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TRANSLATOR'S NOTES TO INDEXES

Besides the *Index of Names Mentioned in the Book "Czenstochover Yidn"* (which I have already addressed separately), at the end of the book *Czenstochov, A New Supplement to the Book Czenstochover Yidn* (1958) there are four other indexes, all compiled by Motl Berkowicz:

- a) *Index of Names from "Who's Who" in the Book "Czenstochover Yidn"*;
- b) *To Eternal Memory*;
- c) *Czestochowers in the Fight Against Fascism* (the two latter sections are also in *Czenstochover Yidn*) and
- d) *Index of Names Mentioned in the Book "Czenstochov"*.

Regarding the first 3, I only wish to mention that in the original, these "indexes" are merely listings – no page numbers are given. Also, several persons, who are mentioned in these sections, are actually missing from the original indexes. In order to provide the page numbers (without which the indexes would be quite useless) and to ensure that everyone mentioned in the book appears in the indexes, I have simply gone through these three indexes name by name. **The page numbers and the omitted persons appear in brackets.**

The fourth index, which is of the names mentioned in the book *Czenstochov*, deserves perhaps a bit more attention. Please note that the index only includes the bulk of the book *Czenstochov*, up to p.264. Sadly, the numerous names mentioned in the section *In Memory of the Czestochowa Jews Who Were Annihilated; Saints, Heroes & Martyrs* and the book's last six pages which are biographies, are not included.

In my notes on the main index for *Czenstochover Yidn*, I mentioned Motl Berkowicz, the compiler of these indexes. Since then, I have ascertained that he was 39-40 years old at the time when he created these lists and that he was, in fact, the brother-in-law of Raphael Federman. On post-War USA, his sister Genia Berkowicz was Federman's second wife. Raphael Federman was possibly the main driving force behind the books *Czenstochover Yidn* and *Czenstochov* – his name is mentioned in the latter no less than 168 times - which is far more than anyone else, apart from all the articles written by him which these books contain. Berkowicz, himself, only wrote one article – *A Jewish House in Czestochowa* (*Czenstochov*, pp.32-35). He and his sister are only mentioned twice each in *Czenstochov*, and no personal details are given about them. Interestingly, Berkowicz has turned each of these mentions into a separate entry – effectively making himself and his sister both appear *twice* in the index.

There are perhaps *hundreds* of other similarly odd entries in this index. To illustrate this properly and without excessive commentary, **three versions of the very first twenty-five names at the top of the index are shown in the subsequent table.** The first one is the Yiddish original. Next to it is the translation that I would have come up with regularly, had I not noticed some very peculiar things from the very start - which forced me to dig deeper and begin checking entry by entry.

I must stress that this, too, is a *proper* and acceptable rendering of the original, which in regular circumstances I would have been happy to hand over for publishing without a qualm. It would have been infinitely easier to storm through the original and to translate it all in this manner – just copying the names. It would have also been much more aesthetically pleasing to the reader's eye,

without all my unsightly brackets. **And yet, had I done so, the document would have been worthless as an index in itself.**

In order to translate this index in a manner that it should be of use to anyone actually searching it in order to find a specific person on a specific page, I was forced to take the exceedingly more laborious route of actually looking up the greater part of the entries in the original. What emerged was the third version in the table – my amended translation.

First Twenty-Five Names in the Index of Names Mentioned in the Book *Czenstochov*

Original Yiddish	Verbatim translation	Amended translation
א	<i>Aleph</i>	[Kaufman], Aba – 69, 70, 76, 86, 204, 235, 258, 259
א. א. — 55	A.A. – 55	[Biderman], Reb Awigdor; [son of Reb Duwid'! <i>Lelówer</i>] – 118
אבא — 259, 258	Aba – 258, 259	[Sapiro (or Szapiro)], <i>Rebbe</i> Awigdor'! – 13, 21, 115, 118, 170, 171, 172, 173
ר' אביגדור — 13, 118	Reb Awigdor – 13, 118	Abramowicz, Berl – 142
ר' אביגדור'ל — 21, 115, 118, 170, 171, 172	Reb Awigdor'! – 21, 115, 118, 170, 171, 172	Abramowicz, H. – 28
170, 171, 172		Abramowicz, Sumek – 44
אבראמאָוויטש, בערל — 142	Abramowicz, Berl – 142	Abramson, J. [?] – 156
אבראמאָוויטש, ה. — 28	Abramowicz, H. – 28	Abram; [a cobbler] – 34
אבראמאָוויטש, סומעק — 44	Abramowicz, Sumek – 44	[Wiewiorka], Abram [son of Wolf] – 128
אבראמאָוויטש, ו. — 156	Abramson, J. [?] – 156	[Frank], Abram – 149
אברהם — 34, 128, 149, 181	Abram – 34, 128, 149, 181	[Epsztajn], Abram – 181
אברהם — 34, 128, 149, 181	Awrem! – 169, 170, 171	[Litman], Abram – 169, 170, 171
אברהם — 169, 170, 171	Reb Awreme'le – 121	[Bornsztajn], <i>Rebbe</i> Awreme'le [of Sochaczew] – 121
ר' אברהם — 121	Reb Awreme'le – 121	Agron, G.; [mayor of Jerusalem] – 216
אגרון, ג. — 216	Agron, G. – 216	Adler, Jacob; [actor] – 262
אדלער, דזשיקאָב — 262	Adler, Jacob – 262	Adler, Friedrich – 214
אדלער, פרידריך — 214	Adler, Friedrich – 214	Adler, Szaja & Mojsze – 88
אדלער, שאַיע און משה — 88	Adler, Szaja & Mojsze – 88	Odelberg, Zamek – 24
אדעלבערג, זאמיק — 24	Odelberg, Zamek – 24	Audrey – 263
אדרי — 263	Audrey – 263	Aron – 155, 190
אהרן — 155, 190	Aron – 155, 190	Aron, The Yellow – 139, 140
אהרן, דער געלער — 139, 140	Aron, The Yellow – 139, 140	Uger, Szaja – 113
אונער, ישעיה — 113	Uger, Szaja – 113	Unglik, J. [?] – 255, 256
אונגליק, י. — 255, 256	Unglik, J. [?] – 255, 256	Orbach, Chajaw – 51
אורבאך, חיי — 51	Orbach, Chajaw – 51	August The III – 5, 106, 111
אויגוסט דער III — 5, 106, 111	August The III – 5, 106, 111	Awner, Lila – 8
אונער, לילא — 8	Awner, Lila – 8	Awner, Sara – 155, 157
אונער, סאַראַ — 155, 157	Awner, Sara – 155, 157	

Several Remarks on These Twenty-Five Entries:

- 1) The only name mentioned on p.55 is that of the mass-murderer Degenhardt – there is no “A.A.,” here – or anywhere else in the book. This page describes an imaginary “conversation” (written by Szlomo Waga) between a young Jewish constable forced to work for the Nazis, who is charged with marching with a rubber baton next to the cart carrying the murdered Jews to be disposed of, as he looks into the eyes of the corpse of an unnaturally beautiful young woman, which is hanging upside-down among the other bodies.

Neither the constable nor the girl are identified in this story, nor do we know whether the account is a fictional one or a description of an actually true event. One cannot help

wondering whether the initials “A.A.”, with which the index begins, have a bearing on this story, or if they were placed there by mistake.

- 2) Pages 258, 259 contain an article dedicated specifically to Aba Kaufman – the surname “Kaufman” is actually highlighted with an oversized font in the original – yet, in the index, he is just “Aba”. This case is the same for dozens of others whose surnames are missing.
- 3) Many famous Chasidic *Rebbes*, including their genealogies, are mentioned in the book *Czenstochov*. Some of these accounts are even ground-breaking, in that they present alternative paths regarding the ancestry of very well-known individuals - namely that of *Rebbe Awigdor’l Szapiro*.

With the exception of one entry in the original for “Kalisz, Icek” – the renowned “*Vurker Rebbe*” (of Warka) – all *Rebbes* and rabbis who appear in the book are mentioned mainly by their given names. At best, “Reb” is included and, sometimes, the name of the *Rebbe’s* town is given as his surname, such as the entry for “*Kotzker, Reb Mendel*”.

As little knowledge as I have of all these intricate rabbinical lineages, I have done my best to assist the researcher/historian, in that I have included any important facts (such as surnames!) that I could fit into the appropriate format, knowing that rabbinical lineages are of paramount importance to the researcher of Ashkenazi Jewish genealogy.

- 4) You may also have noticed the fondness Berkowicz seems to have for putting people into bundles. Note how he has effectively listed under one “Abram – 38, 128, 129, 181” – **FOUR different people!** :

Abram; [a cobbler] – 34
[Wiewiorka], Abram [son of Wolf] – 128
[Frank], Abram – 149
[Epsztajn], Abram – 181

So far, I have explained just four of the first twenty-five entries. I could go on to enumerate all the following twenty entries, with valuable (yet perhaps uncalled-for) insights into how I came up with my rendering. The original text in Yiddish is very much available for anyone who should wish to check for themselves.

“Phantom” Entries

Before concluding my notes, I wish to address one last intriguing matter.

Besides the very first “A.A. - 55” entry, which I discussed above, Berkowicz actually *added* several other persons to his index. I should like to draw your attention to a few of these, as they all have at least one thing in common: **they are all listed as being mentioned in Czenstochov, p.206 – AND THEY ARE NOT!**

- 1.) Herman, Mordche “*Kulebaika*” – 206 [not in book at all]
- 2.) Moszczycki – 206 [not in book at all]
- 3.) Składkowski – 206 [not in book at all]
- 4.) Śmigły – 206 [not in book at all]
- 5.) Weksler – 206 [not in book at all]
- 6.) Piłsudski, [Józef] – 135, 137, 143, 159, 162, 175, 206 [not on this page]
- 7.) Rozenberg, Berysz – 88, 206 [not on this page]

On p.206, only four people are actually mentioned by name:

- a) Nazi General Governor Hans Frank;
- b) Benjamin Orenstein;
- c) Szlomo Waga and
- d) Liber Brener.

Interestingly enough, while Motl Berkowicz has *added*, to this specific page, seven individuals who, barring Józef Piłsudski and Berysz Rozenberg, are not even mentioned in the book at all - of the four who actually do appear on p.206, he has only listed Brener and Orenstein. The entries for Nazi Hans Frank and the author Szlomo Waga do appear in the index - but p.206 is not included among the page numbers. There are, in fact, *two* entries for Waga in the original: Sz. Waga and Szlomo Waga, but in neither is p.206 listed.

There are several other “phantoms” in the index – with a similar pattern surrounding p.10 of the book. I shall not discuss them here and I have not retained all of them in my final rendering - such as “Lajb – 48,” for instance.

If I were to leave in all the mistakes, and pepper the document freely with plenty of “[sic]” – it would significantly increase in size and would prove quite confusing to use.

Hopefully my endeavours will have been worthwhile and the reader will find, in these documents, a valuable tool for research and reference.