

A. Kaufman

## The New Study-hall

In 1834 (5594), the young Częstochowa community only had one synagogue and a small study-hall, where people worshipped in the winter because it was too cold in the Synagogue. Over the course of time, the population expanded - and the *Kehilla* was in need of a large study-hall.

On 1<sup>st</sup> Adar 5594 [10<sup>th</sup> February 1834], at the initiative of Lajbe'le Kohn, head of the *Kehilla*, a meeting was called at the house of the then *dozór* [member of the *Kehilla* Council] Gerszon Landau ("The Big Gerszon"), at which the decision was made to construct a large study-hall, with a women's prayer section. In order to execute this plan, a committee was chosen comprising Gerszon Segal-Landau ("The Little Gerszon"), Icek-Lajb Bermanski, Juda-Lajb Tenenbaum, Ajzyk-Szymon Ginsberg and Majer Majzel.

That same day, an announcement was made by the Częstochowa rabbinical court - comprising Reb Mojsze Majzel (the Rabbi of Dyhernfurth) [Brzeg Dolny], Reb Nusen Oderberg and Reb Jakow-Elia Rozen - to the effect that all the Jews were to gather on 7<sup>th</sup> Adar at the study-hall for a meeting regarding the building of a new study-hall.



**Rabbi Mojsze Halter z'I  
delivering a eulogy on  
Rabbi Nachum Asz's tomb**

The second *shames* [sexton], Lipman Pukacz, went - as was the custom at the time - throughout the city, knocking with the synagogue mallet on all the doors and windows of the Jews, calling them to heed the court's summons.

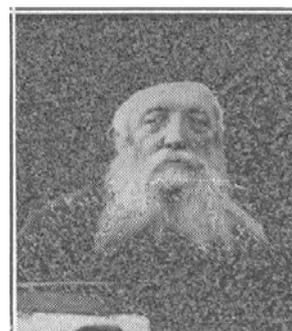
The gathering, on the appointed evening, was very impressive. All the Częstochowa Jews came together. The rabbinical judges, as well as the contemporary well-known opulent man and Torah scholar, Rabbi Jojne Landau (the Rabbi of Szczekociny), delivered warm speeches and all the Jews were asked to contribute to the cause, according to what they could afford.

The addresses made a great impression on those assembled. A large number of Jews signed up as members of the Study-hall, and many donations flowed in. The necessary sum was raised in a short time and they built the Study-hall - which existed until the Nazis destroyed it.

### The Meeting for the Renovation of the Study-hall One Hundred Years Later

To mark the hundredth anniversary of the construction of the Study-hall, a meeting was called at the initiative of the Rabbi, Reb Nachum Asz, on 25<sup>th</sup> Adar 5694 ([12<sup>th</sup> March] 1934), at which it was decided to renovate and enlarge the Study-hall.

The committee formed to this purpose comprised the Rabbi *shlita*<sup>1</sup> [as] Chairman; Honorary President - Lajb Sojka; Treasurer— Josef Wajnryb; Building Committee: Chairman Henryk Szpaltyn; members Mendel Kopinski, Josef Wajnryb, Icek-Ber Rotbard, Josef Krauze [and] Aron Brokman; Publicity COmmittee: Symcha Dziubas, Henryk Szpaltyn,



**The Rabbi of Częstochowa, the  
Prodigy Reb Nachum Asz ztz''l**

<sup>1</sup> [TN: Heb. acronym meaning "may he live many long and good days"; this article is a reprint of one that was written at the time of these events in 1934, as stated below.]

Abram Gliksman, Cantor Josef Badasz [and] Mojsze Asz [the Rabbi's son].

At that same meeting, the decision was made to approach the Częstochowa *Kehilla* for permission to enlarge the Study-hall, add a floor on top for the women's section and to construct a new hall for study.

In order to commemorate the Old Study-hall's hundredth anniversary, it was decided to write a Torah Scroll with the name<sup>2</sup> "*Ha'Torah ve Ha'Midrash*"<sup>3</sup>, in which all Częstochowa Jews will have a share<sup>4</sup>.

Two ledgers have been compiled - one in which to inscribe the names of those who purchased letters in the new Torah Scroll [and] the other with the names of those contributing to the renovation of the Study-hall.

**(Excerpt from the booklet *The Study-Hall 5594-5694*,  
published by Abram Gliksman, Częstochowa, 1934)**

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<sup>2</sup> [TN: The scroll itself would not have contained this name, as it is forbidden to add anything to the original biblical text; it is most likely that the words were embroidered on the cover made for the scroll.]

<sup>3</sup> [TN: *The Law and the Study* (loosely translated).]

<sup>4</sup> [TN: By "buying letters" in the scroll, viz. donating a minimum amount of money with which to pay the scribe for writing one letter, as follows.]