

Marek Edelman

*Nieznane zapiski
o getcie warszawskim*

Opracowanie
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Abstract
Unknown Memoirs of Mark Edelman

Zapiski o getcie warszawskim [Notes on the Warsaw Ghetto] are Marek Edelman's memoirs written in the 1960s. In his three notebooks, he described his own experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto against the background of events happening between autumn 1939 and autumn 1942. In addition to presenting his own activity in the Tzukunft – the youth organisation of the General Jewish Labor Bund (Bund) – Marek Edelman also described the political activity of his companions in the Bund and Tzukunft. In this way, he has saved the memories of those who died during the Holocaust. A significant part of the notebooks is devoted to the printing of the underground press published by organisations associated with the Bund and its distribution in and outside of the ghetto; these are also some of the few memories of that period containing information about the underground Bund Archives. In his third notebook, Edelman described in great detail the *Grossaktion Warsaw*, which began in the Warsaw Ghetto on 22 July 1942. The unfinished notebook ends with a description of mass deportations of Jews to death camps, which were the last phase of the Nazi German operation.

Abstract

Marek Edelman's memoirs are complemented by other texts that illustrate the origins of his notebooks and explain why they were published so late (*Foreword* by Alexander Edelman). They also explain the nature of the events and introduce the people described (Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat). Following the memoirs in the first part of the book, the second part entitled *Wokół Nieznanych zapisków Marka Edelmana* [*About the Unknown Memoirs of Mark Edelman*] by Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat constitutes a guide to the publication. The chapter entitled *Zamiast noty edytorskiej* [*Instead of the Editorial Note*] outlines the source editing rules applied and the structure of the book. The next two chapters are devoted to the underground activity of the Tzukunft in the Warsaw Ghetto, of which Marek Edelman was an active member (*Podziemna działalność Cukunftu w getcie warszawskim* [*The Underground Activities of Tzukunft in the Warsaw Ghetto*]) and the underground Bund Archives, including the post-war fate of the documents and how they were found, which was Marek Edelman's intention (*Losy Podziemnego Archiwum Bundu* [*The Fate of the Underground Bund Archives*]). Edelman's memoirs are also accompanied by a biographical note (*Marek Edelman (1919–2009). Szkic biograficzny* [*Marek Edelman (1919–2009). A Biographical Sketch*]). The book ends with the biographical notes of people mentioned in the book.

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Key words: Marek Edelman, the Warsaw Ghetto, the Bund, the Tzukunft, underground press in the Warsaw Ghetto, the Bund Archives