

Salomon Selman Wang

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From Poland to university studies in Italy

Salomon Selman Wang was born in 1914 in Leżajsk, a small town in the south-east of Poland with a significant Jewish element. Salomon, Jewish by religion, was the son of Hersch, a manufacturer, and Feiga Orbach, residents of the nearby town of Rzeszów¹.

He studied at the private high school in Kolbuszowa and gained his high-school leaving diploma in June 1932; he decided to emigrate to Italy to continue his studies and enrolled in the academic year 1933-34 in the faculty of medicine at the University of Perugia; he transferred in the following year to Bologna and in February 1937 to Florence². Here he graduated 12 July 1939 with a thesis on diencephalic epilepsy, receiving a mark of 102/110; his supervisor was Mario Zalla, professor and director of the clinic for nervous and mental illnesses³.

Surviving the extermination

The young doctor had to return to Poland between 1940 and 1942: his last known residence seems to have been Wołosów (today Volosiv, in the Polish territory annexed from 1939 to the Ukraine), given that he was included in the census of health workers undertaken by the Nazis after the occupation of Galicia⁴; in any case, all traces of him seem to be lost until 1947, when he

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Lives on the move:

1 ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Wang Salamon [sic] Selman», application form, 1936-37.

2 Ibid., certified translation of high school diploma, 26 October 1933; *ibid.*, University of Bologna, transfer certificate, 24 February 1937; *ibid.*, application form, 10 March 1937. Cf. also ASUBo, *Archivio studenti, Medicina e chirurgia*, f. 10500, «Wang Salomon Selman».

3 *Ibid.*, degree examination record, 12 July 1939. On Mario Zalla cf. the entry for Matteo Fiorani in *Aspi. Archivio storico della psicologia italiana, Protagonisti*, 2015 <<https://www.aspi.unimib.it>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

4 An entry for Wang is found in the questionnaire on health personnel active in Galicia between 1940 and 1942 which the Nazi occupiers had compiled; cf. *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

appears to be living in Wrocław and sought help from the consulate in forwarding his degree certificate lost during the war⁵. Salomon was the cousin of Marcello Sporn, a specialist in respiratory diseases, who pursued his profession in Milano from the thirties⁶.

No information has been found on his subsequent career.

Principal publications

- Degree thesis «Epilessia diencefalica», Florence University, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, 1938-39.

Sources

- ASUBo, *Archivio studenti, Medicina e chirurgia*, f. 10500, «Wang Salomon Selman».
- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Wang Salamon [sic] Selman».
- *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>>.

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Translated by Tom Dawkes

⁵ ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Wang Salamon [sic] Selman», the Polish consulate in Rome to the University of Florence, 30 June 1947.

⁶ Ibid., Marcello Sporn to the University of Florence, 4 April 1947.

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