

**WIEWIÓRKA** Wolf (1896-1943), pseudonym “J. Feldman”. A Jewish writer and essayist. He was born on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1896 in Mińsk (Belarus), the younger brother of Abraham Wiewiórka.

He came to live in Częstochowa at a very young age and always considered it to be his hometown. Here, he attended *Chassidic* schools – *cheder* and *yeshiva*. After graduating, he began to write short stories. He left for Berlin, where he involved himself in the circle of Jewish writers.

In 1922, he moved permanently to Paris. In a material sense, he was poor, but his literary talent flourished. Under the pseudonym “J. Feldman”, he wrote short stories and correspondence for the New York magazine “Forverts”. In 1924, in Paris, he tried to publish the literary, monthly magazine “Di Nest” (“The Nest”). The magazine was short-lived. He then tried to publish the “Parizer Bleter”, with a similar result. He later became editor of the “Ilustrirte Jidisze Prese”, in which he published essays on the works of other writers. He attracted, to the magazine, well-known Jewish writers from Paris and Warsaw. His material situation improved somewhat and he was also able to engage in his own creative, literary work.

In 1936, a committee was formed to celebrate his fortieth birthday. That committee was headed by Zalman Szneur, Daniel Czarny and the famous Jewish sculptor Nachum Aronson. This committee published a volume of Wiewiórka’s short stories entitled *Mizrech un majrew (East and West)*. A second volume appeared in 1937, entitled *Bodnloze menczn (The Uprooted)*. They told of the life of Jews in France at that time. Both volumes were a great success. Jewish reviewers included Wiewiórka among the best Yiddish writers.

He lived in the east of Paris, in the Belleville district, named after the Tower of Babel, due to the area mainly comprising of immigrants - including Jews. Wiewiórka and his family lived in a small attic apartment. Despite that, it was a well-known place for guests, where Jewish writers and artists often met to discuss newly-published books or art in general. The seder evenings, during Passover, had a special character. Wiewiórka published short stories and articles in Jewish magazines in various countries. He was also the literary editor of the “Parizer Haynt” magazine.

Prior to 1940, he moved to an apartment near the Place de la République. When France was attacked by the Germans, it became a meeting point for Jews

arriving in Paris. On 11<sup>th</sup> June 1940, with a group of Jewish writers and his eldest son, he left Paris, on foot, for Spain. They only reached Tours.

The Wiewiórka family lived together near Toulouse and, finally, in Nice on the French Riviera. In 1942, they tried to get out of France, writing letters asking for help. To November 1942, the Wiewiórka family lived outside the German-occupied zone. They were probably arrested in 1943 and imprisoned in the camp in Drancy, in north-eastern France. From there, on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1943, they were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where they perished.

Mosze Dłużniowski, *Wolf Wiewiorke*, in: *Czenstochow*, pp. 125–129.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**