

The Zygman, Markowicz and Helman Families

The owners of the *Gnaszyńska Manufaktura* factory also belonged among the most revered philanthropists in Częstochowa. These were Mrs Belle [?¹] Zygmant, the Zygmant brothers, the brothers Roman and Zygmunt Markowicz and the Helman brothers².

There was not a single institution or communal undertaking which they did not support. They were the founders and patrons of the whole communal-philanthropic life, namely of *Beis Lechem*, *Ezra* [Aid], *Achiezer* [Fraternal Aid], the German Synagogue, the municipal Study-Hall, *Machzikei Ha'Das* and all the others that existed.

All the venerated personalities who arrived in Częstochowa, such as, for instance, Leib Yaffe and others, stayed with them as guests. Mrs Belle Zygmant was especially good at holding events. It sufficed for her to take over the patronage of a communal function for its success to be ensured.

A large number of Jewish labourers were properly paid worked in their factory.

In 1937, when the *Endecja*-related upheavals began in Częstochowa, Mrs Belle Zygmant emigrated to America.

¹ [TN: "Bel" in the Latin-character original.]

² [TN: According to all the other sources we have consulted, the Helman family ran a ceramics factory and not *Gnaszyńska Manufaktura*. Furthermore, although the former families – Zygmant and Markowicz – were related by marriage, we do not know if the Helmans were also related to them.]