb., Hint; pseud.]. On the second page, under the [main] feature, is *The Congregation's Shaiget* [Lout], compiled by H. Fajwlowicz. On the third page – the feature article by *A-Ski*, *Hanukkah*, printed in small letters (the larger fonts had already been used for the local news and the reports). There is also a “little feature article” by Jakow Rozenberg and the city’s latest news.

Then came the advertisements from the *Uranja* [Theatre] at Second *Aleja* 38, and the Odeon [Theatre] at Second *Aleja* 43. There is [also] and advertisement for a great *Hanukkah* evening at the *Lira*, with the actress Miriam Izraels; a *Hanukkah* evening at the Craftsmen’s Club, with a lecture from Eng. Ratner on the significance of *Hanukkah* and with the participation of Cantor Z. Rozental, and at the end, “*Recitations, Dances & Confetti*” and three great *Hanukkah* shows at the *Lira* featuring the comedians Goldberg and Herszkowicz, the prima donna Laskowska and the soubrette Gutszechter.

In the second issue, there is a notice - *Physical Development Amongst Jews* - calling on Częstochowa youth to establish a sports union. The feature article is dedicated to the Craftsmen’s Club. A second leading article, by Jakób Rozenberg, deals with the assimilators of the Warsaw *Gmina*, who made a proposition to dismiss the poet I.L. Peretz from his position, due to the fact that he appeared as a delegate of the Jewish National list. In that same issue, there is a bit of local news by Mojsze Ce. regarding the fact that the local [Jewish] nationalist youth sent off a protest to the Warsaw newspapers against the Jewish *Gmina* in Warsaw, which debated the question of dismissing I.L. Peretz from his position.

In the third issue of *Reklamen-Blatt*, one senses that the child is already teething. The article *The Jewish Antisemitism* falls with harsh words upon Jewish employers who turn down Jewish labourers at their factories.

A-Ski dedicates the feature article of the fourth number to *A Critical Issue* - emigration.

In the fifth issue, the leading article is once more dedicated to *Physical Development Amongst Jews*. Two notices in the local news tell that the Russian chief of police Denisov had been tried at the regional court in Piotrków for belonging to the PPS, and that the Warsaw Court of Appeal had tried the known writer Maria Glikson, daughter of the notorious Częstochowa lawyer Glikson, for belonging to the PPS and concealing expropriated moneys. She was sentenced to two years and eight months of penal servitude.

In the sixth issue, the first article is a call to the Jewish merchants, against whom a strong boycott movement had begun following the elections to the Fourth Duma, to organise themselves into a merchants’ union.

Articles - one in the sixth number, [*Agudat*] *Chovevei Sfat Ever*² at the *Lira* by L.K. (Leon Kopinski), and the second in №7, *The Chovevim at the Lira* by “A Yiddishist” (*A-Ski*) - show that the Hebrew-Yiddish war crossed over into the columns of the Częstochowa press.

In the seventh number, there is also a little opinion piece *What Jews Rejoice About* by F. Sz-Tz (Fajtel Szmulewicz). As it turns out, these were his first printed lines. The issue appeared on 17th January 1913.

² [TN: Heb., *Society of Lovers of the Hebrew Language*; usually shortened to “*Chovevim*” (*Lovers*).]

The *Reklamen-Blatt* lasted for nine issues. On 14th February 1913, the *Częstochower Wochenblatt* issue № 1 appeared.

Częstochower Wochenblatt [“The Częstochowa Weekly”]

Częstochower Wochenblatt, issue №.5, appeared in a larger format and began to take on the appearance of a newspaper. In the same issue, an article entitled *Regarding the Cheder* appeared, which “demands a new, secular, Jewish primary school”.

The *Wochenblatt* issue №.10 - the *Pesach* issue - is already an almost “literary” one. It contains the feature article *Slaves We Were* by L. (Leon Kopinski), *In The Desert*, signed by “A Young Jew” (A.Ch.³), *A Blood Libel*, a monologue by a Jewish reporter [and] dedicated to [Menachem Mendel] Beilis in Kiev, written by Epsilon (H. Fajwlowicz), and *Childhood Pesach Memories*, “dedicated to my friend Majer Hirsch”, by Ben-Jakow (Mojsze Cieszyński).

In issue №.11, Ben-Jakow writes about the emigrants who pass through the Częstochowa border and demands, of the Jewish public activists, to open a branch of the [St] Petersburg Emigration Society.

In that same issue, “A Member” (A.Ch.), in his feature article *The Linas Ha'Tzedek*⁴, discusses his views to the effect that this society needed to see to the physical development of the Jewish child by founding a summer camp and arranging open-air gardens for the children.

In issue №.12, there local news [headlined with] *Another Strike at the Motte Factory*, and a notice as follows:

The First of May in Częstochowa – A day before the First of May, there were many arrests and searches in our city. The police also tore down several red banners from the telegraph wires in various parts of town.

This was in 1913.

In the leading article of issue №.13, a project is proposed to construct a communal building for all the societies and unions.

Issue №.14 contains a report by Mojsze Ce., about a large group of emigrants from Częstochowa who travelled off to Galveston.

Issues 17 and 18 were published under the editorship of a young journalist from Warsaw, I.M. Bron. From №.19 onwards, the paper was once more edited by H. Fajwlowicz. The main articles were written by A-Ski and the local news writer Mojsze Ce.

In September 1913, elections were held for representatives to the Jewish *Kehilla*. The *Częstochower Wochenblatt* conducted a broad campaign urging *kehilla*-tax payers to participate in the elections and to choose representatives who would represent all echelons of the Jewish population, and not just the “Germans” (the assimilated). A whole series of communal letters, regarding the *Kehilla*'s duties, was also made public. Of the 1,200 people who paid the *kehilla*-tax and who had the right to vote, only fourteen individuals participated in the elections. Those who received the most votes were Dr Zaks, Ludwig Tempel and Henryk Markusfeld.

³ [TN: Probably Alkona Chrobolovsky.]

⁴ [TN: “Lodgings of Righteousness,” a society that provided adequate hospitality for wayfaring guests.]

Due to a quarrel with the publisher B. Bocian, issue №.36 was published under the editorship of Izrael Płocker. But the quarrel was soon resolved and the paper continued being published with its usual team.

The Beilis trial was [then] held in Kiev which, in the Jewish public affairs, swept all the other problems to one side. Several issues of the *Wochenblatt* were dedicated to this blood-libel, which targeted the entire Jewish people. Once the verdict of the sworn judges became known, the courtyard of *Aleja 6* was flooded with Jews. The extra edition was torn from the hands [of the sellers].

***Unser Zeitung*⁵ [“Our Newspaper”]**

In October 1913, another weekly paper began to be published in Częstochowa, under the name “*Częstochower Zeitung*” [sic “*Unser Zeitung*”]. This paper was published in Lutek Cymerman’s printing press. The editor was Kronenberg from Łowicz.

During that same year, 1913, two social “reforms” were implemented in Russia. One was HMOs [health funds] for workers. The other was a law which permitted the forming of professional unions, within a limited scope. The *Częstochower Wochenblatt* dedicated much space to these issues [and], particularly, to the professional unions that were being established during that period.

In the last issue of *Wochenblatt*, issue №.46 dated 26th December 1913, there is a report [which was] actually printed in small typeface, but which was of great significance. We are informed that a celebratory gathering has been held at the Craftsmen’s Club in honour of Mr Markusfeld, in connection with the first year of existence of the loans and savings fund at the Club. At this meeting, A. Rotszyld, a labourer, touches upon the issue of Jewish workers not being admitted to the factories of the Jewish communal activists and philanthropists, and those who do work there from earlier are gradually being pushed out. Mr Markus Win, director of the *Kapeluszarnia*, where some 160 Jewish girls were working, declared that it was the Jewish *Shabbes* that prevented the Jewish workers from coming into the factories. A huge discussion developed, but it did not bring any great results. This question was raised several more times in the *Częstochower Tageblatt*, which began being published at the beginning of 1914.

***Częstochower Tageblatt*⁶ [“Częstochowa Daily Paper”]**

The *Częstochower Tageblatt* was, at first, published jointly by B. Bocian and Jakób Rozenberg. However, once the sum of 300 roubles which Rozenberg had invested ran out, B. Bocian took over sole control of the paper.

J. Abramson from Łódź, where he had contributed to a one-kopek newspaper, was brought over as editor of the *Częstochower Tageblatt*. He was a fine Yiddish writer and had the mind of a philosopher. He was one of the contemporary “repentant sinners” who were disappointed in the reactionary years.

⁵ [TN: No actual mention of this paper is made in the forthcoming article, although the “*Częstochower Zeitung*” (which was a separate paper altogether) in first paragraph is an obvious reference to it, as may be apprehended from *Sefer Częstochowa*, Vol I, col. 495, which states: “At the time, a competing newspaper was also published, a weekly called “*Unser Zeitung*” [Our Newspaper]; it was printed at Cymerman’s printing press, and edited by Kronenberg from Łowicz.” Following this paragraph, the article returns once more to the “*Częstochower Wochenblatt*.” Although this could be a simple omission/misprint, it is worth noting that this article was written by those who wrote for the rival newspaper, “*Częstochower Wochenblatt*,” which has already been dealt with above at length.]

⁶ [TN: We have used the German spelling, but in Polish Yiddish the word is pronounced “Tugblatt.”]

In its feature articles, the *Częstochower Tageblatt* dealt with the same problems and questions as [had] the *Wochenblatt*. The paper came out in support of reforming the *cheder*, of creating a [secular] Jewish primary school, [and] it often criticised the attitude towards Yiddish in the *kehilla* institutions, which were mainly run by the “assimilationists”. The paper gave the largest space to the elections of the *kehilla* representatives, which took place in the summer of 1913. In order to awaken in the Jewish public - payers of the *kehilla*-tax - an interest in these elections, articles were published containing interviews with Rabbi Nachum Asz, engineer F. Ratner, Herman Szaja, Józef Imich, A. Warszawski, [Rabbi] Majer-Henoch Jszajewicz from Wola [near Warsaw], Leon Kopiński and lawyer I. Grünbaum from Warsaw. The conclusion was that, in the *Kehilla*, there also needed to be a representative of the orthodox faction. The candidate was Szmul Goldsztajn. The candidature of Engineer Ratner was also proposed. The “assimilationists” remained the leaders of the *Kehilla*.

Alongside Abramson at the *Tageblatt*, H. Fajwlowicz worked as proof-reader and as writer of columns on life in the city and in the *shtetls* around Częstochowa. A-Ski, who disagreed with Abramson’s right-wing tendencies, published articles from time to time - mainly on the life of the workers. R. Federman also periodically published articles on the battle for Yiddish.

Often, the *Częstochower Tageblatt* also printed short and longer stories from the fine literature, [such as those] by A. [x] Eppelbaum⁷ and Jack London, among others.

With the outbreak of the First World War, the newspaper came to a halt, but it reappeared under the German occupation, in combination with Lazar Kohn’s *Volkszeitung* [People’s Paper] from Łódź. J. Abramson, who hated the Germans, had left Częstochowa at the start of the [First] World War. The actual newspaper - the local news that was printed at Bocian’s printing press - was directed by H. Fajwlowicz, with the participation of Mendel Asz, [the Rabbi’s son].

The *Częstochower Tageblatt* continued being published independently until the end of the War, until it ceased completely in 1919.

***Das Neue Wort* [“The New Word”]**

In April 1920, *Das Neue Wort*, a weekly publication by the Częstochowa *Vereinigte* Organisation, began to appear. It was dedicated to the working and communal life in Częstochowa. The official editor was R. Federman. A. Chrobolovsky directed the newspaper and filled practically all of it by himself.

Shortly afterwards, the Soviet-Polish War broke out. Almost all the workers’ papers in Poland, published by the Bund and *Poalei Zion*, were closed down. The greater part of the Labour activists were arrested, including a great number of Częstochowa Bund activists, with Józef Aronowicz at the top. *Das Neue Wort*, which was almost the only remaining Jewish workers’ newspaper in Poland, listed the names of the papers closed down and the Labour activists arrested. Just these notices, on their own, would take up several columns.

In contrast to the previous Jewish newspapers in Częstochowa, *Das Neue Wort*’s main focus was on current political issues, as one may notice from the feature articles. Nevertheless, Częstochowa communal life also occupied a large place in the paper.

The conditions of Jewish life had changed considerably, by comparison with the pre-War era. The assimilators were gradually pushed out from their communal positions. A Zionist-Orthodox majority

⁷ [TN: We have not been able as yet to ascertain the existence of this writer; possibly ref. to the well-known Yiddish belletrist B. (Menachem-Berisz) Eppelbaum.]

controlled the *Kehilla*. Assimilated Zionists and the Orthodox were now united in one bloc in the different elections, and against them stood the impoverished masses and the organised Jewish workers. *Das Neue Wort* defended the interests of the poorer Jewish populace and the workforce and, although the paper was published by an organisation affiliated with a political party, it avoided political bias, so that it would be read by workers of all factions, and by a great part of the Jewish youth without political affiliation.

In the period between 15th October 1920 and 25th February 1921, *Das Neue Wort* became the party organ of the *Vereinigte* Central Committee in Warsaw. M. Mendelsberg from Warsaw was the editor. The last two pages would be dedicated to local life. During this period, the number of readers in Częstochowa decreased sharply.

At the end of February 1921, the paper again began to appear as a local newspaper. In view of the strong reaction in Poland, the paper became a leftist one. Compared with other non-Communist newspapers in Poland, *Das Neue Wort* stood out for its pro-Soviet articles, thus retaining its individuality.

Das Neue Wort dedicated much consideration to the cultural development of the working masses, especially of the working youth. At the time, a wide network of workers' educational institutions already existed, such as workers' kindergartens, the I.L. Peretz primary school, evening courses for young workers, sporting unions and a whole array of organisations for the working youth. All this had [already] been written about by the *Częstochower Wochenblatt* back in 1913.

In this same period, Yiddish became the most fully empowered language in a whole array of associations and communal institutions, such as, for instance, with the "*Handlowces*"⁸, in the credit institutions, at the Retailers Union, etc. This was also, in a great measure, the result of the war that the local Yiddish press had waged.

Thanks to the articles and reports on the local Jewish school system, *Das Neue Wort* connected Częstochowa with all friends in America, who supported the local institutions.

The renowned pedagogue Izrael Rubin, who is now in the Land of Israel, now and then wrote in *Das Neue Wort*. Abram Zak from Warsaw would also often have his poems printed there.

At the end of 1922, when R. Federman switched over to the Bund, A. Chrobolovsky - the *de facto* editor – also appeared as the official editor. A lawsuit was brought against him for the article *The Silent Murder*, against the closure, by the Polish government, of the schools directed by the Bundist association *Unser Kind* [Our Child] in Warsaw and in the provinces. Immediately afterwards, he left for America and Sz. Frank took over the position of edito.

Of the articles reprinted from other newspapers, [Moissaye Joseph] Olgin's letters from the Soviet Union printed in the New York *Freiheit* [Freedom] occupied the most important place.

***Unser Stimme* ["Our Voice"]**

In 1928, several issues of *Unser Stimme*, the central organ of the Jewish section of the Independent [Socialist Workers] Party, were published in Częstochowa under the editorship of A. Chrobolovsky. The "Independent Party" was the name of the former *Vereinigte*, which had now merged with Bolesław Drobner's Socialist leftist group.

⁸ [TN: From the Pol. "handlowcy," or tradesmen; most likely ref. to the Merchants Union.]

The leading articles in *Unser Stimme* were penned by Dr Józef Kruk. Sz. Bastomski, editor of the *Little Green Trees* [children's magazine] in Wilno, included in it articles on cultural issues.

Częstochower Zeitung ["Częstochowa Newspaper"]

During that same period, Bocian's printing press once more began to publish a weekly, under the title *Częstochower Zeitung*. For a long time, the editor was Izrael Plocker. The paper's leaning was a Zionist-Orthodox one. Later, the paper's editors changed frequently. Sz. Frank, printing articles on communal life and feuilletons, contributed to the *Częstochower Zeitung* over an extensive period. Mojsze-Lajb Lewensztajn, under the pseudonym "Lewioson" [Leviathan], wrote weekly overviews entitled *What [I] Heard, What [I] Saw*. M. Kaufman, a typesetter at Bocian's press, frequently published articles on current events. A.Ch. Sziper also distinguished himself with his articles.

Neue Zeitung ["The New Newspaper"]

During a lengthy period, a weekly entitled the *Neue Zeitung* appeared in Częstochowa, edited and published by J. [?] Wajsberg.

In 1938, the *Częstochower Ekspres* [Express] began appearing, combined once again with Lazar Kohn's *Warszawer Ekspres*. Częstochowa news was printed on the last page.

Unser Weg ["Our Way"]

During that same period, the Zionists began publishing their own weekly paper titled *Unser Weg*, edited by M. Tauszewicz. A.Ch. Sziper, Dr A. [x] Bram, C. Rosenwein, J. [?] Turner, J. [?] Klajner and others contributed to it.

The Bundist Press

Arbeiter Zeitung ["Workers Paper"]

In 1923, the Bundist Organisation in Częstochowa began to publish its own weekly organ, which set itself the goal of serving Częstochowa, Zagłębie Dąbrowskie (Będzin, Sosnowiec and Zawiercie) and the surrounding region. With some interruptions, this Bundist weekly paper appeared until the Second World War, under the names *Arbeiter Zeitung* and *Częstochower Weker* [Cz. Awakener]. It was printed consecutively at the printing presses of Bocian at *Aleja 6*, the Kultura Cooperative Printing Press, A. [x] Helfgot at *Aleja 23*, and M. Rozensztajn in Piotrków Trybunalski. The first issue of *Arbeiter Zeitung* was published on 20th February 1923. The *Arbeiter Zeitung* was edited by R. Federman (now in America), with the close collaboration of the teachers at the Jewish secular school, Róża Kantor-Lichtensztajn (now in America) and Jochewed Zysman (perished in the Warsaw Ghetto).

Its most important contributors were:

Icek Pejsachson (An Old Acquaintance⁹) – a pioneer of the Socialist Movement in Poland who, in his last days, lived in Będzin and was murdered by the Nazi beasts during the Hitler's rule in Będzin in 1943.

His last words to the 8,000 Jews, who were being led out of Będzin to the gas chambers, were,

⁹ [TN: Presumably his pseudonym.]

Know, Jews, that the hours remaining for you to live are numbered. Imminent death awaits you. Either way, you have nothing to lose. The only thing you have left - is to put up a resistance. Do not let yourselves be led to the slaughter!

The seventy-year-old Pejsachson, from whose speech usually sprung wisdom and humour, spoke for seven minutes - and his words were laden with sorrow and steely determination. The Nazis finally realised what he was saying to the Jews and a murderous Nazi bullet brought his life to an end.

During the Nazi occupation, Izaak Samsonowicz, alongside other Bundists, stood at the head of the Jewish ghetto and was, at the same time, active in the Underground Movement. Together with others, he was arrested by the Gestapo - but he managed to save himself. He was later active, for a long time, in Warsaw, as a member of the Underground Bund's Central Committee in Poland.

Engineer Ch. Wilczyński perished alongside Dr Emanuel Ringelblum. The lawyer J. Wilczyński was active in underground work in the concentration camps in Częstochowa. At the very last moment before the Liberation, he was dragged away to Germany and perished there.

[And finally, there are], the lawyer Zygmunt Epszajn (now in America), Josef Rubinsztajn, Szmul Frank, Mojsze Lederman and other local workers of different professions and workshops.

It is worth mentioning that almost all the aforementioned contributors – including the editor – had been dilettantes to begin with, and that they took their first journalistic steps in this same weekly paper. But some of them soon displayed journalistic capabilities and, over the course of time, came to participate in different Yiddish newspapers in Poland.

Raphael Federman, who also wrote under the pseudonym “Amicus” [Lat., Friend], mostly handled political, communal and professional issues. Among other things, he penned a lengthy serial article entitled “*The Downfall of an Idea*”, regarding the liquidation of the *Vereinigte* Party. After 1926, he came out against the Piłsudski regime, criticised the PPS' supposed opposition to the government, talked about the city's economy, *Kehilla* matters, scholastic issues, the Professional Movement and puts forth demands to grant amnesty to the political arrestees, to abolish the night work of the bakery workers, and so on. Icek Pejsachson specialised in the themes of Socialism and the Bund.

Izaak Samsonowicz wrote about various general political, communal and cultural themes.

Eng. Ch. Wilczyński issued forth treatises on literary subjects, such as about Romain Rolland on his 60th birthday, about Morris Winczewski on his 70th birthday and others.

Lawyer Zygmunt Epszajn, under the pseudonym “Aron,” wrote his thoughts on socialist issues and socialist economics.

Josef Rubinsztajn, writing under the pseudonym “*Mugen-Duwid*”¹⁰, and Szmul Frank wrote columns. Sz. Frank also wrote about the bygone battles of the Jewish Labour Movement with the “Good Boys” [gangsters], such as Mojsze “*Patze*” [The Blunderer], [and] Icek “*Shlize*” [The Slippery]. Mojsze Lederman [wrote] about [the] professional unions.

The *Arbeiter Zeitung* occasionally also published articles by Comrades Josef Chmurner, B. Szefer, Icek Lichtensztajn from Łódź, [and] Aryje Neumark. Among the reprinted articles, one large article, from the *Forverts* by Sholem Asch on the Bund, is noteworthy.

¹⁰ [TN: Aka “*Magen-David*,” lit. “*Shield of David*,” viz. *the Star of David*.]

After the editor Raphael Federman, Izaak Samsonowicz and Wilczyński left Częstochowa, the *Arbeiter Zeitung* came to a halt.

The Bundist organ was once more revived in 1938. Dawid Klin arrived in Częstochowa in that period, and began publishing a weekly newspaper entitled "*Częstochower Wecker*". He filled almost the entire paper with his own articles, apart from those reprinted from the extensive Bundist press in Poland. However, in that same year, Dawid Klin left Częstochowa and moved to Warsaw, and the paper ceased to be published. During Hitler's rule, Dawid Klin was connected with the Underground Movement in Poland generally and with the Bund in particular. Nowadays, he holds a position in the current Polish government, besides being a major in the Polish Army. The *Częstochower Wecker* was printed at S. Ofman's printing press at *Aleja* 8 and also in Piotrków by M. Rozensztajn. For some time, it mutated into one paper with the *Piotrkówer Wecker*, which was edited by Izaak Samsonowicz. The *Arbeiter Zeitung* also merged with the *Piotrkówer Wecker* for a short while, when Izaak Samsonowicz worked as Secretary of the Presidium of the Piotrków municipal authorities.

***Der Proletarier* ["The Proletarian"]**

In 1925, following the unification of the Professional Movement in Częstochowa, when the Jewish professional unions organised in the Jewish Cultural Bureau were recognised as an ethnic division of the local *rada* [council], an attempt was made to publish a weekly paper, as organ of the "Council of the Professional Classes Union" (the Jewish Cultural Bureau). Only two issues were published - the first on 4th September 1925 and the second on 29th September 1926. This publication was printed at the Kultur¹¹ Cooperative Printing Press [and], later, at A. Helfgot's at *Aleja* 23. This publication was edited by R. Federman.

These are the contents of the two issues:

- *The Jewish Workers Demand Only New Elections to The City Council* (declaration of the Bundist faction in City Council);
- *Are We to Allow the Jewish Workers' Schools to be Destroyed?* - by I. Samson (Samsonowicz);
- *Should We Construct a Communal Building?* - by Raphael Federman;
- *Dr Boris Jaffe* (on his death) – by Raphael;
- *Regarding the Local HMO* – by "A Councilman";
- *Regarding the Jewish Cultural Bureau; What's New at the Professional Unions?*;
- *From the Table of Books - Bourgeois and Workers-Sports* – by Ch. Wilczyński, published by Kultur, Częstochowa 1925¹²;

- *Bring Back Freedom!* – Amicus;
- *The Order of the Day* (about founding schools for adults) – by "A Worker" (Wilczyński);
- *[Raise] the Flag of the Professional Movement Higher* – by Raphael Federman;
- *Who Demands Accountability?* – by "A Resident";
- *The Work Surrounding the Relief Operation* (declaration by the Jewish Cultural Bureau in Częstochowa);
- *A Public Statement by the Professional Unions; The Battered Hoshana*¹³ – a column by "Heimische"¹⁴ (Josef Rubinsztajn), [and]

¹¹ [TN: Obviously the same "Kultura" press mentioned above.]

¹² [TN: It would appear that here ends the listing of the contents of the first issue, and that of the second begins.]

¹³ [TN: Ref. to one branch in the bundle of little willow branches that religious Jews beat on the ground on the seventh day of Sukkos, Hoshana Rabbah, after which the branches are broken and leafless. It is a common expression in Yiddish to say that someone "looks like a battered Hoshana," viz. worse for wear.]

¹⁴ [TN: Familiar/domestic, i.e. "one of our own."]

- the treasury report from the executive board of the Jewish Cultural Bureau in Częstochowa.

This publication was under the Bund's political influence and the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, which was edited by Raphael Federman, can therefore be seen as its continuation.

The Polish and Polish-Yiddish Press

Two Polish newspapers were published in Częstochowa: the *Goniec Częstochowski* [Częstochowa Messenger] and the *Gazeta Częstochowska* [the Częstochowa Gazette]. The editor of the *Gazeta*, Adam Paczerkowski, the son of the lawyer who is mentioned in connection with the first pogrom in Częstochowa in 1902, was the main inciter in the second pogrom in 1923.

Both periodicals were antisemitic and were, nonetheless, supported by Jewish advertisements and Jewish readers.

The *Goniec* came out with a particular attack when the news was made public that a daily newspaper, in Yiddish, was to start being published in Częstochowa. They alarmed the Polish readers to the effect that the new "*żargonowka*"¹⁵ would protect the interests of the Jewish merchants and large industrialists - even though the latter employed exclusively Christian workers and their attitude towards Yiddish was no better - if not worse - than that of the *Goniec*.

Apart from the continuous struggle against Jewish commerce with the slogan "*Swój do swego [po swoje]*" [Each to his own¹⁶] and the incessant boycott agitations, the two Polish papers published notices and articles against performing Yiddish theatre in Częstochowa and generally wrote with hatred about any Jewish cultural activity.

In order to counter the venomous anti-Jewish propaganda of the *Goniec*, the Jewish manufacturer Zygmunt Markowicz, co-owner of the Gnaszyn factory, took the initiative to publish a new Polish daily newspaper in Częstochowa at his own cost. This paper, under the name "*Głos Powszechny*" [The Common Voice], appeared for about ten months - from October 1924 to August 1925 - edited by Aleksander Haftka, and with the regular contributions by the columnist Marcin Laski and the news writer Jakób Bem. After Markowicz declined to subsidise the paper due to great losses, Semiatycki took over the paper and published it under a new name "*Ekspres Częstochowski*" ["Częstochowa Express"].

¹⁵ [TN: Derogative term derived from the word "jargon," viz. a newspaper written in "some dialect."]

¹⁶ [TN: Phrase akin to the English "Birds of a feather flock together."]