

HIRSCHBERG (HIRSZBERG) Joachim Wilhelm Chaim Zew Ha'Lewi (1903-1976), orientalist, preacher, teacher. He was born on 2nd October 1903 in Iwaczów Dolny, the son of Jakub Scharia, warehouseman in Strusów, and Rifka née Barbasch.

He lived in Tarnopol. He studied philosophy at the University of Vienna, where he gained his PhD. He graduated from a rabbinical seminary and studied with Orthodox rabbis. He was an outstanding orientalist and published a number of articles in Polish and Hebrew magazines.

He was politically active, but this did not bring him popularity. It was probably for this reason that he accepted an offer from a Częstochowa committee which, in 1929, employed him as a preacher at the New Synagogue. At this synagogue, he established the Judaic Institute, opened on 14th January 1937.

He continued cataloguing the Hebrew books in the Jasna Góra monastery, in Częstochowa, a task begun by → Majer Bałaban. The Kraków Academy of Learning had planned to publish a catalogue of the entire library (printed works from the 15th-18th centuries), but World War II put an end to that plan.

Hirschberg was a teacher at the Jewish Gimnazjum. He joined the B'nei B'rith lodge in Kraków on 24th January 1936. In 1938, he headed the Częstochowa committee to help people, who had been expelled by the Germans.

In Częstochowa, he lived at al. Wolności 13 (in 1939). He left Częstochowa at the beginning of World War II. In the 1960s, he was a professor at the Majer Berlin (Bar Ilan) University in Ramat Gan [Israel].

Czenstochower Yidn, s. 31, 113; *Sefer Czenstochow I*, cols. 477–480. – “Express Częstochowski” 1929, No. 236, p. 2, No. 293, p. 3; *PCK. Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 17; *Spis telefonów 1939*, p. 48; Grzędziński, *Z problemów opieki i kształcenia*, p. 54. – Szukaj w Archiwach – birth record No. 339/1903 in the registers in Tarnopol.

Wiesław Paszkowski