

Our Jewish Press



Zvi Hersz Fajwlowicz, one of the founders of the Jewish press in Częstochowa

The beginnings of the Jewish press in Częstochowa took place shortly prior to the First World War.

Until then, the Częstochowa public had found its “spiritual” food in the literature which the “book-sellers”, Bajgele and Lapidés, had provided.

The agents of the Warsaw Jewish newspapers were Lewensztajn, Gutfrajnd and Frankfurter.

The first newspaper published in Częstochowa was the “*Częstochower Reklamen-Blatt*” [Cz. Advertisements Page], which published its first edition 6th December 1912, printed at Berl Bocian’s printing house.

The paper was founded by A. Chrobołowski, Herszele Fajwlowicz, Mojsze Cieszyński and Jakób Rozenberg. Fajtel Szmulewicz and Leon Kopinski were also involved.

The “Advertisements-Page” was not long-lived - only nine editions were published.

In 1913 a new paper appeared, the “*Częstochower Wochen-Blatt*” [Cz. Weekly Page] which, from time to time, enlarged its format until it had the appearance of a newspaper. In this paper, too, the chief collaborators were H. Fajwlowicz and M. Cieszyński. It was edited by I.M. Brojn from Warsaw.

This paper’s last edition was published on 26th December 1913.

At the time, a competing newspaper was also published, a weekly, called “*Unser Zeitung*” [Our Newspaper]. It was printed at Cymerman’s printing house and was edited by Kronenberg from Łowicz.

In the years 1913-1919, a daily paper, the “*Częstochower Tageblatt*” [Cz. Daily Paper], was also published with numerous interruptions. This paper was published jointly by Bocian and Rozenberg. It was edited by the renowned journalist Zvi Kohen from Łódź (known under his pseudonym “Zvi”). Imich, Mendel Asz, A. Warszawski, Fajwlowicz, Paul Federman, Leon Kopinski, Ratner, and Szaja Herman collaborated in this paper. Periodically, it also contained articles by Rabbi Nachum Asz and Rabbi Szajewicz.

A few workers’ periodicals were also published in Częstochowa. One paper was called “*Das Neue Wort*” [The New Word] and was edited by R. Federman and A. Chrobołowski. The second was “*Unser Stimme*” [Our Voice]. Dr Józef Kruk and Szmul Frank collaborated in these papers.

The abovementioned details regarding the Jewish press in Częstochowa is quoted from the book “*Tshenstokhover Yidn*”, which was published in 1947 in New York.

* [Translator’s note: Although this and the subsequent names of periodicals were originally in Yiddish, I’ve used the German spellings here, which are basically identical, only pronounced slightly differently.]

The development of the Jewish press dates back to the First World War, and especially the last years prior to the Second World War.

Three weeklies were regularly published, as well as one “half of a daily newspaper”.

1) The “Częstochower Zeitung” – as a weekly periodical.

This paper was an independent weekly, published by Berl Bocian and printed at his press. During its first years, Izrail Plocker, a *Mizrachi* activist, was the editor-in-chief. Over the course of time, the editing function passed to Szmul Frank.

The paper’s permanent collaborators were:

The Chief Rabbi’s three sons Leon, Mendel and Mojsze Asz, Szoszana Częstochowska, Mojsze Leib Lewensztajn, the three brothers, Abram, Leibel and Akiwa Fogel, Fajgenbaum, Fajwlowicz, Lipman and Leon Kopinski, Mordka Kaufman, P. Szmulewicz and the writer of these lines.

The “Częstochower Zeitung” presented a true image of the Jewish communal and political life.

Szmul Frank filled almost half of the paper by himself. His weekly overview, entitled “*What [I] Heard and What [I] Saw*”, was a current reflection of Częstochowa Jewish life. Most importantly, this periodical had a great influence on Jewish society, who took its opinion into consideration on various social issues.

2) “Unser Weg” [Our Way] was the Częstochowa Zionist Organisation’s official organ.

This paper, too, was published as a weekly and was printed at Helfgot’s printing house. Its official editor was Mojsze Tauzewicz, a printing worker who distinguished himself with his energy and capability at work.

The managers and editors were Dr Mering and Aron Luksemburg.

Many local Zionist communal activists collaborated in the paper, among them being Fiszal Blumenkranc, secretary of the Jewish *Kehilla*, and Zeligfeld, who was famous for his witticisms, jokes and feuilletons. Other regular contributors were (alphabetically [in Heb.]) Ch. Birnholc, Dr A. Bram, Abram Gotlib, Danziger, Dr Ch.Z. Hirszberg, Turner, Prof Janowski, B. Łażniarz, Chaim Lustiger, L. Lewkowicz, M. Finkelsztajn, J.Sz. Koblenz, Dawid Koniecpoler, J. Klajner, J. Krak, Rozenwajn, Dr Gerszon Szefer, A. Szajnweksler and M.Ch. Sziffer.

Over the course of time, “*Unser Weg*” became the organ of the Jewish intelligentsia and, thanks to its contributors Blumenkranc and Zeligfeld, the periodical also took on a literary character.

3) “Die Zeit” [The Time] was a private enterprise, distributed and printed by its editor Wajsberg.

Wajsberg was actually a merchant and, over the course of the week, he and his son also occupied themselves also in their shop writing articles. The son was also the typesetter and printer of the paper, which had a small circle of readers in Częstochowa. But it was more widely circulated in the surrounding area, such as in Wieluń, Radomsko, Kłobuck, Gorzkowice and other neighbouring *shtetls*. Wajsberg did not make any great livelihood from the paper but, for honour’s sake, all year round, he exerted himself and published “his” paper.

4) “Unser Częstochower Express” was really printed in Warsaw, as a daily paper.

However, by an agreement with Bocian, the last page was printed in Częstochowa and the word “Częstochowa” was added to the headline of “*Unser Express*”. The paper’s last page contained specific local news, as well as articles by Szmul Frank. The periodical, which had a large number of

readers in Poland due to this combination, was also widely circulated in Częstochowa too. It was impartial and had a folksy character.



[Translator's note: The names of the periodicals, right column (from the top): Reklamen-Blatt, Wochen-Blatt, Tageblatt, Arbeiter Zeitung (Workers Paper), Das Neue Wort, Der Proletarier (The Proletarian), Unser Stimme. Left column (from the top): Express Częstochowski, Die Zeit (The Time), Częstochower Wecker (Cz. Alarm), Unser Express, Częstochower Zeitung, Unser Weg.]

Polish Jewish Press

Occasionally, Jewish newspapers were published in the Polish language, such as "*Głos Powszechny*" [The Universal Voice] and "*Express Częstochowski*". They were edited by Semiatycki, with Szpic, Krak and others contributing.

Pure Polish Newspapers

Two Polish daily periodicals were published in Częstochowa, which particularly distinguished themselves with their wild antisemitic agitation. They called [their readers] to boycott the Jews and even incited pogroms against them.

The editor of the *Endecja* paper "*Gazeta Częstochowska*" was the renowned Jew-hater Paczkowski, and that of the "*Goniec Częstochowski*" [Cz. Messenger] was Wilkuszewski, no small antisemite.