



[Foreword]

The Book "Czenstochov"

As the "United Czenstochover Relief Committee", we had originally intended to publish a booklet in honour of our Czenstochowa *landsmann* Raphael Federman, [who is] well-known by all, to mark the 50th anniversary of his communal activity for the benefit of the public and, especially, for our hometown of old - Czenstochowa. At first, we planned to issue a booklet, on a modest scale, in which all this tireless public figure's activities would be mentioned - his relief-work in aid of refugees in the DP camps in Germany after the War, his work towards publishing the book "Czenstochover Yidn" and other of Federman's activities since arriving in the United States.

Naturally, we also had in mind that this booklet - dedicated to our prominent *landsmann* – should, at the same time, be a continuation of the book "Czenstochover Yidn", for which R. Federman did so much in helping to bring this historically important book to light. It was our intention to include, in the proposed pamphlet, additional articles which were, sadly, left out of the book "Czenstochover Yidn".

However, the response on part of the *landsleit* and friends everywhere, both here and in whichever other countries our *landsleit* find themselves, was so favourable, that we were forced to change the entire plan. Our *landsleit* and friends rallied round spiritedly and, not just with good wishes, but also with articles and memoirs, both about Federman and about our old hometown, Czenstochowa. We received articles from Poland, from the State of Israel and from here - from Los Angeles, Chicago and other cities. Jewish writers presented themselves with articles and memoirs and, as has already been said, we were forced to abandon the original modest project and, instead, we decided to publish a book the same size as "Czenstochover Yidn", entitled "Czenstochov". And, as the reader may perceive, this current book is of no lesser value in important historical treatises than the first book, "Czenstochover Yidn".

The Editors have endeavoured to include, in the book "Czenstochov", only such works that would truly constitute an addition to the first book. Above all, we strove to ensure that the years following the *Great Destruction* and the tragic experiences of our surviving brothers and sisters, **should become manifest** in the pages of this book. Gathering the material, we also kept in mind that the "communal movements in Czenstochowa" which "were not handled with the necessary thoroughness" in the book "Czenstochover Yidn", as its Editors explain in the foreword, should in this current book indeed be dealt with, insofar as possible. We now made an effort that both the bygone

Jewish-religious institutions - the Częstochowa Jewish *Kehilla* - and the Zionist Organisation with its branches, should be properly handled - objectively and [with] historical [accuracy]. Let us hope that all these efforts have, to some extent, paid off for us.

In this book, our *landsleit* will find the names of the annihilated Częstochowa Jews, the martyrs and heroes who, with their lives, hallowed the memory of our old Jewish hometown, the City and Mother in Israel. They will all remain alive in all our memories and in the memory of the [Jewish] People, to the end of all generations.

In closing, we wish to express our heartiest gratitude to all the *landsleit* and friends for the aid they have extended to us to make the publication of this book "*Czenstochov*" possible. It is our hope that this current book, exactly like the first one, will also further strengthen the bond and the tight spiritual unity of all our *landsleit* throughout the Jewish Diaspora, in the Americas, Europe and in the State of Israel, where the surviving remnant from our old Częstochowa has found its home after years of pain and suffering. May this book "*Czenstochov*" constitute an Eternal Monument to all those near and dear and always remind us of our old hometown's spiritual heritage.

The Editors of the Book "*Czenstochov*"

The regimental flag of the retreating remnants of the Polish Army, from Napoleon's Russian Campaign in 1813. It was used to cover the front of the Holy Ark of the New Synagogue.

