

**FRAJTAG** (FRAJTOG) Godl (1895-) entrepreneur, political activist. He was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July VII 1895 in Częstochowa, the son of Icek Mošek, a shoemaker, and Racla née Berkowicz. His first childhood experience was the 1902 pogrom. He was then a pupil at Hercek Mełamed's *cheder*. At the time, they lived in the Weksler building, at I Aleja 6, one of the largest houses in Częstochowa, with two courtyards and two iron gates. Many Jews, with their "crowds", sheltered there. In 1905, during the October strike and the proclamation of the constitution, Frajtag led a children's parade with a red paper banner (made by his father). In 1908, he started working in a colonial shop<sup>1</sup>. In 1912, he joined the *Poalej Syjon* party. In the evenings, Hipolit Gajzler, who lived with his parents at I Alej 4, studied with him and, there, ran a training club for poor children.

In 1914, during World War I, he lived with his parents at ul. Dojazd 27 (Piłsudskiego). *Poalej Syjon*, like other parties, began to organise itself. The first meetings were held in Abraham Gotlib's apartment and in the artel[?] of → Szymon Waldfogel. When the *Arbeter Hejm* (Workers' House) was established, Frajtag was working in Friedenshütte (now Nowy Bytom - a district of Ruda Śląska). There, he participated in the founding of the Cultural-Relief Union. He later joined its board. In 1917, he returned to Częstochowa, working there as a railway worker. He joined the Metal Industry Workers' Union, which was organised by the Zionist-Socialist Workers' Party - he became a member of its board.

In 1918, when cooperatives began to be organised, Frajtag became an employee at the *Arbeter Hejm* cooperative, which was established by *Poalej Syjon*. He was one of the party's most active members in Częstochowa. Soon, he was elected to the Trade Workers' Council. In 1919, together with Simcha Rajch and Jakub Kaufman he stood for election to the City Council (*Poalej Syjon* gained two seats). He helped to create the D.B. Borochow Orphanage and a cheap kitchen at the orphanage. He was also active in the trade union. His party membership did not prevent him from cooperating with other parties, in general, and in communal undertakings. In 1921, during the split in *Poalej Syjon*, Frajtag supported the party's right-wing. In 1923-1924, Frajtag was a representative of *Poalej Syjon Right* in the Palestinian Office and helped with those making *aliyah* (emigrating) to the Land of Israel. He was patron of the *He'Halutz hachshara* (an agricultural kibbutz preparing pioneers), which was founded by Częstochowa *Poalej Syjon* in Linków near Piotrków.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: a shop stocked with groceries (such as coffee, tea, rice, spices) imported from overseas countries, mainly from colonies]

In 1925, when he was leaving Częstochowa, members of both the right-wing and left-wing of *Poalej Syjon* attended his farewell banquet. Leon Zajdman, leader of *Poalej Syjon Left*, devoted a poem to him and Simche Rajch, in the name of the party, presented him with an award for his work.

His activity in *Eretz Israel* began with the founding of “Kavutza Frajtag”, a group of Częstochowianiń who, with the consent of the *Histadrut*, worked as a house-building collective. When the Częstochowianiń in *Eretz Israel* organised themselves into a *landsmannschaft*, he was one of the first to help with the organisational work and, together with Mosze Zilberszac, was elected to its board. In 1929, he was elected as chairman of the Częstochowa Union in Tel Aviv. In, 1931, he participated in the establishment of a bank for Polish Jews in *Eretz Israel*.

Frajtag set up a tea company, exporting to various parts of the world, including Africa, America, Canada, France, etc. His tea company won awards at world fairs in Tel Aviv in 1929 and in Paris in 1931. In 1932, he visited France, Belgium and Poland, organising a number of exports to *Eretz Israel*. He visited Częstochowa twice, the last time in 1937.

He was published in the “*Częstochower Cajtung*” and in “*Unzer Weg*” (the Zionist weekly in Częstochowa). He distributed Jewish newspapers, from Częstochowa, in *Eretz Israel*. During his travelling in various countries, he met with many Częstochowianiń and agitated for the creation of a Częstochowa colony in *Eretz Israel* and for a world society of Częstochowa [Jews] scattered around the world.

During World War II, he made all possible efforts to organise activities to help Częstochowianiń in the country, as well as Częstochowa refugees in the Soviet Union and in other countries. He strongly supported the publication of the historical book *Czenstochower Yidn* (Częstochowa Jews), through raising money and collecting reports on the lives of Częstochowianiń in *Eretz Israel*. In 1939, when a militia was established in *Eretz Israel*, he was one of its organisers and members. His daughter was one of the youngest militia officers.

*Czenstochower Jidn*, pp. LXXIII–LXXIV.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**