

**SZMULEWICZ** Fajtel (1889 - after 1945) worker, craftsman, socialist and cultural activist. He was born in Złoczew, the son of Mendel and Ruda née Markowicz.

His family settled in Częstochowa at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1904, Szmulewicz was a worker in Weinberg's factory. At the time, he joined the Zionist-Socialist Party. After the 1905-1907 revolution, when a small number of activists remained from the large group of Zionist-Socialists in Częstochowa, Szmulewicz continued his political activity, being one of the most active.

He was a co-founder and one of the most active members of the Jewish Literary Society (ŻTL), belonging to its drama section (e.g., on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1911, he appeared in the one-act play *Bachurim*). Musically gifted (he played the cello), together with → Wanda Kopecka, he appeared in a concert organised by the "Lutnia" Singing Society. He belonged to the "Lira" Musical-Literary Society. He helped to establish a Jewish library in Częstochowa and was, for many years, its librarian.

He also greatly assisted in the establishing of a Jewish press in Częstochowa, including writing for the "Czenstochower Wochenblatt". In 1915, he was one of the founders and, later, a committee member of the Popular Bakery. He was also secretary of the Education Society (*Bildungs Farejn*), which was a cover for the activities of the Zionist-Socialist Party under German occupation.

In 1916, he left to work in Wrocław. There, he met many Jewish workers, established a cultural society and delivered lectures. In 1918, when mass Jewish emigration through Germany began, he made contact with a Jewish delegation in Paris and established an information office for emigrants. With the help of → Aron Syngałowski, he also opened a branch office in Wrocław. In 1920, he was founder and, later, an activist of the branch of the Tow. Wschodniożydowskiego [Eastern-Jewish Society], which he led for many years and was a delegate to all the Society's conventions. He founded a Yiddish newspaper for eastern Jews – "Unzer Leben". He stood for election to the Jewish Community Council and was a member of its cultural committee.

In 1922, when the Polish government deprived the civil rights of some Jews who did not live in the country, he participated in the establishment of the Union of Stateless Persons and, with the help of Mockin, a representative of the *Folksbund* (from the Jewish National Council) Warsaw and through the personal intervention of the Polish Consul, he succeeded in restoring Polish citizenship for many Jews in Germany.

In 1933, when Hitler came to power and when the deportations of Polish Jews began, he went to Warsaw in order to intervene with the Komitet Wypędzonych [Committee of the Expelled]. When he returned, he was also expelled from Germany.

He left for Palestine and worked there as a glazier. He was the long-serving chairman of the glaziers' union. In the Jewish newspaper "Naye Welt", he published a number of articles regarding craftsmen's issues. He became a member of a Jewish writers' and journalists' club and also worked with the Jewish Research Institute there. Szmulewicz worked in the Częstochowa *landsmannschaft* (as secretary). As the author of articles, he took part in the publishing of *Czenstochower Yidn*.

*Czenstochower Yidn*, pp. CVII–CVIII (photo); Kozłowska, *Żydowski ruch teatralny*, pp. 45, 46; Malko, *Życie muzyczne*, p. 252.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**