

Schipper, Ignacy (Yitzhak)

(1884-1943), Jewish historian and public figure. Born in Eastern Galicia, Schipper was a member of the *Po'alei Zion* Zionist Socialists; he represented his party in the Polish Parliament from 1919-1927. Schipper was also one of the two most important Jewish historians of his time in Poland.

Schipper was very active in public affairs in the Warsaw Ghetto; he participated in public meetings, took part in the Jewish Culture Organization's activities, and gave lectures. He also continued his scholarly work in the ghetto. He was critical of the Ghetto's Judenrat; for a time, Schipper served on an ultimately unsuccessful committee that tried to suggest ways for the *Judenrat* to improve itself.

At first, Schipper was convinced that the Jews should actively resist the Nazis. Nevertheless, when the Germans launched deportations from the ghetto in July 1942, Schipper objected to a policy of resistance. He stated his belief that the Jews had suffered before, but by accepting their losses, had managed to preserve their identity as a people and ensure Jewish continuity.

After the January 1943 deportation, Schipper tried to escape to the "Aryan" side of Warsaw. He was arrested during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and deported to Majdanek where he was killed.