

**LEWENSZTEJN** Chil (1900-?), actor. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1900 in Częstochowa, the son of Mojsze Lejb and Dewora née Danciger.

His *maskil*<sup>1</sup> father was, before World War I, a correspondent for and a representative of the Warsaw Jewish newspapers “Hajnt”, “Moment” and others. Together with his co-owners, Herszek Gutfrajnd and Szlama Frankfurter, he was the first distributor of the Jewish press in Częstochowa. They sold them in the I Aleja – firstly next to Maurycy Neufeld’s pharmacy and, then, at the gate of No. 7, where there was a savings and loan bank. They delivered newspapers to the homes of their regular customers. Chil had a brother → Chonon, also an actor.

Until the age of thirteen, he studied in a *cheder* and in a Polish elementary school. When he was fifteen, he began to act in the theatre together with the famous actor Salomon Herszlikowicz, with Żelazo and with others. In the 1919/1920 season, he acted in Germany.

He came to America in 1920. In 1923, he joined *Unzer Teater*, a Jewish theatrical company led by M. Elkin, Perec Hirszbajn, Dawid Piński and the well-known German-Jewish actor Egon Brecher. In 1928, he joined the *Artef* company (short for the *Arbeter Teater Farband*, the Workers’ Theatre Union) whose plays, under the influence of the communists, presented plays with a strong, ideological tone. The company was disbanded in 1940, after which Lewensztejn performed in concerts. From 1944, he acted with a Jewish ensemble, led by the famous director Beniamin Cemach.

*Czenstochower Yidn*, pp. LII, 94.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**

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<sup>1</sup> TN: *Maskil* usually refers to someone well-versed in the Hebrew language.