

**ODERBERG** Mosze (1891–after 1947). The Oderberg family belonged to the Częstochowa *yiches* (families of good origins, the oldest in the city). Born on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1891, in Częstochowa, Mosze was the son of the merchant Kałma and Sura Salomea née Najman. He received a traditional religious upbringing at home, attended a *cheder* and then the Kromołowski Yeshivah in Częstochowa.

During the years of the revolutionary movement, 1904-1905, contrary to his family tradition, he began work as an apprentice locksmith. Zionist workers became those closest to him, especially since several of his yeshivah classmates had already joined this movement. In order to better serve the *Poale Zion* party, which needed weapons (brought from abroad), he opened a locksmith's workshop in his own home. He realised his plan together with Majer Grajcer, a good locksmith.

The second premises for his locksmith's workshop was the basement of Josef Oderberg's house on ulica Warszawska. (The house was adjacent to Markusfeld's *Kapeluszarnia*.) [hat factory]. On one occasion, the police surrounded the *Kapeluszarnia* and the house, in which the locksmith's workshop was located, and conducted a search. At that time, the basement contained not only pistols and revolutionary literature, but also two escaped PPS [Polish Socialist Party] soldiers. The police did not discover the basement but, following the raid, the workshop was closed. Sometime later, Mosze was forced to flee to Germany.

After a period of time, he returned to Częstochowa and, in order not to be arrested, he left for Łódź, where he lived from 1908 until 1913. He devoted himself mainly to party and cultural work. At that time, underground party activists would use cultural ties as to legalise their activities.

W 1913 Mosze Oderberg returned to Częstochowa and, together with Mosze Cieszyński, was elected as a delegate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Poale Zion* Conference in Kraków.

Shortly after that event, Oderberg left for America. Here, however, in party circles, he did not find that same enthusiasm as he did back home. For this reason, he turned to youth organisations. When the *Poale Zion* education movement began, he found himself on the board of a school in Chicago. At the same time, he became party secretary and co-editor of the Chicago branch of the weekly "Yiddisher Kemfer" ["The Jewish Militant"].

In 1921, during the split in the *Poale Zion* worldwide movement, he took part in the founding meeting of the *Poale Zion Left*. He became a committee member

and co-editor of the central body of the party. For this reason, he moved to New York.

He wrote under the pseudonyms "M. Najman", "M. Bergelzon" and "Josef Najman". For year, he wrote and was published in the Argentinian "Yiddisher Presse", the Warsaw "Arbeter Welt", the Israeli "Naye Welt" and the New York "Proletarishen Gedank".

*Czenstochower Yidn*, p. I, II.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**