

YESHAYAHU TRUNK

Born in Kutno, the son of Kutner Rabbi, Mr. Yitzhak Yehuda Trunk. Up to 15 years teaching in classrooms and with private tutors. 1923 Completed the Hebrew-Polish Humanist Gymnasium in Łódź. 1924-1929 studies history at Warsaw University. He graduated with a master's degree and devoted himself to researching the Jewish past in Poland. Been active in the student circles of "Bund". Teacher of history and Latin at the "TSYSHO"¹ schools, a Jewish middle school in Białystok and Warsaw. Member of the YIVO² Historical Circle in Warsaw.

At the beginning of the German occupation of Poland (1939) he fled to Białystok. In 1946, he returned to Poland. Until 1950, he was active in Jewish social life in Warsaw. Board member of the Jewish Historical Institute in Poland. He lived in the State of Israel from 1951 to 1953, where he worked at the Yitzhak Kacnelson *Kibbutz Lohamei HaGhetaot*³. He came to Canada in 1953, and was the director of the Perec School in Calgary. Since 1954 – in New York. Member of the Scientific College of YIVO. Started in "YIVO Pages" (1931) with a review on R. Mahler's and E. Ringelblum's "Selected Sources for the History of Jews in Poland and Eastern Europe (Medieval)" and has since published historical and pedagogical research papers and reviews in: "YIVO Pages", Vilnius; "Historical Writings" (vol. 2, 1937, "Study of the History of the Jews in Mazovia in the 15th Century"), "Pages for History" (1934-1937), "Land Survey", "Literary Pages", "Weekly Writing", "School Ways", "Popular Newspaper", "Yiddish Writings" "The New Life" (a series of articles about Jews in the 1848 revolution) – all in Warsaw; "The Book of Lublin", Paris, 1952 ("History of Jews in Lublin from the Earliest Times to the End of the 18th Century"); "Encyclopedia of Diaspora communities", vol. 5 (Lublin) and vol. 6 (Warsaw), Jerusalem-Tel Aviv, 1957, 1959: "Pages for the Study of the Holocaust and the Rebellion" (vol. 2), and "Yediot" by *Beit Lohamei HaGhetaot*, "Questions of Life", "Golden Chain" – State of Israel; "Future", "Our Time" – New-York; "Kenneder Adler"⁴, Montreal, and others. Distinguishes itself with research on the Holocaust era, such as: "Study of the History of Jews in Warteland, in the Age of Destruction"; "Jewish Labor Camps in Warteland" in "Pages for History", Warsaw, pp. 1 and 2, 1948, 1950; "Western European Jews in Eastern European Ghettos" ("Golden Chain", Tel Aviv, January-April, 1953); "War Against Jews by Spreading Diseases" ("YIVO Pages", vol. 37, New York, 1953); "The Problem

of Resistance in Our Holocaust Literature," "Why Did the Nazis Kill Six Million Jews?" and "Problems of the Lesser Ghetto Life", "Polish-Jewish Relations in the Period of World War II", in "Future", May-June, 1953, April, 1955, April, 1960, April 1964 and others. In book form: "A Jewish Community in Poland at the End of the 18th Century", Warsaw, 1934, 50 pages; "History of Jews in Płock", vol. 1 (1237-1651), YIVO, Warsaw, 1939, 174 pages; "Textbook of Jewish History" (Systematic Course for Sixth Grade), Warsaw, 1947, 116 pages. "Figures and Events" (Historical Essays), Buenos Aires, 1962, 274 pages; "Łódź Ghetto – A Historical and Sociological Study", *Yad Vashem* and YIVO, New York, 1962, 528 pages; "Studies of Jewish History in Poland", Buenos Aires, 1963, 328 pages. Co-editor of "Pages for History" and "Pages for the Study of the Holocaust and the Rebellion". He also participated in the collections: "The Book of the Ghetto War", Tel Aviv, 1950 (on the uprisings in the extermination camps); "Vitebsk Once", New York, 1956 ("History of Jews in Witebsk", 14th-16th centuries); "History of the *Bund*", vol. 1, New York, 1960 ("The Beginnings of the Jewish Labor Movement"); "Книга о русском еврействе"⁵ (Russian), New York, 1960 ("On Russian-Jewish Historiography"); In the *Yizkor-Pinkasim* (Włocławek, Piotrków, Vitebsk, Płock, Sochachew, Lublin and others). Was involved in the joint Holocaust projects of YIVO and *Yad Vashem*.

Chaim Leib FUKS
(*idem*, pp. 128-130)

¹ TN: TSYSHO, Yiddish acronym for "TSentrale Yidishe SHul-Organizatsye."

² TN: acronym of "Yidisher Visnschaftlekher Institut", ("Yiddish Scientific Institute").

³ TN: Hebrew, "Kibbutz Fighters of the Ghettos", a Kibbutz north of Acre.

⁴ TN: "Canadian Eagle", a Yiddish newspaper.

⁵ TN: Russian, literally: "Book on Russian Jewry".