



[Foreword]

By the time we set out to publish this book, Jewish Częstochowa was already convulsing in the bloodied claws of the contemptible Germans. Now, at the time we are making this book public, the despondency of the Częstochowa Jewry is as deep as the sea.

With the exception of a small remainder, the community of thirty thousand Jewish souls in Częstochowa shared the fate of the three and a half million Polish Jews and the six million Jewish victims of Nazism and Fascism in Europe. That said, our book, *Czenstochover Yidn*, was not envisaged to be a monument of stone in the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery, but rather as a "Book of Life". In this "Book of Life", we have considered it to be our sacred duty to record all the generations and all the strata of the Jewish population who fought and created in our hometown. The memory of Jewish Częstochowa has become hallowed a thousand times more by the deaths of our martyred brothers and sisters.

Our "Book of Life", *Czenstochover Yidn*, is also our "Book of Lineages". The quarters of Częstochowa, which the Jews built and inhabited, are now either completely destroyed or occupied by non-Jews. Many of the institutions, which were [once] the pride of the Jewish community, will presumably become alien [viz. pass into the hands of others]. But, in the book *Czenstochover Yidn*, all the Jewish streets, all the Jewish houses [and] all the Jewish institutions will belong to *us* - we shall always take pride in them and honour those who created them.

We acknowledge that this book has, by no means, been completed in every detail. Some of the communal movements and institutions in Częstochowa, such as, for example, the Zionist Movement with all of its abundant branches [and] the religious institutions, were not handled with the necessary thoroughness. The abnormal conditions, in which it has befallen us to prepare this book, [in] the absence of the persons of authority who could have provided us with the required data, is the sole reason for these omissions. We had sincerely intended to commemorate all manifestations of the Jewish life and creativity in Częstochowa, without differentiating between [political] directions.

It is a consolation, in our great misery, that large masses from Jewish Częstochowa wandered out in time, over the course of decades, to America, the Land of Israel and to other countries. Everywhere, they created their organisations, contributing to the development of the Jewish life in their new countries of residence. They, who always generously supported their brethren in the old home, also took upon themselves the responsibility of publishing this book, *Czenstochover Yidn*, through the United Czenstochover Relief Committee. This book, too, is bound with the sacred work of fraternal aid. The proceeds from this book are [to be] assigned to the aid and building fund for our hometown's Holocaust survivors. Let us hereby express our immense gratitude and

acknowledgement of our *Częstochower landsleit* in America, the Land of Israel and in all other countries, who made every endeavour, sparing no effort and money, in order that this book should see the bright light [of day]. They all have a part in this book and it is their well-earned pride and reward.

May this book, *Czenstochover Yidn*, assist in binding together, even more, our *landsleit* throughout the globe, as an integral, conscious group among the ranks of our sorely, tried nation. May this book serve as a reminder that [the] *Częstochowa* Jews will not cease to fight for the existence and happiness of the People of Israel.

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