

Ezriel Ben-Moshe (Jakubowicz)

## Editor Szmul Frank\*



*Editor Szmul Frank*

I believe that in Częstochowa's last 40 years, there was certainly not even one Jewish resident who did not know the figure named Szmul Frank.

He was, beyond doubt, one of the most popular personalities in the Jewish street. Who did not know him and whom did he not know?

He came from a Jewish Chassidic home and was educated in the spirit of Torah and strict religious observance. He studied first at *cheders* and, later, in *yeshivas*. Already, in his youth, his sharp mind was revealed. He was literally a prodigy.

But, to the great disappointment of his father the scholar and his pious mother, Szmul already then "went bad", starting, "God help us", to read little, Jewish [secular] books and even writing in the papers.

Szmul Frank eventually also became a socialist and an orator and began preaching about the honesty of mankind as a whole. He also became a fighter for a better tomorrow for the working class and for the oppressed masses.

But it was also necessary to earn a livelihood. Honest, community work and politics require a person and his time, but cannot provide any sustenance. Szmul Frank was forced to make a profession of his writing talent.

Already, in his first articles and feuilletons, his God-given talent was apparent.

The ideas which he developed were always original and his narratives were also interesting. He was able to captivate the reader with his pen and, truly, enchant him. But Szmul was not only a journalist. He was also a wonderful actor and even a skilled stage-manager.

With various local troupes, he performed plays and theatrical pieces in Częstochowa and the vicinity, which drew an immense following and attracted large audiences.

For many years, he was the editor and the central pillar of the "*Częstochower Zeitung*".

Until the German occupation, he was also active in Jewish communal and political life.

(Following the outbreak of the Second World War, he went away to Russia, where he suffered many hardships as a refugee. When the War was over, he returned to his much beloved, but destroyed, Częstochowa. A broken and ailing man, his heart exploded upon seeing the tragedy of Polish Jewry, in general, and that of Częstochowa in particular.

---

\* *Ezriel Ben-Moshe (Jakubowicz), a young friend and colleague [of his] at the "Częstochower Zeitung", dedicates the following lines to his friend Szmul Frank.*

He could no longer endure his pain and he died prematurely in the city to which he had been connected all his life.)

His second wife, Sara Szterling, emigrated to Israel after his death and now lives in Tel-Aviv.

His name will forever remain connected with the history of Jewish settlement in Częstochowa and will forever live in the memories of his personal friends, who will mention him and his good deeds with respectful awe.