

Editorial Note

The authors and editors did not standardise the spelling of the Jewish names, using the different forms appearing in personal and official documents. Apart from Hebrew names, there are also Jewish versions (e.g., Dow Ber, Zew Wolf or Wolf). First names take various forms, e.g., Emanuel, Mnyl, Manela. On their birth certificates and, sometimes, by family tradition, Częstochowa Jews had Jewish first names (usually being named after their deceased grandfather or grandmother), while also using “European” first names. Since their equivalence can be problematic, within the biographies, they are placed next to each other, for example, Roman Abram. When adopting the counterparts of names, Jews would often only retain the initial. Icchak, namely Ajzyk, took on a name that began with the initial “A”, for example, Adam. If his name was pronounced as “Ejzyk”, he would take on the name “Edward”. First names rarely appeared in their classic form, so that it was easier to find Samuel than Shmuel. Instead of Deborah, we find Debra, Dobra or Dwojra. Instead of Lea, we find Laja or even Łaja.

Names often appeared reflecting the realities of the epoch: in surnames (e.g., Pryłucki, Pławner), in first names (Elimelech, Kałma, Ałta, Gołda, Rajzeł), magazine titles (“Dos Naje Lebn”, “Naje Welt”), the names of organisations (e.g., “Jidiszer Wisnszaftecher Institut”, the names of professions (mełamed - teacher in a religious school, bałagufa - coachman).

Apart from the various forms of “Czenstochower” (Częstochowski, Częstochowska, Częstochowskie), there appears another spelling - “Częstochower Cajtung”. This “polonised” form appeared on the first page of Berl Bocian’s newspaper and was its official title.

Of significant difficulty was the recording of Hebrew names which, in Polish documents, had various forms, usually Yiddish. The form, adopted here, is in line with the provisions of the *Polskiego słownika judaistycznego* [Polish Judaic Dictionary] created by Zofia Borzymińska and Rafał Żebrowski (Warsaw 2003). If the Hebrew form was retained, the traditional version of the notation, common

before 1939, was used. Nowadays, it is also used by many authors, for example Professor Leszek Hońdo in the title of his book *Krakowski Memorbuch bejt hamidraszu Majera Dajana* (Kraków 2010). And so, it is Beit Hamidrash, not Beit Ha-Midrash, Hapoel not Ha-Poel, Hashomer Hatzair not Ha-Shomer Ha-Tzair, etc.

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