

On the “Monograph” That Was Never Written

(A “Foreword” of Sorts)

The Jewish settlement of Częstochowa began about 270 years ago. Until then, the Poles had opposed the infiltration of Jews into the city and saw in it as an insult and a “desecration”. Being Częstochowa, to a certain extent, a sacred location for the Catholic religion, this was the main reason for their opposition and to this purpose even specific laws were passed.

Over the course of time, their opposition weakened a little and despite the diverse obstacles yet in their path, Jews began, with their talent and great vigor, to infiltrate the city of Częstochowa. Obviously, the infiltration of Jews into the city also brought about many changes in its appearance and character.

With relentless vigour, the Jews erected houses and buildings, industrial projects and houses of commerce, factories and workshops, mainly in the branches of metalwork, toys, textiles, paper and all kinds of haberdashery.

The city became a bustling and vibrant city, hard-working and full of life. Many workplaces were created both for Poles and for Jews.

Along with the growth in the Jewish population, troubles and necessities also grew and it became imperative to maintain an orderly and standardised Jewish communal life. To this purpose, social and cultural and financial institutions were established, which expanded and strengthened and became famous throughout Jewish Poland.

Naturally, there arose from within Jewish Częstochowa individuals who wished to research the history of their people in this city since their arrival in them [should say *it*].

At the initiative from “The Jewish Scientific Institute”, headed by historian Dr. E. Ringelblum, in 1939, a group of influential figures were organised by the community who were to publish a monograph about Częstochowa Jewry.

The active members of this group were: the engineer Wilczynski - who actually wrote the first volume, - Fishel Blumenkrantz, Dr. Hirschberg, Dr. Mering, Dr. Lipinski, attorney L. Asz and A. Ch. Sziffer. The contemporary community leader, Yaakov Rosenberg, assisted them.

To our great sorrow, this group was unable to complete the task in the time that it had set itself. When it had only begun its work, the Second World War erupted and the city’s Jewish citizens were chased and dispersed to all corners by the Nazi criminals, the great majority of them met their deaths in the concentration and death camps and only very few survived.

In this book, in which we record the history of the city, its events in its days of prosperity and flourishing and The Book of Horrors it experienced up to the day of its destruction, it is fitting that these words should also be used as a “foreword” of sorts to the “monograph that was never written” and as a memorial-monument to the conceivers of the idea that they were unable to put into effect!

The Book Committee

22nd Anniversary of the Częstochowa ghetto liquidation
at "Beit Lessin", Tel-Aviv _ 19 Tamuz 5724 (19th June 1964)



At the table, from left to right: Z. Wernik, A. Gottlieb, Y. Lewit, Rabbi Y.Y. Frenkel (from the Jewish delegation that visited Treblinka), E. Ben-Moshe, S. Grajek (speaker, one of the commanders of the partisan fighters), A. Brum, M. Ch. Tiberg and Sh. Blum. Bottom: a multitude of the [Częstochowa] *landsleit* attending the speakers' speeches.

Jewish Częstochowa and its History

