

WILCZYŃSKI Henryk Chaskiel (1892-1943), journalist, writer, historian, Bundist. He was born on 15th September 1892 in Noworadomsko (Radomsko), the son of Icek and Jenta née Rajchman. His brothers were → Anszel and → Hilary Chil, sister Jacheta Zysla, the wife of → Bernard Berek Tenenbaum. In the first half of the 1890s, the family moved to Częstochowa.

Wilczyński graduated from the Crafts School for Jews in Częstochowa and then from the H. Wawelberg and S. Rotwand Mechanical-Technical School in Warsaw. He gained an engineering diploma from the Faculty of Machinery Construction of the University of Berlin. During his studies, he came into contact with socialism.

He returned to Częstochowa at the beginning of 1919. He soon began working in trade unions and in the Bund party. He was a history and literature teacher at the trade unions' cultural centre. It was then that he began his own literary activity. He wrote an article about Roman Rolland for the Częstochowa newspaper "Arbeter Cajtung" ["Worker Newspaper"]. He soon became an outstanding contributor to that publication, regularly writing reviews of new Polish and Jewish literary publications. He also worked on the "Proletariat" magazine. He wrote articles about the social problems of the time. He also wrote about history and literature in the "Czenstochower Weker", "Pietrykower Weker" and in other provincial Bundist magazines.

From 1927 to 1930, he worked in the Crafts School in Piotrków Trybunalski. He turned it into an exceptional school, providing help to Jewish youth. After returning to Częstochowa, he attempted to manufacture metal products. In 1932, when he was working on a Częstochowa *Yizkor* book, at the initiative of → Rafał Federman, the Society of Friends of Częstochowa Jewish History was established. Wilczyński became its secretary. He browsed through old Częstochowa *pinkasy* (chronicles), collecting material for the *Yizkor* book. He published them in the "Częstochower Cajtung" and in other publishing houses.

In 1933, he settled in Warsaw, where he was active in the Bund Jewish production cooperatives. He also published his works in the "Volks Caytung", "Farois", "Literarische Bleter" and "Bicher Welt". He also translated many Jewish literary works into Polish. He published the brochure *Sport burżuazyjny i robotniczy* [*Bourgeois and Workers' Sport*], which was a new approach to the issue of sport in the Jewish community. Later, his book, *Żydzi w polskiej literaturze* [*Jews in Polish Literature*], was published and was well received by the critics.

In January 1939, Wilczyński found himself in Warsaw. At the beginning of the German occupation, he attempted to bring his family to Warsaw. When he failed to do so, he fell into apathetic state. According to another version, his family reached Warsaw and they lived together. Despite the great shortages from which the ghetto suffered, he returned to his creativity. He then edited "Kultur geschichte fun Jidn in Pojln in der erszter helft fun 19tn jh." ("The History of Jewish Culture in Poland in the First Half of the 19th Century"). He worked together with Ringelblum, the creator of the underground archive of the ghetto. Most of the hand-written manuscripts (27), which became part of the archive, were prepared by him, among them are his historical works.

In January 1943, he was taken to the *Umschlagplatz* and was deported to the Treblinka extermination camp.

Czenstochower Yidn, pp. 86, 99, 100, 229, 239, 399; *Czenstochow*, pp. 129, 139; *Pisma Chaskiela Wilczyńskiego*, Ringelblum Archive, vol. 30, Warszawa 2018.

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