

ISRAEL YEHOSHUA TRUNK¹

*translated from the Yiddish by Carole Turkeltaub
Borowitz*

Pseudonym – Y. Y. Trank. Born in Kutno on 22nd of November 1901. Literary critic, teacher and psychologist; son of the rabbi of Kutno.

He studied in the *cheder*, *Beit HaMidrash* [religious school] and graduated from the seminary for Jewish religion teachers in Warsaw. During the years 1925-1929 he was a teacher of Hebrew and Bible at the *Am HaSefer* high school in Kutno and also at Mrs. Iberal's private high school for girls. During the years 1932-1939, he was a Bible and Hebrew teacher at the high school of Yitzhak Kacnelson in Łódź. He was a member of the Łódź literary association, paid a salary to lecture in the "Jewish Intellectuals' Club" on psychological and educational subjects.

He started writing for the Yiddish literary periodical "Globus" with the dissertation "A psychological study of Shalom Asz's book *The Mother*" which was included among literary criticism works in the journal "Literary Papers", and "School Ways" which were published in Warsaw. He was editor of the scientific section of the journal "Ot" (Łódź-Warsaw) and he also wrote for the Łódź paper "*Neuer Volksblatt*", and in other magazines.

One of his greatest written works was on the psychological method of Sigmund Freud. A part of this was printed in the "Literary Papers" of the 29th of May, 1936, when it was published by the same printer in the book "Alfred Adler, the man and his teaching" Warsaw 1938, 194 p.

At the beginning of the war, he fled to Białystok and in June 1940 was a teacher at the Jewish secondary school in Gródek, near Białystok. Following the compulsory order [to take up Soviet citizenship and receive a Soviet passport] which was carried out by the occupying Soviet rule, together with thousands of refugees he was arrested in Białystok and together with his brother sent to the Komi region of the Soviet Union, in the northeast. There he worked in the forests, suffering distress and starvation. In September 1941 at the time of the amnesty of Polish citizens, he arrived in

¹ TN: great-grandson of his homonym Rabbi Yehoshe'le Kutner and son of the Rabbi Yitzhak Yehuda Trunk.

Syktyvkar the capital of the region and was sentenced to hard physical labour. By mistake, he was sent to a punishment camp where he was ill. He was sent back to Syktyvkar and at the age of 42 died of hunger on the 29th of April 1943.

His wife Sara (born Goldsztajn), from Zgierz, and their young son Rafael (7 or 8 years old) died in the accursed ghetto in Poddębice on 14th April 1942.

Chaim Leib FUKS