

FRYDE (FRIEDE, FRIDE) Mieczysław Majer (1893-1965), pseudonym “Bolesław”. He was a workers’ activist, an advocate, academic lecturer and author of academic publications. He was born on 12th April 1893 in the village of Kraszewice near Noworadomsko (now within the borders of Radomsko). He was the son of → Henryk Chananel, a merchant who, from the beginning of the 20th century, lived in Częstochowa.

Initially, Fryde was educated at home and, from 1904, in the government Boys’ Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. After gaining his secondary school certificate, in 1912, he left for Berlin, where he commenced studies at the Higher School of Business Studies. At the same time, as a freelance student, he studied philosophy and natural sciences at the University of Berlin. In the summer of 1914, he passed his business studies examinations.

With the outbreak of war, he was forced to leave Berlin. In 1914-16, he was in Częstochowa where, from March 1915, lectured in political economics in commerce courses. At that time, he was one of the leading activists of the SDKPiL¹ in Czestochowa., supporters of the “Main Board”. In the winter of 1915/1916, Fryde was a representative of the “Board supporters”, and of the Częstochowa organisation, at the SDKPiL conciliatory conference, convened at the initiative of the “breakaways”, on the topic unification.

From October 1916, he studied in the Law Faculty of the University of Warsaw. In the academic year 1917/1918, he completed the second semester at the Jagiellonian University. He continued his political activity in Łódź. As a representative of the local SDKPiL, on 8th December 1918, he took part in the district conference of the PPS-Left in Łódź, during which a motion was adopted for the unification of the SDKPiL and where delegates to the Unification Congress were elected. As a delegate of the SDKPiL, he took part in the first congress of the KPRP² (on 16th December 1918 in Warsaw). Until December 1919, he was active in the KPRP Łódź Regional Committee. He was also the founder of the party’s Czestochowa organisation. In 1920, he loosened his contacts with the party and worked with the International Organisation to Aid Revolutionaries. From August to October 1920, he served in the 1st Division of the Lithuanian-Belarusian Division.

He then continued his studies at the University of Warsaw. In 1921-23, he worked as an assistant to economics professor E. Strasburger. He took part in a

¹ [TN: *Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania*]

² {TN: *Communist Workers’ Party of Poland*}

seminar on the history of economic thought and researched the history of public finances. He presented the results in two papers published in the "Ekonomista" (1929 and 1935).

After graduation, he specialised in law, mainly in syndicate and cartel law. In the 1920s, he ran his legal practice in Warsaw. From 1928, he was a legal advisor to the Minister of Finance and, from 1934, an advisor to the Warsaw City Council. As an outstanding specialist, he played a significant role in the development of regulations regarding syndicates, bonds, cartels and state-owned enterprises.

Fryde was co-founder and a member of Polish and international academic societies, among them being the Law Society, the Polish Society of Economists and Statisticians, the Institute of Economic and Prices Research, the International Law Society in London and the International Association of Public Finance and Public Law in the Hague. While taking part in the work of that last organisation, from July 1939, he lived in the Hague.

After Germany invaded Poland, he found himself in England. From June 1940, he worked with the Government-in-Exile, firstly as an advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and then as Deputy Director of the International Affairs Department. At the same time, he served as a finance expert to the Inter-Alliance Commission.

Following the end of the War, he returned to academic work. In September 1948, he left for the USA. As an associate professor, from 1953, he headed the Economics Department at Columbia University in New York. Fryde was the author of numerous academic papers in the fields of law, economics and statistics, published in Polish and overseas specialist periodicals. He published his first works on statistical theory in Warsaw in 1923.

Among his works, which were written in exile, a number concerned Polish issues. In his later years, he worked with a journal for Polish academics living in the USA - "The Polish Review". From 1955, he systematically published reviews and overviews of works on law, economics and statistics in "The American Historical Review", "The American Slavic and East European Review", "The Journal of Central European Affairs", "The Journal of Economic History", "The Polish Review" (N.Y.) as well as "Scripta Mathematica".

He died on 15th March 1965 in New York.

Corpus studiosorum E–J, p. 184; *Słownik działaczy polskiego ruchu robotniczego*, vol. II (Alicja Pacholczykowa), pp. 149, 150. - Mielczarek, *Organizacje robotniczych partii żydowskich*, p. 51.

Juliusz Sętowski