

**ZYSS** (SÜSS) Maurycy Chaim Moszek Mojżesz (-1879), teacher, school principal, a supporter of the Jewish Enlightenment.

Zyss came from Praszka. From 1856, with his family, he lived in Częstochowa, where he worked as a private teacher.

In 1858, he requested the education authorities for permission to open a school. This request did not have the support of the synagogue supervision, as it did not want competition against the school of → Daniel Neufeld. However, in 1860, Neufeld closed his school. The supervision then considered it important that Zyss obtain permission to open an elementary school for Jewish children.

On 16th August 1860, the supervision officially confirmed that he was “good and God-fearing teacher”. At the same time, it asked the authorities to exempt Częstochowa Jews from paying the school tax (700 rubles per year), which was totally allocated to Catholic schools. Although the school was open to everyone, few Jewish parents sent their children there. *Maskils* hoped that this money would help to finance the education of 150 children from the poorest families and deter them from sending their children to a *cheder*. Zyss obtained a licence.

It then turned out that the supervision wanted to open a community school, which would be run by Neufeld and, it was only after he left for Warsaw in 1861, that Zyss' candidature was agreed to. Curator Muchanow was against Polish-language Jewish schools and, with increased government spending on Catholic schools, the plan never came to fruition. The outbreak of the January Uprising finally buried the initiative.

Zyss left for Łódź, where he administered an elementary school, which had been opened by the local Jewish Community Council [*kehilla*]. He returned to Częstochowa in 1876 and, on 29th December 1876, he was appointed to head a Jewish elementary school, but with Russian as the language of instruction.

He died in Częstochowa.

Ręziński, *Szkolnictwo żydowskie*, p. 25; J. Szacki, *Żydzi w Częstochowie aż do I wojny światowej*, in: *Czenstochower Yidn*, pp. 22, 23.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**