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Yiddish Sources for Researching the History and Culture of Częstochowa Jews in the First Half of the Twentieth Century - a Reconnaissance

This article is intended to be a short guide to selected Yiddish-language sources which, to some extent thus far, have been used by historians in their research of the history and culture of Częstochowa Jews in the first half of the 20th century.

The Press

The first group of source materials worthy of notice is the press of the inter-War period. A listing, edited by Yechiel Szeintuch¹, of Yiddish-language press published in Poland, prior to World War II, contains the following titles published in Częstochowa up to 1939:

1. “Arbeter-Tsaytung” [The Workers’ Gazette]. A weekly dedicated to the worker and community life of Częstochowa, Zagłębia and the surrounding area. Częstochowa, First year: 20/02/1923 – fifth year 12: 29/04/1927. From 15/04/1927, it was joined with the “Pietrikover Veker” [The Piotrków Alarm Clock].
2. “Arbeter-Tsaytung” [The Workers’ Gazette]. A weekly dedicated to workers in Częstochowa and the surrounding area. Częstochowa, 1: 26/02/1937 - 2: 05/03/1937.
3. “Di Tsayt” [The Times]. From 04/04/1928: A non-partisan social weekly for Częstochowa and Radomsk. From 06/06/1928: A non-partisan social weekly for Częstochowa, Radomsk, Włoszczowa and Górzskowice. From 1932: a non-partisan literary-social weekly. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1:?? 1926 – 10th year 18: 21/05/ 1935. Wydawca Ch. Wajsborg.
4. “Der Czenstochower Arbeter” [The Częstochowa Worker]. Częstochowa, 17/10/1926.
5. “Czenstochower Cajtung” [The Częstochowska Gazette]. A weekly. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1:?? 1921 – 19th year,?: 25/08/1939. Editor Isroel Plocker, published B. Bocian.
6. “Czenstochower Yidisher Kurier” [The Częstochowa Jewish Courier]. A non-partisan daily newspaper. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1:?? 1931 – 3rd year,?: 20/01/1933.
7. “Der Czenstochower Kundes” [The Częstochowa Joker]. A daily-monthly-quarterly yearly devoted to humour, satire, criticism, politics, jokes, tomfoolery, laughter and tickling without mercy. It was for “all those who are battling” – by Kozioroziec. Published annually. Częstochowa, 24/12/1926. Published by A. Katz.
8. “Der Czenstochower Shpigel” [The Częstochowa Mirror]. A weekly. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1: 31/12/1926 – 2nd year, 14: 20/05/ 1927. Published by A. Katz.

¹ *Preliminary Inventory of Yiddish Dailies and Periodicals Published in Poland Between the Two World Wars*, prepared by Yechiel Szeintuch with the assistance by Vera Solomon, Jerusalem 1986. It is worth mentioning that the following numbers of this publication are available in collections of the Jagiellońian University Library: 4, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 21. See: *Appendix Inventory of Jewish Press in the Collection of the Jagiellońian Library*, [w:] *Bibliographies of Polish Judaica. International Symposium. Cracow 5th – 7th July 1988 (Proceedings)*, Cracow 1993, pp. 117–181.

9. "Czenstochower Tageblat" [The Częstochowa Daily]. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1: 02/01/1914 – 6th year ? : 22/12/1919. Published by B. Bocian.
10. "Czenstochower Tog" [The Częstochowa Day]. Published once, devoted to the creation of *Eretz Yisroel*. Częstochowa, 16/03/1927. Published by the Częstochowa Zionist Organisation.
11. "Czenstochower Weker" [The Częstochowa Alarm Clock]. The weekly organ of Częstochowa and surrounding area workers. Częstochowa, 2,?: 11/02/1938.
12. "Dos Lebn" [Life]. A weekly. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1:?? 1926 – 2nd Year, 266: 21/01/1927. Edited by A. Wiener, published by A. Helfgott.
13. "Dos Naye Vort" [The New Word]. A weekly devoted to local workers and community life, 1: April 1920 – 13 [131]: 04/06/1924. Published by R. Federman, The Farejnikte Party Central Committee in Warsaw.
14. "Pietrikower Weker" [The Piotrkowski Alarm Clock]. A political, socio-literary weekly. Częstochowa, from 15/04/1927 (earlier "The Workers' Newspaper", por. No. 5). Renewed 1: 06/01/1928 – 3: 25/10/1929. Renewed: 1: 21/08/1936 – 29: 04/08/1939.
15. "Der Proletarier" [The Proletarian]. The organ of the Council of Trade Unions (Jewish Cultural Office). Częstochowa, 1st year, 1: 04/09/1925 – 2nd year, 2: 25/09/1926. Published by "Kultura"
16. "Tribune" [The Tribune]. A bi-weekly devoted to literature, art and critiques. Częstochowa, 1st year, 1: 10/05/1933 – 2nd year, 15: 15/01/1934. Published by M. Wajsberg.
17. "Di umophengike Shtime" [The Independent Voice]. Collection: Warszawa–Częstochowa. February 1924. Published by W. Fajge.
18. "Undzer Shtime" [Our Voice]. Published by the World Organ of the Independent Polish Socialist Workers Party. Częstochowa–Warszawa, 1: 11/06/1926 – 3: 22/09/1926.
19. "Undzer Veg" [Our Road]. Devoted to the Block for the Defence of the Rights of Jewish People in Poland. A weekly. Częstochowa, 1: 26/12/1930 – 503: 25/08/1939. Publishers: M. Lifszyc, M. Nowak, I. Danciker, M. Sażewicz. Also, six additional issues between October and December 1930.
20. "Undzer Vort" [Our Word]. Published by the Jewish Socialist Workers Party *Farejnikte*. Częstochowa, 1: 06/02/1919 – 3: 07/03/1919.
21. "Varshever Ekspres" [The Warsaw Express], from January 1927 "Undzer Ekspres" [Our Express]. Warsaw, 1st year, 1: 25/08/1925 – 15th year,?:?/09/1939. Publishers: M. Goldberg, E. Zinger, The Express Co-operative. A mutation: "Undzer Czenstochower Ekspres" [Our Częstochowa Express], no data is available.

The history and culture of Częstochowa Jews in the Second Polish Republic has already been well-recognised on the basis of, among other things, the Polish-language Jewish press of the time. The next step should be to supplement that knowledge with the information contained in the Yiddish-language press. In this context, of specific interest should be the above titles numbered 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 19 and, especially the longest-published "Di Tsayt" (1928–1935) and the "Czenstochower Tsaytung (1921 [?]-1939).

Recently, copies of the longest-running "Czenstochower Tsaytung" have been digitised. Interestingly, some academic works state that this weekly appeared from 1919, while Szeintuch gives 1921 as the first year of the publication's existence, at the same time providing it with a question mark. My enquiries via the internet did not confirm its presence in public libraries prior to 1926. The resources of the Jagiellońian Library cover the years

1926-1939, with minor deficiencies. Despite a lack of completeness, the online collection of issues of the “Czenstochower Tsaytung” still provides some insight into a relatively large resource which is well-worth benefitting from. It was a socio-political magazine with a Zionist-Orthodox profile, edited by Isroel Plockier and published by the printing-house of B. Bocian. Other who worked on it included S. Frank (columnist and articles of community life), Mojsze Lejb Lewensztejn (writer of a weekly column under the pseudonym of “Lewiosn” [Leviathan]), M. Kojfman (Bocian printing-house typesetter and current affairs writer) and A.Ch. Sziper². At this time, this is the only Jewish magazine, published in Częstochowa, which is available online on the Jagiellońian Library website³.

Memorial Books

Another group of resources for researching the history of Częstochowa Jews are the memorial books, a peculiar phenomenon associated with the destruction of Jewish civilisation in Central and Eastern Europe. They were written by the surviving, former residents of many Polish cities and towns⁴. According to the latest estimates, as at 2008, 540 of them had been published⁵. Almost all of the memorial books have been digitised and been made available on the New York Public Library website⁶.

Many of them have been translated into English – if not entirely, then in fragments. These translations, published online on the JewishGen search engine website, have been done by volunteers, mostly the children and grandchildren of the surviving residents of those places and who are neither professional historians nor translators. As a result, the English-language versions of these memorial books contain numerous factual errors, mistakes in the names of places and of people, shortcuts and/or omissions. They should therefore be treated with caution, even distrust and should be strictly compared with the original text and with other historical sources.

After Vilna, Częstochowa has the largest number of memorial books devoted to it – there are seven of them. Below is a brief description of each of them. Each title will contain information regarding its language(s) (as not all were written in Yiddish), its online availability though the New York Public Library website, as well as the existence of any English-language translations.

The oldest of these existing memorial books is the *Czenstochower yidn* [The Częstochowa Jews]. It was published by the renowned Jewish historian Rafael Mahler in 1947 in New York⁷ and was written in Yiddish. The authors include other well-known historians, as well as social and political activists such as Jakub Szacki, Gina Medem and Ida Merzan. The book also contains articles by L. Lerer, Ch. L. Szwarc, Elkan Chrobołowski, A. Szymeonowicz, A. Gotlib, Haja Wage-Ratman, Rafael Federman, F. Szmulewicz, Wolf Gliksman, M. Fajnrajch, M. Liber, A. Izbicki, M. Kuszner, Aby Kojfner, I. Sz. Herz. The

² According to R. Mahler (ed.), *Czenstochower Jidn*, New York 1947 (see note 8 below), p. 98.

³ <http://jbc.bj.uj.edu.pl/dlibra/publication?id=371583&tab=3> [accessed: 14/03/2017].

⁴ For more about the memorial book phenomenon, see. *Tam był kiedyś mój dom... Księgi pamięci gmin żydowskich*, by M. Adamczyk-Garbowska, A. Kopciowski, A. Trzciniński, Lublin 2009. There is also an index, here, of existing books relating to individual Polish cities and towns.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ For online access to memorial books: <http://yizkor.nypl.org/>

⁷ See: R. Mahler (ed.), *Czenstochower Jidn*, United Czenstochower Relief Committee and Ladies Auxiliary, New York 1947, pp. XII, 404, CXLIV.

book contains articles about communal and cultural life in Częstochowa until the period of World War II. A large section of it is devoted to the Holocaust⁸, as well as to the situation of the Jews in the city following liberation. Around 40% of the text is devoted to *landsmansschaften* from neighbouring Jewish communities from Działoszyn, Radomsk, and Kamyk, as well as to the presence of Częstochowa Jews in Israel, the USA, Canada and Paris.

The illustrated material contains photographs of old Częstochowa, e.g. workshops, schools, farms and the local residents including representatives of trade union groups and socio-political activists. Photographs of the city during the occupation show the ghetto and the HASAG factory and from the post-War period showing the Jewish district in ruins. There are also copies of statistical material, as well as hand-drawn maps of the ghetto. In addition, there are documents from Częstochowa *landsmansschaften* in American which provide support activities. Almost the entire book has been translated into English⁹.

The next book, which was created on the initiative and efforts of one person, is *Churbm Czenstochow* [The Częstochowa Holocaust]. It was published in 1948, the author being Benjamin Orenstein¹⁰. Orenstein (his photograph appears on p. 208) is a Warsaw Jew, who spent 1940-1941 in the Częstochowa ghetto. After that time, he was transported to the camp in Karczew near Otwock, from where he escaped and returned to Częstochowa in March 1943. From there, he was sent on a transport to Buchenwald, Dora and Bergen-Belsen. After the end of World War II, he lived in the American-occupied section of Germany, where he headed the Cultural Centre of the Central Committee of the Częstochowa Landsmannschaft of the American-Occupied Section of Germany¹¹. It was there that he began his work on the book. Its special feature is that, although written in Yiddish, it has been printed in Latin script (more about this further on).

It is worth noting here that this book is not a record of memories. As is typical of works of this genre, it consists of a series of articles devoted to various issues, such as life before and during the Holocaust period, as well as to individuals representing old Jewish Częstochowa, such as rabbis, members of the Jewish Community Council (gmina), doctors, teachers, sportsmen, actors, etc. Orenstein wrote on the basis of his own memories, but he also used collected material, as well as official certificates and documents. The completed draft of the book was sent to sixty survivors who made corrections and added supplementary information. Cwi Kantor, the Chairman of the Landsmannschaft Central Committee, in the foreword to the books *Churbm Czenstochow*, advises that the author was planning a second edition for which he would like to receive new comments and additions. In addition, Kantor explains why the book was printed in Latin script:

“(...) there is still a large group of Jews in Germany and across the seas who find it difficult to read printed Jewish script, or who cannot read it at all. That is bad, but those Jews should also be able to read about the extermination of their hometown or the city where their family perished”¹².

⁸ On the usefulness of this memorial book for researchers of the Holocaust in Częstochowa, see: W. Paszkowski, *Stan badań nad Holocaustem w Częstochowie*, <https://docslide.org/stan-badan--nad-holocaustem-w-czestochowie> [accessed: 30/03/2017].

⁹ See: <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czestochowa1/Czestochowa1.html> [accessed: 30/09/2017].

¹⁰ B. Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, Central Farwaltung fun der Czenstochower Landsmanschaft in der Amerikaner Zone in Dajczland, [Munich 1948, pp. 413 + 50 pages of illustrations].

¹¹ Por. *Forwort*, [w:] *ibid.*, pp. 8–9.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 11: „(...) gefint zich noch a groyser teil Yidn in Daychland un meyever leyam, vemen es kumt on shver, oder kenen bichlal nisht lejenen kein yidishe firnantike oysyes. Shlecht, ober oych di yidn muzn bakumen a meglechkeit zich tsu bekenen mitn buch ibern churbm fun zeyer geburts--shtot un fun der shtot fun zeyer familie-farnichtung”.

The book contains a list of sources used, the names of witnesses whose stories the author thought worth including, a bibliography of post-War articles and books about Częstochowa published up to 1948, as well as a request to all Landsleit to send information about Częstochowa and its Jewish residents for the next edition of the author's memorial book. As far as illustrative material is concerned, it should be noted that there were a few pre-War photographs of Częstochowa Jewish families, pupils and teachers from local schools on ul. Narutowicza and ul. Przemysłowa, lists of employees of the Judenrat in 1940, a census of the Jewish population in 1941 according to occupation, as well as photographs of individuals and partisan groups from Będzin, Chaim Sztajer in his forest hideout after escaping from Treblinka and prisoners in Buchenwald.

In addition, the book contains pictures from the period of the Holocaust, such as the mass-grave filled with limestone into which the murdered from the "Small Ghetto" were thrown, the barracks in the HASAG-Pelcery camp, as well as photographs of the city in the first months following liberation, the exhumations, the funerals of heroes, the synagogue ruin and photographs of members of the Landsmannschaft committee. At the end, there are fifty images of gravestones of specific individuals or families. This book can be found on the New York Public Library website, however without the English translation¹³.

The next book is *Churbm Czenstochow* [The Holocaust of Częstochowa], written in Yiddish by Szlomo Waga and published in Buenos Aires in 1949¹⁴. Its author was born in 1900 in Częstochowa. He graduated from the Częstochowa Trade School and studied engineering in Dortmund. He spent part of the War in the Częstochowa ghetto and, from September 1942 to January 1945, he hid in a bunker. He was a Zionist activist. In 1948, he settled in Canada. Waga's memorial book, written in the first person, only covers (as the title suggests) the period of the Holocaust. The book includes photographs of pre-War Częstochowa, e.g. the various architectural aspects of the synagogue, as well as photographs and plans of the big and small ghettos and photographs of HASAG. From the post-War period, the book includes photographs of the ruins of the ghetto, the synagogue and the cemetery. The work has been completely translated into English¹⁵.

Another Yiddish-language Częstochowa memorial book was published in New York in 1958. It was entitled *Czenstochow. Najer tzugob-material tzum buch „Czenstochower Jidn”* [Częstochowa - New Supplementary Material to the book *Częstochowska Jews*, originally published in 1947] and edited by Sz.D. Zinger¹⁶. Its contributors included Rafael Federman, Elkana Chrobołowski, Beniamin Orenstein, Liber Brener, Cwi Kohen, Wolf Glikzman, Szlomo Waga and Filip Friedman. The book's illustrative material photographs from the (immediate) post-War period, as well as portraits of specific people. Individual articles from the book have been translated into English: about the establishment of the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council and its state during the Second World War, about the development of the Zionist movement (pp. 5–25), about the Holocaust (pp. 39-52, 57-60, 62-66), as well as the short article about Jakub Frank and a small memoir about Rejzel and Mojsze Berkensztat (pp. 152-153)¹⁷.

¹³ All data is based on a copy of the book in the author's own archive.

¹⁴ Sz. Waga, *Churbm Czenstochow* [Zagłada Częstochowy], Central Farband fun Pojlisze Jidn in Argentine oraz Czenstochower Lands-Lajt in Argentine, Buenos Ajres 1949, p. 241, il., map. Yiddish.

¹⁵ See. <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czestochowa2/Czestochowa2.html> [accessed: 30/09/2017].

¹⁶ Sz.D. Zinger (ed.), *Czenstochow. Najer tzugob-material cum buch „Czenstochower Jidn”*, Farejnikter Czenstochower Relif-Komitet in New-York, New York 1958, ss. VIII, 336, IV. Yiddish.

¹⁷ See. <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czestochowa/Czestochowa.html> [accessed: 30/09/2017].

Another Yiddish-language memorial book is *Czenstochower Landsmanszaft in Montreal*, edited by Benjamin Orenstein and published in Montreal in 1966¹⁸. Contributors included Sz. Prakasz, B. Orenstein, A. Bomba, Lejbke Jakubowicz and Harry Klein. Illustrative material contains a few photographs, mainly from the War period and the immediate post-War period, as well as of certain individuals. Only the table of contents is in English¹⁹.

In 1967-1968, a two-volume work was published in Jerusalem. In both Yiddish and Hebrew, it was entitled *Sefer Czenstochow* [The Book of Częstochow] and was edited by M. Szucman²⁰. Its contributors included such well-known names as Jakub Szacki (dec. 1956), Szlomo Waga and Dawid Koniecpoler.

The first volume contains articles about the history of the Jews in the city (by J. Szacki and Sz. Śpiwak), which were divided by topic: Jewish communal institutions in the 19th and 20th centuries, political movements, charitable institutions, commercial life, education and culture, religious life, as well as portraits of individuals associated with the religious life. Pages 637-760 contain the memoirs photographs of people associated with the city.

The second volume is devoted to the Holocaust and the functioning of the ghetto, e.g. religious life, the children, party organisations, etc. Other wartime topics include deportations to Treblinka, the mass murders, Polish-Jewish relations (e.g. the chapter entitled *Mencslecher tat fun a poilisher froi* [The Humane Response of a Polish Woman] by Szmuel Niski), the resistance and uprising in HASAG, Jews in the city following liberation, portraits of Częstochowa Jewish activists in the diaspora, *landsmannschaften* in Israel, the USA, Canada, Argentina, Australia and Paris. The book contains the memoirs of individual people (pp. 285–325), including shorts texts about the co-authors of previous memorial books - E. Chrobołowski, Rafael Federman, Prof. Wolf Lesław and Josef Kojfman. A part of the book is devoted to neighbouring Jewish communities in Krzepice, Żarki, Kłobuck, Lelów, Kamyk, Janów, Olsztyn, Mstów, Pajęczno and Koniecpol. The illustrated material includes pictures of the city, people and activities, copies of various documents, as well as maps. There is no English translation of this book.

And, finally, a few words about the last of the existing Częstochowa memorial books – published in Montreal in 1993, the bi-lingual (English and Yiddish) *Czenstochow: Our Legacy* [Częstochowa – Our Legacy] edited by Harry Klein²¹. At the end of it, there is a note: “The story of the first and second generation of Holocaust survivors from the Czenstochower Jewish Community in the USA and Canada”. Its list of authors contain names well-known from previous studies, e.g. E. Chrobołowski, Sz. Waga, L. Brenner and B Orensztejn, as well as the younger Tzvi Rozenwajn, H. Klein and the historian William Gliksman. This book is missing from the online collection of the New York Public Library, but is available on the website of the National Yiddish Book Center²².

¹⁸ B. Orenstein (ed.), *Czenstochower Landsmanszaft in Montreal*, Czenstochower Landsmanszaft in Montreal, Montreal 1966, p. 349. Yiddish.

¹⁹ See: <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czestochowa3/Czestochowa3.html> [accessed: 30/09/2017].

²⁰ M. Szucman (ed.), *Sefer Czenstochow*, Wyd. „Encyklopedia szel Galujot”, Vol. 1–2, Jerusalem 1967-1968. Yiddish and Hebrew.

²¹ H. Klein (ed.), *Czenstochow: Our Legacy*, Montreal 1993, pp. XXIV, 360, 117: English and Yiddish.

²² See: <https://archive.org/details/nybc302744> [accessed: 30/09/2017].

The book is divided into two sections: the first 133 pages are written in Yiddish, while the remaining pages (over 300) are in English. Part of the English section contains translations of the Yiddish texts, as well as reprints and translations from earlier memorial books which were published in Yiddish. The Yiddish section, in a manner typical of the genre, begins with an introduction to the history of the Jews in the city, portraying the outstanding Jews of Częstochowa from the pre-War period, e.g. Rabbi Nachum Asz or Rebbe Awigdor. A lot of space is devoted to the Holocaust and to the Jewish resistance movement. The volume contains a large article by Liber Brener about the Jewish community in the years 1945–1956. In contrast, the English section is predominantly concerned with Częstochowa Jews outside of Poland. The illustrative material includes many photographs relating to all parts of the book. There are no separate translations of the Yiddish parts into English.

On the Margins of the Memorial Books

On the margins of the Częstochowa memorial books, it is worth mentioning the Yiddish-language work of Liber Brener *Widersztand un umkum in czenstochower geto* [The Uprising and Holocaust in the Częstochowa Ghetto], which, as opposed to the items mentioned above which were published outside Poland, was published in Warsaw in 1951²³. Its author (b. 1901 Turzysko-?) was one of the leaders of the Polish Bund. He was a teacher, a columnist and founder of the Jewish Committee in post-War Częstochowa. After 1968, he emigrated to Israel. The book includes his memoirs written during his time in the Częstochowa ghetto, supplemented with Polish, German and Yiddish documents, as well as testimonies from other survivors. The narrative is subjective, with no pretensions of academic precision and objectivity. Rather, the work is a collection of various materials which could form the basis of research and academic endeavours. It has been completely translated into English and is available on the Internet²⁴. There is also an unpublished translation into Polish.

Another important publication for researchers into the life of Częstochowa Jews following the Holocaust is *Częstochowa Memorial Book Surviving Jews in Czestochowa = Judios sobrevivientes de Czestochowa*²⁵, available on the website of the National Yiddish Book Center²⁶, which records the names of 2,503 survivors. It is also worth mentioning memorial books relating to towns neighbouring Częstochowa like, for example, Kłobuck (one book, published in Yiddish in 1960), Kalisz (three books in Hebrew and English published in 1961, 1964 and 1968)²⁷ and Piotrków Trybunalski (one book in Hebrew and Yiddish published in 1965)²⁸.

²³ L. Brener, *Widersztand un umkum in czenstochower geto*, Jidiszer Historiszer Institut in Pojln, Warsze 1951, ss. 39. Jidysz.

²⁴ <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czestochowa4/Czestochowa4.html> [accessed: 14/03/2017]. Spis treści: *Wstęp, Pierwsze tortury, Judenrat i jego władze, Getto, Praca przymusowa, Ucieczka Żydów z punktu zbiorczego, Żydowska policja, Mapa Częstochowy*.

²⁵ *Surviving Jews in Czestochowa = Judios sobrevivientes de Czestochowa*, World Jewish Congress, New York [195-?], pp.44.

²⁶ See. <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/collections/yizkor-books/yzk-nybc314372> [accessed: 14/03/2017].

²⁷ *Sefer Kalisz/The Kalish book* [Księga Kalisza], ed. C. Arad, J. Arnold et al., Vaadot ha-Sefer be-Israel, Vaadot ha-Sefer be-Arecot ha-Berit / Israel-American Book Committee, Vol. 1-2, Tel Aviv 1964–1968. Hebrew and Yiddish; *The Kalish book* [Księga Kalisza], ed. I.M. Lask, Societies of Former Residents of Kalish and the Vicinity in Israel and the USA, Tel Aviv 1968, pp. 327. English; *Kaliss sze-hayeta; ir va-em be-Israel bi-medinat „Polin Gadol”* [It was Kalisz - mother city to Israel in the Wielkopolskie Province], Beit ha-Sefer ha-Reali ha-Ivri; Irgun Yocei Kalisz, Haifa 1979/1980, pp. 136. Hebrew.

²⁸ *Piotrkow Tribunalski we-ha-sewiwa; sefer zikaron le-ir wa-em be-Israel sze-kehilata ha-mefoeret u-rewawot mi-jehudeja we-aneszej ha-kehilot ha-semuchot la-hukecheda we-huszemedu al-jedej ha-meracechim ha-nacim bi-szenot 700–705 / Piotrkow Tribunalski un umgegent. Izker buch in ondenk fun di barimte jidische kehile welche zenen cuzamen mit tojznter fun zajere mitglieder farnichtet geworn durch di nacisze merder in di jorn 700–705* [Piotrków Trybunalski and the surrounding area. The memorial book of the mother city to Israel, which had a magnificent community, where tens of thousands of Jews

Contents of Memory Books Contents Częstochowa – an Overview of Topics

This is a short, chronological list of titles of the abovementioned memorial books, with their numbers assigned to them, which are listed below within relevant thematic category, if it appears in a specific book:

1. *Chenstochover Yidn* (1947)
2. *Churbm Chenstochov* (1948)
3. *Churbm Chenstochov* (1949)
4. *Vidershtand un umkum in chenstochover geto* (1951)
5. *Chenstochov. Nayer tsugob-material tsum buch "Chenstochover Yidn"* (1958)
6. *Chenstochover Landsmanszaft in Montreal* (1966)
7. *Sefer Chenstochov* (1967–1968)
8. *Chenstochov: Our Legacy* (1993)

A oto spis kategorii tematycznych wraz z odnośnym numerem danej książki, w której można znaleźć wzmiankowane informacje. Jeśli sygnalizowana tematyka zajmuje szczególnie dużo miejsca, w nawiasach okrągłych podane zostały najważniejsze zagadnienia, które są tam poruszane:

• **Jews in Częstochowa to World War II: 1, 2, 5;**

• Commercial Life to 1939 :

1 (industry, workers' trade unions, craftsmen's union and craft guilds, craft, Zionist youth organisations), **5;**

• Culture and Education to 1939:

1 (horticulture school, trade schools, workers' shelters and the I. L. Perc public school, the Jewish high school, evening course, the "Lira" and the Jewish Literary Society, the libraries, theatre, press, the sports movement, the New Synagogue), **2, 5;**

• Communal Institutions to 1939 :

1 (charity, the Jewish hospital, the popular bakery, TOZ, cooperatives, German Escapees Rescue Committee), **2, 5;**

• Worker/Political Movement to 1939:

1 (The Zionist-Socialist Workers Party, "Niezależni", The World Jewish Workers Union Bund, Poalei Zion Left, Hashomair Hatzair, political processes, Jewish fighters in the battles in Spain), **2, 5** (mainly about Zionism);

• Pogroms to 1939 :

1 (the so-called "Rabunek", the second pogrom, the third pogrom), **2;**

• the attitudes of past Jewish life in Częstochowa:

2 (Rabbi Nachum Asz, Rabbi Mojsze Halter, judgesm shochets, chazans, shameses, community officials [S. Goldsztejn, J. Rozenberg, Ch. Weksler, I.M. Epstein, A. Działowski, H. Markusfeld, rodzina Zigman, Markowicz, Helman, E. Wajcenblat, Icie Rotholc, Dr H. Geisler, Dr A. Bram, I.M. Krell], paranedics, booksellers, press publishers, teachers,

from nearby communities were destroyed and killed by Nazi murderers in 1939-1945], ed. J. Malc i Naftali (Lawie) Lau, Vaadat ha-Maarechet shel ha-Sefer she-le-yad Irgun Yocei Piotrkow be-Israel, Redakcje Komitet fun der Piotrkower Landsmanszaft in Israel, Tel Aviv 1965, kol. 1192. Hebrew and Yiddish; *A Tale of One City; Piotrków Trybunalski* [Dzieje jednego miasta; Piotrkow Trybunalski], ed. B. Giladi, Shengold in cooperation with the Piotrkow Trybunalski Relief Association in New York, New York 1991, pp. 494. English.

sportsmen, actors, organ-grinders, thieves, lunatics), 5 (Rabbi Asz, Rebbe Awigdor, Jakub Frank, singer Abraham B. Birenbaum, Abraham Wiewiorka, the Wilczyński brothers, Perec Willenberg, Rebbitzen Devora Masz [?] and others).

• **The Holocaust of Jewish Częstochowa:**

1 (L. Brener, *Zagłada społeczności*, Jews transported through Częstochowa to Germany, the destruction of the New Synagogue [Naye Shul], night in the Częstochowa ghetto, the last 24 hours in HASAG, the Jewish Workers Services [the Jewish police], the activity of the Bund, kibbutz activity, the hiding of the Poalei Zion Left banners, craftsmen, “*Zemsta jest słodka*” (*Revenge is Sweet*) [a reprint of from the “Landersberger Lager Zeitung”, the organ of survivors in Landsberg, Bavaria], L. Brener, *Trzecia rocznica żydowskiego powstania w częstochowskim getcie*, W. Gliksman, *Nowa Częstochowa*, I. Merżan, *Żydowski dom dziecka*),

2 (Bloody Monday, Biały Dom, the Workers Council, successive transportation operations, workplaces, the resistance movement, ŻOB (Jewish Fighting Organisation), the production of grenades in the Small Ghetto, specific individuals in ŻOB, Częstochowa people in Treblinka, Polish-Jewish relation during the War, social and cultural life in the Big and Small Ghettos as well as in HASAG-Pelcery, folklore from the Holocaust period, Jews on Aryan papers, raids, selections, the liquidation of the Small Ghetto, life in the HASAG-Pelcery camp, the evacuation to Buchenwald, evacuation to Bergen-Belsen, liberation, a chronology of the most important events in Częstochowa under Nazi occupation),

3 (the entry of the Germans, Bloody Monday, persecution, the vandalism by the Volksdeutsch, evictions, in the “claws” of the Gestapo, slave labour, the Cieszanow labour camp, the Judenrat, the Aryanisation of Jewish shops, the shutting of Jewish factories, the ghetto, the Jewish police, hunger in the ghetto, traitors, the operation on 22/10/1942, the second operation, bunkers, the third and successive operations, the new ghetto, the labour camp, Aryan papers and Muslim papers, the end of the house with Jewish craftsmen at Aleja 4),

5 (includes topics such as: the hunger strike, the Workers Council, memoirs of A.L. Bombe, who escaped from Treblinka, folklore from the Holocaust period [a reprint from No.2], a detailed bibliography about the resistance movement in the Częstochowa ghetto, written by Filip Friedman), a extensive index of names mentioned in the book *Chenstochover Yidn* published in 1947,

6 (the evacuation of HASAG, the ghetto uprising, the resistance movement, memorials to the fallen members of the resistance movement);

• **Częstochowa After the War:**

5 (to 1958 – memoirs from those living in Częstochowa, as well as those whocame from elsewhere);

• **Other Places :**

5 (Kłobuck);

• Survivors in Transit Camps/DP Camps:

2 (speeches from the Conference of Częstochowa Landmannschaften, in the American-occupied zone, on 20/10/1946 in Landsberg, literary works of the survivors),

5 (Reprinted from No. 2)

• Częstochowa Jews in America:

1 (a general overview of the program, as well as the aid and workers organisations, community life in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles; information about the National Conference of Częstochowa Landsmannschaften in America and Canada), also 5;

• Landsmannschaften from Neighbouring Places :

1 (Działoszyn, Nowe Radomsko, Kamyk);

• Częstochowa Jews in Israel, Canada, Argentina, Paris: 1, 5

• Various:

1 (memoirs: A. Rajzen, *Dzień w Częstochowie*, L. Lerer, *Częstochowo, moja Częstochowo*, A. Chrobołowski, *O klubie robotniczym*, Sz. Biro, *Częstochowscy górnicy*, dr L. Lazarowicz, *Lekarze*, F. Gerbowski, *Wiązanka kwiatów*, B. Goldwirt, *Anonimowi rodacy*, A. Chrobołowski, *Malarscy (historia częstochowskiej rodziny)*, R. Federman, *Z mojego życia*),

2 (50 pages of illustrations – graphics of matzevot including the names of the deceased),

6 (portraits of those active in Landsmannschaften, photos from various post-War funerals);

• Whos' Who :

1 (64 pages of biographies of Częstochowa Jews mentioned in this memorial book);

• Częstochowa Jews in the fight against Fascism:

1 (22 pages of names and information, who was born where and when and into which family);

• Laid to rest forever:

1 (5 pages of outstanding individuals, not only about those who died in the War),

5 (recalling Holocaust victims, an index of names from No.2 and No.5),

6 (recalling the names of those who died during World War II, supplemented with photographs).

As can be seen from this brief and rather superficial overview, the material, contained in both the memory books and in the press, is abundant. Its analysis may lead to some interesting results and should certainly add to any existing knowledge. It may be worthwhile establishing a research team which could result in, for example, the publication of their chosen extracted information.