

F. Szmulewicz, G. Frajtag

A Gathering of Cześćochowers in Tel-Aviv

On Sunday, 3rd March 1946, a mass gathering of *Cześćochower landsleit* took place in Tel-Aviv. The gathering was arranged in one of the largest venues in town - [that] of Chug Ha'Bima¹. The hall was packed full with people - several hundred *landsleit* attended the event.



Cześćochower Society in Tel-Aviv Committee of Management
Seated (R-L): J. Jaskel, C. Szpaltyn, G. Frajtag, Sz. Rajngold
Standing (R-L): Dr E. Horowicz, R. Leslau, A. Gotlib, Żeżmer, F. Szmulewicz

The hall presents an interesting picture, which mirrors bygone Cześćochowa. Grey, grizzled heads [of] old Jews, who have already been for years here in Palestine; Jews from different echelons - labourers, employees [viz. white-collar workers] and manufacturers (Yes, we also have "our own" manufacturers in Tel Aviv). All came to hear the reports on the state of our brothers and sisters in faraway Cześćochowa. The interest was exceptional. Everyone is languishing for news from those who have, by chance, survived.

You can, therefore, find in the hall many *landsleit* who live in the rural areas and who have given their time to [attend] the gathering. Even before the start of the function, you can come across scenes of people literally weeping with the great joy of meeting once more, after many years of not seeing one another. And on this occasion, each one pours out his bitter heart and tears run when an old woman relays that of her eight children in Cześćochowa, sorrowfully none have survived.



The first group of Cześćochowers in Tel-Aviv (1919)
Among others: Gerichter, F. Wajcenblat, Dr Horowicz, Gomulinski,
Rajchman, Horonczyk

A young *chalutz* - a pioneer - who only arrived in the Land of Israel just before the outbreak of the War, recounts that he has remained as lonely and miserable as a stone. Of his large family, no one has been left for him. And, thus, people share the tidings of Job², until the Chairman's ringing is heard, calling all the assembled to take their places.

¹ [TN: "The Stage Circle," usually known as "Teatron Ha'Bima," or "The Stage Theatre."]

² [TN: The mournful news that the messengers brought to Job (Job 1:14-20) regarding the theft of his livestock and the slaying of his sons and servants.]

The gathering is opened by Mr Lewit (a son-in-law of the Maggid³ [Reb Josef-Szymon] Koblenz). He welcomes the assembled and reads a heartrending letter which has just arrived from the Częstochowa Jewish Committee.

The first speaker is Dr Hirszberg, the former preacher and *rabbiner*⁴ of the New Synagogue. He recounts the tragedy of the refugees - for not long ago, he himself found himself in the same situation - and he appeals for support for the fundraising campaign for our brethren in Częstochowa, which is to be conducted by the local Committee.

Dr Kruk also speaks in the same vein. He reads several letters that he has recently received at his address. He urges the assembly to disseminate the *Częstochower Almanac*⁵, which is about to be published in America.

The last [speaker] is a soldier in the [British Army's] Jewish Brigade, Ezriel Jakubowicz, who visited Częstochowa in 1945.

Jakubowicz also tells of the hundreds of *Częstochowers* whom he has met in various countries and camps during his stay in Europe. The situation is, for the most part, a difficult one. There are many hungering for bread and, in the winter, they are without shoes and clothes. Their only hope is emigration - be it to the Land of Israel or other countries - because there is no way back to Poland. Before, they were murdered by the Nazis - and now, they face the same on the part of the Poles.

The gathering concludes with sending a warm greeting over to our brethren in Częstochowa and throughout the globe. Large funds are raised for this cause on the spot. The gathering left a strong impression on all those present.



***National Committee of Częstochowers
in the Land of Israel***
***Standing (R-L): Dr J. Horowicz, J. Gotlib,
C. Szpaltyn, F. Szmulewicz, F. Zubski***
Seated (R-L): W. Landsman, Dr J. Kruk, J. Dancyger

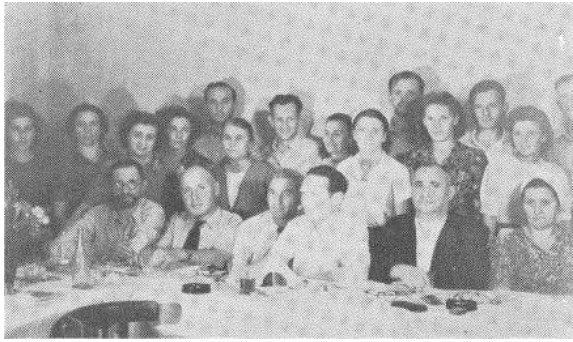


***Members of Management of the Częstochower Society
in Jerusalem***
Seated (R-L): F. Zubski, Dr J. Kruk and W. Landsman
***Standing (R-L): Sz. Zubski, N. Besserglik, A. Zubski,
D. Zubski***

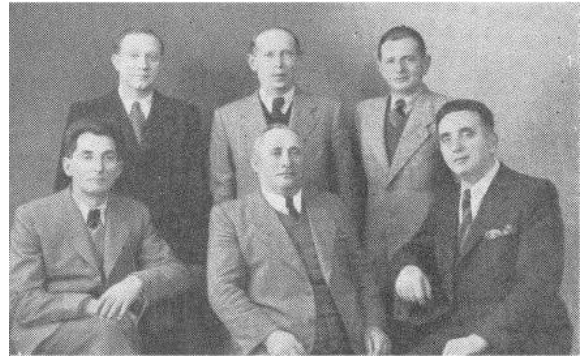
³ [TN: Itinerant preacher; see the Maggid's brief biography in *Sefer Częstochowa*, Vol. I, cols. 650-651.]

⁴ [TN: The fact that this word is in German and not in the usual Hebrew used in Yiddish in ref. to an orthodox rabbi – "ruv" (רב) – denotes that Dr Chaim-Ze'ev Hirszberg (originally from Ternopil) was a progressive or Reform rabbi who belonged to the Haskala Movement.]

⁵ [TN: Viz. the book *Czenstochover Yidn.*]



A cup of tea with the Cześćochowers in Haifa



*Representatives of the "Irgun Oley Czenstochow"
in Haifa
Seated (R-L): Blum, Dancyger, Fajnrajch
Standing (R-L): J. Goldfarb, Windman, Borzykowski*



*The first group of Cześćochowers in Haifa in 1926
Among others: J. Dancyger and Mrs, U. Szwarcbaum and
Mrs, Majer Fajnrajch and Mrs,
the brothers Jechiel and Jakow Klajner and Windman*



*A group of Cześćochowers in the Land of Israel
in 1926*