

Before World War Two Lodz – multicultural industrial city, was the second largest centre for Jewish community in Poland. The history of this community, which had a significant influence on the economic and social development of Lodz have not yet been fully investigated. The research project entitled *The Jewish press in Lodz “(Lodzer/Nayer) Folksblat” in the years 1915 to 1939* aims to make available a valuable source – which press is – to the researchers from different scientific disciplines by studying an Yiddish daily “(Lodzer/Nayer) Folksblat”. The comprehensive research on the selected newspaper will be carried out, and the bibliography of titles of articles with local information published therein will be prepared in the project. This will allow to disseminate the preserved material to provide access to it for the researchers who do not speak Yiddish. For the comprehensive study of the subject it is also necessary to analyze the conditions in which the journal was published and to conduct a biographical research on the creators of the newspaper.

The afore-mentioned periodical is a reflection of Jewish everyday life in Lodz. The newspaper was founded in 1915 under the title “Lodzer Folksblat” as a Yiddish outlet of German propaganda. Even then, it was edited by the brothers Lazar and Israel Kahan, who in 1917 were able to buy the periodical and continued publishing it in the years 1917–1921 under a different name: “Folksblat.” Another transformation took place in 1921, and was associated with the foundation of the company “Nayer Folksblat.” From that moment until the first days of September 1939. The newspaper was published under the title “Nayer Folksblat.” A regular issue consisted of eight pages, Friday edition – sixteen, and special holiday issues had sometimes up to twenty pages. The newspaper provided a very good local coverage and had an extensive network of correspondents. Lighter content was printed in supplements, for example “Der Kundas. Humor i satyra zestawione przez Ob-Neka” [Der Kundas. Humor and satire compiled by Ob-Nek] or the one added to the evening edition “Finf groshen blat. Mitagoysgabe fun Nayer Folksblat.” “Nayer Folksblat” had the strongest position within the Jewish publishing market in Lodz before World War Two and it was the only title in circulation throughout the interwar era, which coincided with the most intensive development of Jewish press on Polish territory. Unfortunately, although the circulation of the newspaper was relatively large, not every issue has been preserved.

First issues of the newspaper published under its original title “Lodzer Folksblat” are available at the Institute for Jewish Research YIVO, while the Warsaw University Library has an incomplete collection of “Folksblat” issues from the years 1917–1919. Editions published from the latter period up to 1925 are available at the YIVO, although many individual issues are unfortunately missing. But still an opportunity to carry out research there would make it possible to capture breakthrough moments in the history of the newspaper (such as the subsequent name changes in 1917 and 1921). The collection of issues of “Nayer Folksblat” dated from 1926 until 1939 survived almost in its entirety and is available in the National Library, Warsaw University Library and the Library of the Jewish Historical Institute. Issues dated 1926–1933 from the collection of the State Archive in Lodz have been scanned and included in the Digital Library *Regionalia Ziemi Łódzkiej* [Lodz regional resources] at the Józef Piłsudski Library in Lodz. Thousands issues of “(Lodzer/Nayer) Folksblat” can be analyzed, in order to collect complete data regarding the operating conditions and content of the magazine, it is necessary to carry out research in Polish and foreign institutions as well as on-line.