

**HERCBERG** Jan (1909–1941?), logician and mathematician. He was born on 18th September 1909 in Warsaw, the son of Motel Hercberg, an engineer, and Leontyna, a doctor. He was related to Antoni Słonimski.

From 1915, the family lived in St. Petersburg and, following the death of his mother, in Jekatierinosław. Motel Hercberg was a lecturer at the Irkutsk Polytechnic Institute.

In 1926, Hercberg matriculated from the R. Traugutt State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. (His tutor was Jan Ryslik, a mathematics teacher). In 1927, he began studies in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University. In 1931, he appeared before the conscription commission in Częstochowa and received a deferment from military service. He continued his studies in Lwów during which, in 1933, he began research work under the supervision of Leon Chwistek. He co-authored two works on the basics of mathematics.

In 1932, he became a member of the Polish Communist Party (KPP). In 1933, he was arrested for communist activities and was sentenced to two and a half years in prison. Upon his release from prison, he supported himself by giving private lessons and from help from his family. In 1938, his work, *Sur le notion de collectif*, was published.

During the war, he remained in Lwów. From 1st January 1940, he began work as an assistant in the Department of Analysis in the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics at the University of Lwów. In 1941 (according to information from Władysław Dyner), he found himself in the Kraków ghetto, where he belonged to the underground. He was arrested by the Gestapo, tortured and then murdered.

“Traugutt”, p. 230; – “Nasz Świat” 1958, No. 1 (13), pp. 17, 21. – J. Prituł, *Jan Gerberg* [Jan Hercberg] electronic version: <http://www.mmf.lnu.edu.ua/index.php/istoriia/vydatni-osobystosti/item/1032-jan-hercberg.html>. – APCz, unit No. 1, ref. 8846 (census of annual conscripts 1909).

**Andrzej Kuśnierczyk**