Federman Rafał

[He was] born in 1892 in Częstochowa. His parents owned a tavern and, later, a soda-water factory. After attending cheder and primary school, he completed the middle school course as an external student (self-taught).

Federman began his first social activism in the Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania, the S.S. [Zionist-Socialist Workers Party], Vereinigt [United Jewish Socialist Workers Party] [and the] Bund. Until 1922 he was a member of the Vereinigt Party’s Central Committee. He then crossed over to the Bund [and] became Chairman of the Party Committee in Częstochowa, a Councillor and Secretary of the Częstochowa City Council, a member of the council of the Jewish Kehilla [and] Chairman of the Jewish Schools Organisation and the “Y.L. Perek Home” in Częstochowa.

With Kune Chrobolowski’s closest cooperation, he edited the mouthpieces of Vereinigt - Unser Wort [“Our Word”] in 1919, and Das Neue Wort [“The New Word”] in 1920.

After leaving the Vereinigt Party, he became editor of the Bundist workers’ newspaper, the Proletarier [“Proletarian”] - an organ of the Professional Unions Council. He also participated in other party-organs of Vereinigt and, later, of the Bund.

Federman was arrested twice and was submitted to a political [legal] process.

Since 1940, he has lived in America, where he serves as Chairman of the United Czenstochover Relief Committee. He was one of the editors and main collaborators of the book “Czenstochover Yidn”, published in 1947, and of the book “Czenstochov”, published in 1958. That same year, the United Czenstochover Relief Committee issued a booklet entitled “Rafal Federman”, marking the 50th anniversary of his social activism.

In 1957, he published a book titled “On the Shores of the Warta and East River”. In 1960, he put out a long-playing memorial record under the name “Czenstochov”, in memory of the Częstochowa Jews who were annihilated in the city which had become ruined.