

Anna Goldman¹ – an Interview²

Your family comes from the circle of Jewish intelligentsia. Before the Holocaust, many of your uncles and aunts worked, studied and actively involved themselves in expanding science and culture in Poland. Could you describe the losses your family suffered during the *Shoah*? Which of your relatives, those closest and those more distant, survived that tragedy?

My father had two brothers and sisters. My mother had four sisters. My father's older brother was a gynaecologist. He worked in the hospital in Częstochowa. He had a wife and daughter, half a year older than me. My father's sister was a lawyer and, together with her husband, also a lawyer, ran a law firm. My father's younger brother was a ceramic engineer and got married just before the War. My mother's sisters all lived in Częstochowa, except one who left to work in France in the 1920's. She lost her husband during the War. He was active in the Resistance Movement. She was left with two children in Paris and died there in 1998. My cousin, born in London in 1936, also survived the War.

Before the outbreak of World War II, what was your parents' social position and what were their occupations?

My parents lived in Gnaszyn, 5 kms from Częstochowa, where both worked in *Gnaszyn Manufaktura*. My father was the chief engineer and mother was a bookkeeper.

Childhood is most often a carefree and happy period, full of love of the world and the surroundings of the time. It has a significant impact on everyone's life. What pictures of your childhood do you still remember? (For example, your family, where you lived, where you played, your friends, family celebrations, holidays, etc.)

I was born in October 1937. My first two years, within a large, loving family, were idyllic. I don't remember much about my life at the time, I was too young.

That carefree pre-War childhood was interrupted by the brutal events of the War and the tragedy of the Holocaust. You were a small child at the time. Do you also remember anything of that period?

The War found us on holiday in Ciechocinek, so we returned to Częstochowa straight away. My father, together with his brothers and brother-in-law, went off to fight in the east. His gynaecologist elder brother was mobilised into the army and died on 13th April 1940 in Katyn. The ghetto in Częstochowa was established on 9th April 1941. Following the return of my father and his brother-in-law, they moved us all in there. We all lived together – around

¹ Anna Goldman – currently lives in Częstochowa.

² The interview was conducted by Magda Mizgalska in February 2010.

seven people, in the beginning, in two rooms. After the area of the Ghetto was reduced (the so-called “Small Ghetto”) we all lived in one room.

I won't talk about the hunger, the fear, the round-ups, the transports to Treblinka and the shootings on the spot at the Jewish cemetery, because I was only four years old at the time. And, besides, everyone has already heard about that.

After a year and seven months in the Ghetto, in the autumn of 1942, right before Rosh Hashana and the time of the Ghetto's liquidation, with the help of Polish friends, we managed to escape from the Ghetto and travel to Warsaw. By “we”, I mean my mother, father and me, as well as my father's sister, her husband and his niece whose parents had perished in Treblinka.

There, “Aryan papers” were arranged for us, meaning new birth certificates under new names and new surnames. My mother and I lived with the Nowak family who were teachers. My father lived elsewhere, while my aunt, uncle and their niece (the Israeli writer, Irit Amiel, who writes about the *Shoah*) lived on the campus of the Warsaw Polytechnic. I knew that I was called “Halinka Gawrońska” and that I was to be a quiet, well-behaved, little girl. We maintained contact with my father, aunt and uncle but, for a long time, we couldn't leave the house. Someone recognised us on the street and blackmailed us with the threat of going to the Gestapo. In the end, he settled for a pay-off.

In those days, we remained quietly in the apartment. In the evenings, my mother would wrap me in a blanket and we would sit by the open window with the lights in room turned out. In that way, I could get some fresh air. I was not allowed to make a noise, run around and speak or play loudly. After the War, my mother said many times that if I hadn't been such a well-behaved child, then we would not have survived. I apparently understood the gravity of the situation and didn't cause any trouble. Because of blackmail, we changed apartments many times – always under the care of our friends, the Nowaks who, to me, were “uncle” and “auntie”.

My mother was a beautiful woman, a blonde, and sometimes drew the attention of the Germans. I remember this incident: I was sick, so my mother took me to the doctor. A German in uniform sat in the waitingroom and constantly watched my mother. We finally went into the doctor's surgery. It was Dr. Fisz (or perhaps Ślęzak). He noticed that my mother was nervous. He asked, “What's wrong?” My mother explained the situation to him and he replied, “Please, leave the surgery calmly and get a *droshka* to drive you home. I'll invite the officer into the surgery and I'll delay him.” That's what happened.

On the following day, my mother bought me my first toy for being well-behaved and for not having cried despite the fact that I was frightened. It was a wooden butterfly on a stick, with wings that folded back when you pulled it along the ground. My mother would meet up with my father in the city. I would wait at home under the care of “Auntie Nowak”. My mother would always bring something back for me, most often, a chocolate cupcake.

How did she manage to get them? I don't know. She used to say, "Open your mouth and close your eyes and you find out what might pop in." These are a few of the nice memories.

The Warsaw Uprising, in 1944, found us on Wspólna Street together with the Nowaks. We lived on the second floor. I remember how, in the evening of 1st August 1944, my mother noticed a priest in the courtyard. He was wearing a white and red armband. It was joy without end. My mother and aunt danced around the table. Later, they shared a drink from the cabinet.

Later, bombs and shells started falling on Warsaw. We called them "cows" because you could hear mooing prior to the impact. We had to move to the basement. Many people sat there. It was crowded and dark. When a shell hit our building, it became dark from all the dust. For that reason, everyone had a wet cloth to cover their nose and mouth. There was running water from a tap in the courtyard. You had to go outside to get it. That could sometimes result in death from a stray bullet. Also, there was nothing to eat. Sometimes, there was a piece of bread. My toy, then, was a doll made from my buttoned-up coat stuffed with scarves. I hugged her, reassuring her that nothing would happen to us and that she should not be scared. I think that I was rather reassuring myself. All around us, there was fighting and noise. Sometimes, the rebels with their rifles or young girls carrying stretchers would run through the basement.

An altar with a statue of the Holy Mother was made in every courtyard. The residents would pray at them during breaks in the fighting. To this day, I remember the songs and prayers which I had to know.

After the fall of the Uprising, on 6th October 1944, the Nazis forced us out of the basement with our few bags and, in columns, drove us in the direction of Pruszków. I then saw Warsaw on fire and in ruins. Along the road were fields with onions growing. I was so hungry that I ran away from my mother. Leaving the column, I ran into the field, pulled up two onions and began to eat them together with the sand and the soil. They couldn't pull the onions out of my hands. Fortunately, the German escorting us didn't shoot me. My mother managed to get me back into the column in time, but the onions were mine!

Together with the Nowaks, we managed to get away from the column during a stop at night. Crossing fields, we reached a smashed-up shack. We spent the night there waiting for the column to leave and fighting off the rats which rummaged around the shack. By some miracle, in the evening, we managed to get to the village of Bąkowa Góra. It was a small hamlet consisting of four shacks. We, as refugees from Warsaw, were taken in there. Not knowing who we were, we were fed and remained there until liberation in January 1945. The village was surrounded by forests. Winter that year was frosty and snowy. There was no light in the home. There was only a carbide lamp which stank and gave very little light.

Prior to Christmas, with Aunt Jadzia, I made coloured-paper chains and decorated the Christmas tree. I remember how the whole village went to Midnight Mass. It was very cold and everyone went wrapped in woollen aprons, with felt slippers on their legs, carrying

torches in their hands, through the forest, a couple of kilometres to the church. The snow sparkled and crunched under our feet.

The Russians came in January 1945. Sometimes, they would stop by the homes, looking for vodka and then it was horrible. I remember one incident when Russian soldiers dropped in. On the shelf, there was a small bottle of vinegar without a label. Because I was standing in his way, one of them brutally knocked me over as he ran over to it. There was terror on my mother's face. She was scared that, if he drank the vinegar, he would shoot us all. Fortunately, my dear Aunt Jadzia ran to the kitchen where there was a bottle of moonshine and gave it to him. He smiled and calmed down. I also remember how the Russian soldiers took the wounded Germans on sleighs. The winter was severe and snowy, but they called out "wasser" (water). My dear mother immediately poured a glass of water and wanted to give it to them. Only Aunt Jadzia stopped her, saying, "They're Germans, after all." My mother then came to her senses.

I remember, while still being in Bąkowa Góra, how a tall peasant came out of the forest. He was blonde, with blue eyes and a handlebar moustache. It turned out to be my uncle, the husband of my father's sister. Together with his wife and niece (Irit Amiel), he had also managed to get away from the convoy heading to Pruszków and was in the village of Pociężna Górka, about 15 kms away from us. He did some trading from village to village and carried secret newsletters. The joy at our meeting was immense, because we didn't know what had happened to them. Unfortunately, we had absolutely no news about my father. At the time of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, he was living in a different part of Warsaw and we were no longer able to meet him. I don't know what name he was using or how he died. In any case, he never returned to us even though, for many years, my mother believed they we would find him. I read an article by Michał Cichy in "Gazeta Wyborcza" entitled "Poles-Jews, A Black Mark", about a pogrom on the Jews in Warsaw during the Warsaw Uprising. It took place on Prosta Street, where members of the Home Army (AK) killed several dozen Jewish survivors. I thought that maybe that was the way my father had died. That's something that I will never know.

Surviving the racist purge and keeping alive, even one Jew, involved risks and sometimes heroic actions from many people. How many members of your family survived and what happened to them afterwards?

Following liberation from the Germans, we returned to Częstochowa. Out of the entire family, only a handful remained – my mother and me, my aunt (my father's sister) and her husband and niece (Irit Amiel). The rest of the family had perished – my father in the Warsaw Uprising, my uncle in Katyn, his wife and daughter in Treblinka, another brother of my father, with his wife, in the Montelupich prison in Kraków.

Of my mother's sisters, the youngest survived. For the entire War, she had worked in the "Hasag" labour camp in Częstochowa, where several hundred young Jews performed

backbreaking work in terrible conditions, calibrating ammunition for the Germans. The majority of them left Poland immediately after the War. My Aunt married and, together with her husband, left for Palestine. She died in Israel in the 1970's. She witnessed the death of her father, my grandfather. She told me that, during the German transports, they forced them along in columns. My grandfather, because he had asthma and so couldn't keep up, was shot by the Germans in front of my aunt. I don't know where he is buried.

In 1948, my uncle's niece fled Poland with a youth group. She was 14 years old at the time. Crossing the Alps, they reached the sea from where the group was taken by ship to Palestine. Unfortunately, in Haifa, they were turned back to Cyprus because the British authorities didn't want to let them into Palestine. Following the creation of the State of Israel, they were transported to Haifa. There, she worked on a kibbutz. She married and has two children and six grandchildren. She established a new family there to replace the family she lost during the War.

At the age of 60, a granddaughter asked her to tell her something on the subject of the Holocaust, because she had to prepare an assignment for school. She stated that, when we die, there will be no one left to talk about it and so she decided to write. She has had published several volumes of poetry and stories regarding the fate of Jewish families in Israel, Poland, Hungary and England. She is a well-known writer in Israel, writing about the *Shoah* in Polish, English and in Hebrew.

The rest of my family, who survived thanks to the actions of good people, Aryan papers and *Żegota*, didn't talk about their experiences after the War. It was a time when their wounds were still too fresh to open up again. I was too young and perhaps too stupid to ask about it, all the more because I knew how painful the memories were. From my mother's stories, it turned out that she had two sisters – one who left for France and the other who, after the War, left for Palestine. My mother never told me that she had yet another two sisters. It was only after my mother's death in 1980, when I was at her sister's home in Paris and she told me, "We were five sisters. We were all tall. How come you're so short?" I then began to ask questions and it turned out that both were living in Częstochowa in the Ghetto. One was shot in her bed along with her two children, and the other took part in the armed rebellion by Jewish youth in the ghetto and had died in a bunker. My mother never spoke about them.

My aunt gave me a photocopy of a photograph of my grandfather and his five daughters. My grandmother had died young from cancer and so my grandfather had brought up his daughters alone. I don't know what his occupation was – I never asked. I greatly regret that I never found out more, but it was like that in those times. Unfortunately, worldwide interest in this subject only began when my surviving relatives had already died. I was left completely alone, without any family and with an incomplete knowledge about them. Even at the overgrown Jewish Cemetery in Częstochowa, I can't find my grandfather's grave (my father's father), who died long before the War.

What part did your family's relatives play in the rebuilding of Częstochowa after World War II?

Until 1967, my mother worked in a factory in Gnaszyn as bookkeeper and cashier. My aunt and uncle were lawyers. In the beginning, they ran a private legal practice. After the introduction of legal firms, they joined one of them. My uncle also worked as a lecturer in the Higher School of Administration. For several years, he was its Rector. He prepared young lawyers to enter the workforce. My aunt actively joined in communal service work. For example, she gave free advice within women's organisations. Until 1954, my mother and I lived in Gnaszyn on a floor of the factory villa. After the creation of a pre-school within the villa, we moved in with my aunt and uncle. Their large apartment in Częstochowa was under threat because it exceeded the size which, at that time, was allocated for one family.

The years of your youth coincided with the difficult period of post-War Polish reconstruction. Their wartime experiences undoubtedly exerted an influence on those closest to you. At that time, were you aware that you came from a Jewish family?

Straight after the War, I found out from my mother that my name was not really Halinka Gawrońska, but Anna Goldman. I accepted it as a natural thing without any further explanation.

School, studies and new friendships constituted a natural pathway for the development and life of every citizen in post-War Poland. Was the circle within which you grew up aware of your Jewish roots?

I completed secondary school in Częstochowa, and then medicine in Zabrze. I worked in a hospital and, from 1965, then at the clinic where, to this day, I still practise my profession (42 years). Apart from the period of occupation, I never changed my name. Everyone around me knows that I am Jewish. My family was known and recognised in Częstochowa as Jews. Changing my name would have achieved nothing. Moreover, there are so few of us who were affected by the Holocaust. I wanted to keep my family name in memory of those who remembered it as being Jewish from before the War.

Did you have many opportunities to emigrate from Poland? What influenced your decision to stay in Poland and in Częstochowa?

My family didn't think about emigration. After the War, my uncle, aunt and mother were all about forty years old. Their wartime experiences made them feel twice that old. They didn't want to start life again from the beginning. In Częstochowa, they had both social position and work. They never let the thought enter their heads to leave and start life anew elsewhere.

I know that my aunt and uncle had some unpleasantness. Twice, the *Narodowe Siły Zbrojne* (National Armed Forces) searched their apartment in 1946. In that same year, they received two letters addressed to them by name and with spelling mistakes. The letters stated, "Leave Poland immediately!" Despite that, my uncle, aunt and mother decided to stay in

Częstochowa. My uncle also wouldn't hear of compensation from the Germans. He simply wanted to live out his life where he was born – in Poland.

Indeed, I did have the possibility to emigrate. I declined the offer of my cousin, Martin Gilbert, to come to England. I also didn't want to live with my aunt in France. If I had to choose between France and Israel, I'd prefer to live in Israel. I've been to Israel twice. The first time was in 1964 and there were many arguments inducing me to return. The first was that I had left without accepting my degree for having completed my medical studies. Secondly, my mother remained in Poland and I couldn't imagine being separated from her. Thirdly, Israel, at that time, was a completely different country. It didn't occur to me to stay, despite that the fact that I had a marriage proposal there.

The events of 1968 also didn't persuade me to leave Poland. The *Towarzystwo Społeczno Kulturalne Żydów*, Częstochowa branch, was located on Jasnogórska Street, in the Markowicz villa, the owners of the factory in Gnaszyn. But I didn't go there, because there were no peers in my age group. Regarding those events, they didn't affect me. But I knew that something was going on ...

As a Jew, do you feel safe in modern-day Częstochowa?

I have never encountered any anti-Semitism directed at me personally. However, I can't deny that, generally speaking, it does appear. It hurts me very much and I react to it sharply. I once had a patient who left to work in Germany. He brought me medication from there for severe attacks of asthma. During his next visit, he couldn't hold back any longer and asked me, "You have a sort of German surname. Why didn't you leave for Germany?" I replied, "It's not a German surname, it's Jewish." I never saw him again. Can you call that anti-Semitism?

You belong to that group of children who were saved from the Holocaust. You were fortunate, owing your life to people who, through their actions, demonstrated their humanity in those inhumane times when Jews were deprived of any tolerance. A person's life does not end with their biological death. It lives on as long as their memory remains within the generations that follow. Memorabilia, memories, stories of those who have gone are, for us, something more than just dry, historical documents. They arouse reflection and revive memories. Among the memories of your family, you certainly have many stories. Could you add them to our collectively-written book? I think that, in this way, we can better honour the memory of those who have gone.

Among the many documents which I found within the private archive of my aunt and uncle, are two which document their dramatic and, at the same time, active lives. I think that it would be best to reproduce them in their entirety. Both have now left this world. They were both fortunate, being among the few from the entire family who died a natural death. And so, let them speak for themselves.

Hassenfeldowa (Hassenfeld-Hankiewicz) nee Goldman

Dorota (1898-1980), lawyer, social activist. Born 17th March 1898 in Częstochowa, the daughter of Perec (Paweł) and Sura (Salomej) nee Steinhardt (Sztejnhard, Sztajnhard).

Dorota Hassenfeld graduated from the Juliusz Słowacki High School in Częstochowa and, in 1923, from the Law Faculty of the Warsaw University. She interned as a judge in the Circuit Court in Piotrków Trybunalski, and interned as a lawyer under the patronage of lawyer Jan Glikson in Częstochowa. In 1929, after passing the examination, she was entered onto the Chamber of Lawyers' roll in Warsaw, with offices in Częstochowa.

At that time, she was the only female lawyer in the city. In the beginning, she ran her chambers alone, but was later joined by her husband, Marian. At the time, she belonged to the *Związek Pracy Obywatelskiej Kobiet* as well as to the *Association of Higher-Educated Women*. From 1939, she did not work professionally, maintaining herself through, among other means, help provided by friends.

In the Częstochowa ghetto, she took care of the sick, the elderly and children. In 1943, prior to the liquidation of the ghetto, she escaped and hid in various places in the Częstochowa area and, later, in Warsaw. Following the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, in 1944, she stayed in Pociężna Górka in the Piotrków District, where she ran an underground school for the children of the surrounding villages. In the summer of 1945, she returned to Częstochowa where she ran a law practice. In 1953, she was co-founder and, until 1970 a member, of the No.1 Law Firm. She also served as legal adviser in the MHD as well as in the PZGS "Peasant Co-operative".

Between the years 1953-1957, she was a member of the National City Council in Częstochowa and chaired the Labour and Social Welfare Commission. She was active in the League of Women. She belonged to the municipal, district and provincial councils, as well as ZG of those organisations. She was also a member of several other organisations.

She died on 6th March 1980 in Częstochowa. She was honoured with the *Krzyż Kawalerów* (Knight's Cross), *OOP* (Order of Polish Rebirth) and the *Srebrny Krzyż Zasługi* (Silver Service Cross).

Her marriage to Marian Hassenfeld did not have children. Her brothers were:

- Józef (1901-1942?), construction machinery engineer, graduate of the Warsaw Polytechnic

- Leon Goldman (born 4th April 1894, Częstochowa, died 1940, Katyń), who, from 1913, studied in the Pure Mathematics Department and from 1917, in the Medical Department of Warsaw University. In 1918, he participated in the disarmament of Germany. He belonged to the Academic Legion, in the same year, completing a recruitment course in the 36th Regiment. He then served in the 27th Regiment. In October 1919, as an officer-cadet, he managed the clinic and infirmary of the 3rd Battalion, 27th Regiment. Along with his regiment, he served in the Polish-Bolshevik War. In 1921, he returned to his studies and

graduated in 1923. He specialised in surgery and gynaecology. As a doctor, he worked in the District Hospital. From 1928, he organised the Women's Department of the NMP Surgical Hospital (later, the Gynaecology Department of the Municipal Community Hospital) in Częstochowa. He was a known sportsman. From 1927, he was a Board of Management member of the Częstochowa Football League. He chaired the medical commission of the "Maccabi" Jewish Gymnastic-Sports Association. He was also a leader in CKS "Warta". In September 1939, as a lieutenant in the Reserve, he was mobilised to a field hospital of the District Command in Łódź. After 17th September 1939, he found himself imprisoned by the Soviets and held in a prison camp in Kozielsk. He was murdered in the Katyn forest. His wife, Wiktoria (nee Szpigielman), and daughter Sylwia (born 1937) perished in Treblinka.

* Gliński, Słownik biograficzny lekarzy i farmaceutów, s 166-167 (sygn. IH Ib.1179 t. 1-3) (dot. Leona Goldmana); Katyń. Księga Cmentarna, s. 172 (tu fot. Leona Goldmana);- „Ex. Czest.” 1929 nr 57, s. 2; „Ostatnie Wiadomości Czest.” 1934 nr 18, s. 6 (dot. Leona); „Palestra” 1980 nr 8-9 (biogram); „Wojskowy Przegląd Historyczny” 1991 nr 1, s. 346 (biogram Leona Goldmana) APCz, AmCz 27/7 t. II, k. 783-784 (dot. Rodziny Goldmanów).

Hassenfeld, Marian

I was born on 28th August 1901 in Częstochowa. There, I attended the Henryk Sienkiewicz Public High School from which I matriculated in 1920. I studied in the Law Department of the Warsaw University and, in 1926, obtained my Master of Law degree.

I acquired an education within very difficult financial circumstances. Already from the fifth grade of high school, and then through my university studies, I supported myself by tutoring privately. I went to University only to gain credits/references and to sit examinations.

After one year, I gained a nomination to be an unpaid court intern. I supported myself, during that time, by working at the Industrialists and Merchants Association as manager of the secretariat and as a legal clerk. After sitting the judicial examination of the Appeals Court in Warsaw, in 1930 I was added to the list of legal interns and did my internship with the lawyer, Jan Glikson, in Częstochowa, after which I sat for the legal examination set by the Law Council in Warsaw.

In 1934, I was entered onto the Chamber of Lawyers' roll in Warsaw, with chambers in Częstochowa where, together with my wife, lawyer Dorota Hassenfeld, we ran a legal practice until the moment of the outbreak of World War II – which found us in Warsaw.

When I was at university and during the course of practising law, I realised the second of my life's passions – namely, teaching, which found particular expression in working in higher education in the post-War years (17 years). In the inter-War period, I lectured in courses for municipal managers, organised by the Częstochowa city authorities, as well as in courses run by the Industrialists and Merchants Association in Częstochowa. I presented papers at conventions. I published articles regarding finance. I worked with my patron, the lawyer Jan Glikson, on his published commentary entitled "An Outline of the Main Principals of Inheritance Law Applicable in the Congress Kingdom of Poland" (1931).

Being summoned by the military authorities in Warsaw (Col.Umiastowski), on 5th September 1939, I managed to get to the eastern frontier of Poland, from where I returned to Częstochowa in December 1939. Being suspected of underground activity, I was arrested by the Gestapo and put in prison in Zawodzie on 5th August 1940. After a "miraculous" release, I was locked inside the ghetto in Częstochowa. There, I supervised the aged care home, the orphanage, the hospital and social welfare. This came from my being, before the War, Vice-President of the Jewish Benevolent Society.

On the night before the ghetto's liquidation, thanks to help from kind and self-sacrificing fellow-countrymen, we managed to escape. For a time, we hid near Konicopol and, from 1942, in Warsaw.

In order not to be discovered, during our time in Warsaw, we were forced to change apartments every few weeks. However, that did not prevent us from being active in the

underground. I distributed the underground press and, within an arm of the Council for Aiding Jews, I distributed financial allowances and clothing among Jews in hiding.

On the day of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, we were living on Marymoncka Street. This building was set on fire by the Nazis and we were driven back to Wawrzyszewa Street, where I was taken hostage. I managed to escape my persecutors and hiked, through Pruszków, to the village of Pocieszna Górka, in the Ręczno municipality of the Piotrków Province. In the Ręczno forest, I took part in the fighting against the retreating Nazi army.

Almost all of my family, as well as that of my wife, perished during the period of occupation, be it either fighting the Nazis (my wife's three brothers – one a Polish Army captain in Katyn, the other two in the Warsaw Uprising or my nephew in the Częstochowa ghetto uprising) or in the extermination camps.

On 1st February 1945, we returned to Częstochowa, where we set up a legal practice. In the years 1945–1952, appointed by the Law Council in Warsaw, Łódź and Katowice, I performed the duties of Deputy Delegate of the Law Council in the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court in Częstochowa.

In 1952, the Law Council in Katowice commissioned me to organise law firms in Częstochowa. I completed that task and the firms began operating from 1st January 1953.

Together with my wife, I joined Law Firm No.1 in Częstochowa, where I was employed until 1st December 1976. I retired on that date. Over that time, I performed a number of professional and social functions within the legal profession. As a matter of fact, to this day I still perform a number of social functions, among which is chairing the Law Council's Historical Commission in Częstochowa, which has the task of studying the history of the legal profession in Częstochowa and Piotrów Trybunalski. I am also Vice-Chairman of the Retirees and Pensioners Circle, etc. I attach here the relevant list. This list shows that, within the Law Chamber of Katowice and Częstochowa, I was, and am to this day, a frequent delegate to the Delegates Assembly and that I have chaired the Delegates Assembly.

Until the time of banning practising lawyers from being legal advisers, I held such a position within the City Council (the Presidium of the National Municipal Council) in Częstochowa, the Częstochowa Woollen Industry, the Stradom 1st of May Woollen Industry, the "Aniołów" Chemical Factory, the Częstochowa Paper Factory, the Board of Exhibitions and Fairs in Częstochowa and, until the outbreak of the War, the Association of Industrialists and Merchants, and the Textile Industry Joint Venture in Częstochowa. At this point, it should be mentioned that, as its legal adviser, the Municipal Council entrusted me with missions such as lobbying with the Finance Minister, K. Dąbrowski, on the matter of exchanging banknotes issued by the Issuing Bank (*Bank Emisyjny*) which were circulated during the occupation, for new banknotes issued by National Bank of Poland (*Narodowy Bank Polski*). I also took part in a conference regarding the construction of a tram line in Częstochowa, together with President Kucharzewski and Vice-President Wróbel, of the

Central Committee of the Communist Party (P.Z.P.R.), in the offices of Secretary Zenon Kliszko,

Continuing my love of education, I became a teacher at the Higher School of Administration and Business and then, after its nationalisation, at the Higher School of Economics in Częstochowa, where I assumed the Chair of Finance and Credit. From January 1952, I was manager of Team 1 in the Department of Political Economy. Until the liquidation of the college in 1961, I performed a number of responsible, managerial roles in the Higher School of Economics – as Prorektor (1949-1951), Rektor (1956-1960), representative of the Minister for Higher Education on the issue of liquidating the Higher School of Economics in Częstochowa (1960-1961) and a delegate of that Minister for various, special tasks. I was also a member of the First Congress of Polish Education in Warsaw in 1951, the First National Conference of Leading Teachers and Education Workers in 1952 in Warsaw, as the Częstochowa area delegate to a meeting of economists organised by the Economics Council at the Council of Ministers on 6th May 1957, under the chairmanship of Council of Ministers Vice-President, Piotr Jaroszewicz, regarding the program for the First Polish Education Congress and many others.

I was taken on three times by Comrade Edward Gierek on the matter of the intended liquidation of the Higher School of Economics. At that time, he was First Secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party in Katowice. I participated in sittings of the Collegium of the Ministry of Higher Education, in plenary sittings of the National Council in Częstochowa and in Kłobuck. These actions were aimed at halting the liquidation of the Higher School of Economics in Częstochowa.

In the abovementioned college, I performed a number of social functions, a list of which I attach. At this period of time, I wrote articles for “Higher Education Life” and for the publishing house “Częstochowa Territory”. I delivered academic papers. I was the editor responsible and a member of the editorial committee of “Częstochowa – The New Academic Centre”. I participated in a conference of rectors of schools of higher education, etc.

In the years 1952-1953 and 1960-1961, I was employed at the Częstochowa Polytechnic, where I lectured on the “Legal Encyclopedia”.

Apart from the social work in the legal profession and in higher education, I was actively involved in the wider overall, social aspect. By way of example, I would mention my part in the organisation, in Częstochowa, of the Regional Commission for Researching German Crimes, in which I served as Vice-Chairman, membership of the organising committee called upon to establish a Circuit Court in Częstochowa, co-founding and co-organising a branch, in Częstochowa, of the Association of Democratic Lawyers (ZPD, now the ZPP). I was a member of the (first) board of management of the ZPD and, as a delegate, I participated in its first convention in Warsaw. Similarly, I was elected to the Association’s board for several terms of office. I was appointed to the Board of Management of the Education Workers Section of the Polish Teachers Union (ZNP) in Warsaw. As a member of

the Organising Committee of the College of Advanced Technology, I contributed to the establishment of this College, later renamed the Częstochowa Polytechnic.

Despite my advanced age, admittedly in a reduced capacity, I am active, in a communal capacity, within the legal profession and within the Polish Economics Society where I am Chairman of the Audit Committee in Częstochowa and am active in other temporary ways.

For my activities, I have received numerous state awards such as the *Knights Cross of the Order of Polish Rebirth*, the *Medal for Long Marital Life*, the *Gold Service Cross*, the *Medal of the 10th-Anniversary of People's Poland* and other distinctions, the list of which are attached.

In conclusion, I add that, during the period of occupation, I hid under the name "Hankiewicz" which, after liberation, I added to my own family surname, even though in professional, social and personal life, we used only the surname, "Hassenfeld".

Marian Hassenfeld-Hankiewicz

Community Service

A. Inter-War Period

1. President, Mutual Aid School
2. President, "Warta" Sports Club in Częstochowa
3. President, Regional Football Association in Kielce, with headquarters in Częstochowa (3 years), Vice-President (2 years)
4. Vice-President, Jewish Benevolent Society in Częstochowa
5. Vice-Chairman, Association of Judicial and Legal Interns in Częstochowa
6. Member of the Prisoners Care Agency in Częstochowa.

B. Occupation (1939-1945)

1. Supervisor of the hospital, aged care home, orphanage and social welfare in the ghetto in Częstochowa
2. Distributor of the underground press in Warsaw
3. Official of the Polish Council to Aid Jews (distributing funds and clothing to Jews in hiding in Warsaw }
4. A fighter against the retreating German army in the forests of the Ręczno municipality.

C. Post-War Period

1. Member of the Industrial Committee of the National Municipal Council in Częstochowa (1945-46)
2. Member of the Organising Committee of the Circuit Court in Częstochowa
3. Member of the Organising Committee and Vice-Chairman of Regional Committee for Research into German Crimes in Częstochowa
4. Member of the Organising Committee, member of the Board of Management and delegate to the 1st General Convention of the Association of Democratic Lawyers in Warsaw
5. Participant in the short-term activities of the Regional Committee for Research into Nazi Crimes (1968)
6. Vice-Chairman, Community Council of Education and the National Municipal Council in Częstochowa
7. Member of the Education-Economics Council of the Provincial Planning Commission in Kielce
8. Member of the Economics Section of the Śląsk Institute of Education (1960)
9. Vice-Chairman, Board of Management of the Polish Free University, Częstochowa Branch
10. Social Committee Member for the Building of a People's House in Częstochowa

11. Chairman, Audit Committee, Polish Economics Society in Częstochowa
12. Manager, Planning Sub-Group for the Development of Higher Education at the Presidium of the National Municipal Council in Częstochowa
13. Editor-in-Chief of the publishing house “Częstochowa – The New Academic Centre” (PWN)
14. Participant in a meeting of economists organised by the Economics Council of the Council of Ministers, held on 8th May 1957 at the Council of Ministers offices and chaired by the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Piotr Jaroszewicz
15. Participant in the Conference of Higher Education Rectors
16. Member of the 50th Anniversary Honorary Committee of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (*Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze - PTTK*) in Częstochowa.