

Dawid Wrocławski

The Częstochowa and Vicinity Society in Paris

We are very grateful to you for having given us the honour to be represented in the book *Czenstochov*. In fact, on this occasion, we wish to present a brief report on our *Częstochower Landsmannschaft* in Paris and on our activities - which commenced immediately following the Second World War.

In the last days of 1944, when we, the survivors, began returning to the city of Paris, we saw for the first time the great and horrifying destruction which the Hitler murderers had left behind them. We were all broken, ruined, without a roof over our heads. Notwithstanding, we at once began to call together the few remaining *Częstochower landsleit*, who had been miraculously saved [and] who were in various cities and hamlets in France. We felt that we must not sit with our hands down. We must attempt to build up that which had been destroyed. Very difficult tasks stood before us.

[In addition] to the small number of *landsleit* saved from the death camps, *landsleit* from the German [DP] camps and also from liberated Poland began arriving. During that critical moment, in those first days following the Liberation, the Federation of Jewish Societies [of France] aided us extensively. Thanks to the Federation, we were able to offer the first aid to the arriving refugees.



*The Executive of the
Częstochowa and Vicinity Society in Paris*

We began to organise various undertakings. We also put ourselves in contact with our *landsleit* in New York and Los Angeles, [asking them] to do something for the good of the *landsleit* refugees. The *landsleit* in New York and Los Angeles responded immediately and, thanks to the American *Częstochower landsleit*, we were able to expand our aid to the refugees who were turning to us. Let us indeed express, here, our gratitude to our *landsleit* in America. We shall never forget their warm response in those days.

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The Częstochowa and Vicinity Society is part of almost all Jewish institutions in Paris. We are now occupied with current problems and we seek a way to solve them in the best manner. We fight against antisemitism and for peace. We help disadvantaged Jewish children so that they should be able, during the summertime, to be on holiday in summer houses in the fresh air. We aid the elderly and send medicines to our *landsleit* in the State of Israel. We take part in Jewish cultural activities in Paris by arranging various lectures on Yiddish literature, as well as lectures on health. We also assist Yiddish writers in publishing their books and in propagating the books amongst local Jewish readers. At all our gatherings, we arouse [the public to] the importance of the Yiddish Word and to the creators of Yiddish literature.

All these activities are only made possible by our Society's loyal members, the members who support the Society and who are also concurrently active - they do not just come up with money. I wish indeed to enumerate here a few names of these trusty members, without whom we would be unable to carry out our various activities. They are:

Honorary President: M. Dawidowicz
President - the writer of these lines: [Dawid Wrocławski]
Vice-Presidents: [Professor] Lewi and Leon Pankowski
General Secretary: Mojsze Wajnman
Treasurer: Sam Krzepicki
Executive Members: A. Kremski and Leizer Fridman
Ladies Social Committee:
Ester Wrocławski
Ester Altbaum
Różka Lugerner
Angie Wajsfelner



A Memorial Service in Paris

Our nearest tasks are to activate our members all the more, to stand on guard to aid the State of Israel in its current historic struggle and to strive to bring about the unity of the entire Jewish community in France.

May this book, *Czenstochov*, which you in New York are publishing, contribute to strengthening even more the brotherly collaboration of all the *landsleit* in all parts of the world, to continue spinning the spiritual thread of our life and [of] the beautiful traditions for which our hometown Częstochowa is renowned in the Jewish world.