

D. Koniecpoler

## The Craftsmen and the Destruction

At the beginning of the Second World War, under the rule of the German barbarians, the craftsmen in Częstochowa did everything they could to help the comrades retain their working positions, when they were driven from their homes into the ghetto. We organised a juridical bureau, which defended the rights of the Jewish craftsman as far as possible, created the opportunity for them to buy patents, and so on.

In June 1942, we received a notification: “Any Jewish craftsman, not paying the required sum for his examination and fees<sup>1</sup>, will be banished from the city”. We then raised tens of thousands of hard *złoty*, so as not to give the Nazis the excuse [to say] that the Jewish craftsmen were illegal. But all this was absolutely to no avail. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, both the Jewish craftsmen who worked in the specially-created work-places and the other Jews were all [sent] away to the gas chambers of Treblinka.

It is impossible to list the names of the thousands of Jewish craftsmen-martyrs who perished alongside Częstochowa’s 40,000 Jewish martyrs. We are only able to mention, here, the names of the few craftsmen-activists who miraculously survived:

Szaja Granek [and] Samuel<sup>2</sup> Kac – tailors’ group; Goldberg – barbers’ group; Dawid Koniecpoler [and] Józef Aronowicz (returned from the Soviet Union) – carpenters’ group; Abram Grajcer – painters’ group, and Aron Dorfgang – cobblers’ group.

---

<sup>1</sup> [TN: Presumably a special tax imposed on craftsmen.]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: Original spelling (סאַמױעל).]