

WILCZYŃSKI Anszel (1901-1943), chemist, writer, journalist, communal worker. He was born on 24th October 1901 in Częstochowa, the son of Icek and Jenta née Rajchman, the brother of → Henryk Chaskiel, → Hilary, Jacheta Zysla, wife of → Bernard Tenenbaum.

Until the age of thirteen, Wilczyński attended a *cheder*, displaying great competence. It was expected that he would devote himself to religious studies, but he chose a different path. He taught himself Polish and Russian and soon learned the classic of both languages.

Due to his family's difficult material situation, he started to work early. He worked in a pharmacy and used his free time to study and soon became a dispenser.

In order to avoid being conscripted into the Polish Army, he attempted to flee the country. He was stopped at the border and sentenced to prison. However, he avoided prison and left for Germany to his older brother, Henryk. He took part in the German socialist movement, participated in demonstrations and, on several occasions, was arrested and imprisoned. Fearing yet another arrest, he hid in the countryside near the French border. For a year and a half, he worked as an ordinary farmhand. (He worked only for food, clothing and shoes.)

He later made his way to France. In Paris, he made contact with Jewish workers and began working in the Bund. During the day, he worked to support himself and, in the evenings, he studied. He learned French fluently and passed the examination for the Sorbonne. He graduated with a doctorate in chemistry. He began working in a perfume factory, becoming an expert in that field.

He maintained his contacts with the Bund. He became interested in the theatre, organising performances for Jewish workers in Paris and especially for Jewish children. He began writing and translating plays for these performances. In the Yiddish ("Parizer Weker", "Unzer Shtyme") and French press, he published articles and the French and Jewish theatre.

Missing his family, he moved to Częstochowa. Here, he became leader of the porters' union (linked to the Bund). In the Częstochowa and Piotrków Bundist press and the Polish trade union press, he wrote about workers' problems. He openly took part in the clashes of the Jewish porters. (According to one version, it related to competition with the Polish porters. Another version claims the opponents were Polish antisemites, mainly academic youth.) He was seriously injured during one of these fights.

After a certain time, he decided to join his brother Henry, who was working in Warsaw. He gained a job in a perfume factory there and continued his communal activities within Bund circles.

In September 1939, he was a member of the Warsaw Defence Workers' Battalion. He was forced to live in the Warsaw ghetto and worked illegally in order to feed his family. In 1942, during the period of deportations to the death camp, he was arrested several times, but managed to escape. He joined a battle group and died during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Wilczyński was married and had a child.

Ch.L. Fuks, *Draj brider zajnen zej gewen... (Di umgekumene brider Wilczynski)*, in: *Czenstochow*, pp. 130–132. – APCz, section 58, birth record No. 449/1901.

Wiesław Paszkowski