



David Maksimovich Elak-Berman (April 16 1891, village of Luki, Zhikhovskaya volost, Novogrudsky uyezd, Minskaya gubernia — May 17 1941, Montevideo, Uruguay). From an early age he worked as a *batrak* (hired peasant labourer). In 1908 he emigrated to the USA and began working in a factory. In the 1910s he was active in the Unions of Russian Workers of the United States and Canada in Pennsylvania. He carried on propaganda among miners, for which he was persecuted by the authorities. In 1917 he was the treasurer of one of the Unions of Russian Workers. He was arrested in McKees Rocks (Pennsylvania) during the Palmer Raids. On December 21 1919, he was deported from the USA on the steamship “Buford” to the Soviet Russia. He

lived briefly in Petrograd, but soon fled to territory occupied by Poland. In 1923 he emigrated to Uruguay, settling in Montevideo, where he worked at the Swift packing plant. From the mid 1920s to the early 1930s, he belonged to the “Delo Truda” anarchist group in Montevideo, and was an active supporter of the “Organizational Platform.” He collaborated with the Argentine groups “Buntar” [Rebel] and “Anarkhiya” in Buenos Aires. In 1932, at Elak’s insistence, issue № 7 of the newspaper *Anarkhiya* was hectographed in Montevideo. Until the end of his life, he was active in the anarchist movement; his special interest was distributing the journal *Delo Truda*.

by Sergei Ovsianikov (translated by Malcolm Archibald)