Publications

The term “publications” includes all that the Society has hitherto published - namely, mimeographed reports, the booklet *Czenstochover Landsmanschaft* and this current book, as well as the publications of the Executive Members in book form, in journals and in newspapers. These works are by Dr Benjamin Orenstein and Szlojme Waga.

There is a detailed bibliography up to 1957 in the book *Czenstochov*, published in New York in 1958, and there is a detailed bibliography up to the publication of this current book at the end of Dr Benjamin Orenstein’s [1964] booklet, *Ethical Problems of the Jews in the Nazi Epoch*.

The Society has also taken an active part in the book *Czenstochov*. Dr Benjamin Orenstein was a member of the Editorial Collegium and contributed a large number of works which enriched the book. These pieces are:

1) *Częstochowa Jews During the Nazi Era*
2) *Częstochowa Townspeople in the DP Camps in Germany*
3) *Częstochowa Folklore During the Nazi Period*
4) *Dr Jakub Szacki’s Contribution to the History of the Jews in Częstochowa*
5) *The Activity of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal, Canada*

Sz. Waga, Dr H. Lazarowicz z”l and Kuba Goldberg were members of the Book Committee. Sz. Waga contributed an important article to the book - *The Blood of the Annihilated Screams from the Ground*.

*Landsleit* donated to the Book Fund and the Society sold a large quantity of books.

Farewell Evenings

Farewell evenings have been held for several *Częstochover* families who left Montreal.

The first farewell evening was held in honour of Mr and Mrs Kuba Goldberg, who were moving to New York. The celebration took place at the Zionist Centre on Avenue de l'Esplanade 5101, at laden tables, with a large attendance *landsleit* and friends of the Goldbergs. Besides the well-wishing speeches, there was also an artistic programme and, among others things, a lively, humourous newspaper was prepared, edited and read out by Dr and Mrs Benjamin Orenstein.

Similar farewell functions were held in honour of the departure of the Buchwalter family to Toronto and the Fefer family to New York.

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1 [TN: *This is a bibliography exclusively of Dr Benjamin Orenstein’s work from 1946 to 1964.*]
The farewell evening in honour of the Waga family on the occasion of their departure to Toronto was of a distinct and unique character. That evening was, at the same time, an annual general meeting with activity reports and elections for the new Executive and, in addition, the tenth anniversary of the publishing of two books – Dr Benjamin Orenstein’s Latin-character transcribed work, *Churban Czenstochow*, and Szlojme Waga’s book in Yiddish characters, also titled *Churbn Czenstochow*.

**The Anniversary Celebration**

This [book] anniversary celebration took place at laden tables at the spacious auditorium of the Jewish Public Library. Besides the *landsleit*, the Jewish Cultural Club, which is run by Dr Benjamin Orenstein, and a large number of friends and admirers of the two anniversary celebrants [also] participated.

The celebration was opened by the President of the Society, Yecheskel Silver z”l. The Master of Ceremonies was Mojsze Altman.

Harry Klein, H. Rosenblum, M. Frydlender, L. Buchwalter, Symcha Silver (Zylberberg), Berl Ickowicz, M. Herszlikowicz, Charles Konarski, Sala Ickowicz, Lajbke Jakubowicz and Simon Lerner gave speeches of appreciation of the books and salutations.

The writer Ida Maze z”l delivered a greeting on behalf of the Writers’ Union. Mrs Frieda Nowik greeted on behalf of the Jewish Cultural Club.

The numerous congratulatory telegrams that arrived were read out by Mrs Lucy Winicki [or Vinitsky].

The actress Mrs Ruth Sohmer participated in the artistic programme.

A unique attraction at this anniversary evening was the monologue *The Letter-Carrier of Our Street*, recited by Gitte’le Ickowicz, which Dr Benjamin Orenstein wrote especially for her (this recitation is printed in the literary section of this book).

Both anniversary celebrants gave brief and content-rich speeches, which made a very great impression on the audience.

The Society published a stenographic report in booklet form about this anniversary celebration, which contains thirty-two pages.

**Bar-Mitzvahs**

The Executive officially participates in the festive occasions of the *landsleit*. The majority of these festive occasions have been *bar-mitzvahs* and, every year, several such celebrations are
held. This moved the Executive to contemplate the matter and they adopted the following decisions:

1) A representative of the Executive will deliver a greeting at each *bar-mitzvah* of landsleit.
2) Each *bar-mitzvah* boy will be presented with a gift.

A tradition has been established whereby, at these festive occasions and by arrangement with the parents, the *bar-mitzvah* boy’s speech and the congratulatory addresses of the Society’s representatives are tape-recorded. Afterwards, a record is made, which is a very good memento.

Let us here make mention of the first *bar-mitzvah* [celebrated - that of] Herszl[-Fajwisz] Srebrnik, who was the first boy to be born within Częstochowa itself, four months after liberation. He is the son of Mr and Mrs Edward Srebrnik.

**Hanukkah Celebration for Children**

The Executive has also made a successful attempt at a Hanukkah party for the children of the landsleit.

This Hanukkah celebration took place on 20th December 1952, at three o’clock in the afternoon, at the premises of the *Arbeiter-Ring*.

Some seventy small children gathered and were given multi-coloured hats to wear. The teacher from the Peretz School, Mrs Fiszman, was in charge of the Hanukkah programme. Hanukkah candles were lit and the children made recitals and sang Hanukkah songs. A few children’s films were also shown. The children of the *landsleit* spent several hours [together] and were very happy.

In relation to this Hanukkah party for the children, twenty special parcels were shipped off as Hanukkah presents for the *landsleit* in Israel.

**Alkona Chrobolovsky’s 2 Birthday**

In connection with the 75th birthday of the landsmann Alkona Chrobolovsky, who lives in Los Angeles in the United States, it was unanimously agreed, at a session of the Executive that was held on 1st April 1962, to send a congratulatory letter to the birthday celebrator.

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2 [TN: This was the way he spelt his name after the War in the US; in Poland, he was Elkune Chrobołowski.]
Extract of the Salutation for Alkona Chrobolovsky’s Birthday

“8th April 1962

Most eminent and esteemed friend
Alkona Chrobolovsky, in Los Angeles:

Although you have already been for many years in the United States³, you nevertheless worked and assisted in the Jewish spiritual, cultural and organisational life of the Częstochowa Jewry to the outbreak of the Second World War. There is no doubt that, during the Second World War, many of your disciples, admirers and followers took part in the work of the resistance movement, making you one of those who worked for the Jewish struggle against Nazism – the struggle for liberty and social justice. Your works on Częstochowa in the books ‘Czenstochover Yidn’ and ‘Czenstochov’ demonstrate that you represent the bygone masses of Częstochowa with their ideas, dreams, desires, fantasies and aspirations. Accept our hearty blessing that your years be renewed with good health, happiness and creativity.

Czenstochover Landsmanshaft and Ladies Auxiliary of Montreal, Canada”

Extract of Alkona Chrobolovsky’s Reply

“To the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft and Ladies Auxiliary of Montreal,

Our work in the home of old, which to our great misfortune no longer exists, was never the doing of a single individual – however great or small a person he may have been; rather, it was a joint, collective work. The Jewish masses flowed along with us like a broad stream, and the youth carried us forward. It was only alongside them that we were able to carry all this out – such as Jewish press, workers’ clubs, trade unions, the I.L. Peretz School, kindergartens, the Craftsmen’s Club, the Sport Association⁴, etc. Without the Jewish masses, we would have been like fish on dry land. Our breach is therefore great, and our pain deeper than the sea, that they are no longer here. Everything that was built and created by generations before us, and then by us ourselves, was so gruesomely destroyed by the barbaric Germans.

I thank you heartily for your salutation.

With love and friendship,
yours, A. Chrobolovsky

Los Angeles, 17th April 1962”

³ [TN: According to his own memoirs in the book “Czenstochov” (1958), Chrobołowski moved permanently to the United States in 1926.]
⁴ [TN: Presumably ref. to the Jewish Gymnastic and Sports Association (Żydowskie Towarzystwo Gimnastyczno-Sportowe).]
Raphael Federman’s Birthday

Let it also be mentioned here, that for Raphael Federman’s 70th birthday, the Society sent him a congratulatory letter and also printed good wishes for his birthday in the Zukunft [Future] journal. Due to the fact that Raphael Federman has, with great dignity, represented the Częstochowa Jewry at the Town Hall, and on the American continent has had very large merits and assisted much in organising the Częstochower aid societies and Landsmannschaften, both in the United States and in Canada, the Book Committee has therefore unanimously decided to print a special piece in this book, that should provide a general characterisation of his personality.

Willi [Wilhelm] Unkelbach’s Trial

On 30th September 1957, the Częstochower landsmann, Jakow Bencelowicz of Tel-Aviv, was in Hanau am Main, [Germany], where he recognised the brutal Nazi murderer Willi Unkelbach, who had been the chauffeur of the chief Nazi murderer of the Częstochowa Jewry, [Paul] Degenhardt.

Based upon Jakow Bencelowicz’s sworn testimony, the Nazi murderer Willi Unkelbach was arrested. An investigation ensued and the Prosecutor was seeking for incriminating evidence and witnesses.


Several copies of the book and also documents were sent over to URO and to the Landgerichtsrat [District Court Councillor] Dr Hambeck.

In 1962, a book was published by Dr H.G. van Dam and Ralph Giordano on the trials of Nazi criminals in the German courts, which contains a detailed report of the trial of the Nazi murderer Wilhelm Unkelbach. This report occupies 72 pages – from p. 511 to 583.

The indictment accuses the Nazi killer Unkelbach of thirty-one coldblooded murders, which are based upon the testimonies of nineteen Częstochower landsleit, who lived through the Nazi hell in Częstochowa and witnessed Unkelbach’s gruesome killings. The witnesses came to the trial from Germany, Israel, the United States, Canada and Sweden.

The book Churban Czenstochow by Dr Benjamin Orenstein served as a general historical document regarding the bloody killings by the Nazi murderers, including Wilhelm Unkelbach in Częstochowa.

5 [TN: This book’s original German title is “KZ-Verbrechen vor deutschen Gerichten” (Concentration Camp Crimes Before the German Courts).]
The address from the Prosecutor, which spans twenty-one printed pages (from p. 539 to 559), concludes with the following statement regarding Unkelbach’s murderous slayings: “All the streams of water in the world could not cleanse his bloodstained hands”.

In the explanatory statement of the court verdict, dated 11th June 1959, the Nazi murderer Unkelbach is portrayed as a sadistic, fanatical follower of Hitler, who remorselessly murdered Jews due to political and racial intolerance.

The Nazi killer Willi Unkelbach was sentenced to seven terms of life imprisonment with hard labour and the loss of all his civil rights.

[Georg] Schlosser’s Trial

The [Częstochowa] landsleit from Montreal, Mrs Dora Lerner née Gabel, filed a notarised affidavit in connection with Schlosser’s crimes. In her declaration, Mrs Dora Lerner states that, in her presence, Schlosser ordered all the patients to leave the hospital on ul. Garnarska and [then] shot them all, and [that] her uncle Kopl Haberman was among the patients shot.

The trial was held in November 1960 in Bamberg and Mrs Dora Lerner was invited to court. Despite the fact that Mrs Dora Lerner and an entire array of other witnesses came forth, including Dawid Gelbhauer from Israel - of whom the Bamberg Volksblatt [People’s Page] of Thursday, 10th November 1960 wrote, “Gelbhauer macht einen sehr selbstsicheren Eindruck und seine Antworten kommen wie aus der Pistole geschossen”, and despite the fact that numerous acts of murder were proven to have been committed by Schlosser – he was nevertheless sentenced to just five years. The disappointment on the verdict of the Bamberg court was so great, that the Prosecutor immediately announced he would be appealing to a higher court against the mild ruling.

[Paul] Degenhardt

As it emerged, Degenhardt - the chief Nazi murderer, the cruel killer of Częstochowa Jewry - had not been killed by partisans in Greece. This rumour turned out to be incorrect. He spent a lengthy period in a mental asylum. His trial is to be held shortly. A very large number of witnesses have registered for this trial, including Mrs Nadzieja Sporn from Montreal (the daughter of Lajbke Jakubowicz), Mojsze Altman and Horn.

The Jewish World Congress Political Department, under the directorship of Dr Nehemiah Robinson in New York, has engaged in gathering incriminatory material and witnesses against the Nazi murderer Degenhardt.

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6 [TN: In the chapter “The Formation of the Small Ghetto” of his book “Churban Czenstochow”, Dr B. Orenstein writes that in the Small Ghetto period “two hospitals were opened: on Garnarska, in the building where the old age home had been, directed by Dr Szperling and on ul. Jaskrowska, under the leadership of Dr Kagan.”]

7 [TN: Ger., “Gelbhauer makes a very self-confident impression and his answers come as if shot from a pistol.”]

8 [TN: Apparently ref. to the Institute of Jewish Affairs, of which Dr Robinson was the director.]
The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal received a letter from Dr Nehemiah Robinson regarding this matter. The Executive pondered this letter and concurred to commission Dr Benjamin Orenstein to write a historical work on Degenhardt’s crimes in Częstochowa. Once the work had been completed, it was read aloud at a meeting of the Executive and it was decided to translate it into German and send it to Dr Nehemiah Robinson in New York.

In a letter dated 24th April 1963, Dr Nehemiah Robinson approved the work he had received. He noted that it was an excellent historical overview and he would send it to the Prosecutor in Germany.

That same piece was published in Yiddish in a series of four articles in the *Keneder Odler*, in the days 7th-10th May 1963, under the title “The Adolf Eichmann of Częstochowa”.

**Canadian Jewish Congress**

The Canadian Jewish Congress is the central entity of Canadian Jewry. The Society sends delegates every year to the annual conferences and receives reports and publications sent to it by the Congress. In this manner the Society is always informed on the most current issues of Canadian Jewry.

**Histadrut [Labour Israel]**

The United Histadrut Organisations of Montreal was founded in 1952. Its purpose is to create institutions for public welfare in the State of Israel.

The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft belongs to the United Organisations of Montreal and sends its modest yearly donation and takes part in the annual celebrations.

**Jewish Labour Committee**

The Jewish Labour Committee is an institution that combats discrimination and antisemitism.

The activities of the Labour Committee are in full accordance with the views of the Society. A modest financial contribution is therefore sent every year, and also delegates to the annual conferences.

**Keneder Odler**

The *Keneder Odler* is the only Yiddish daily paper in Montreal and is read by all the Częstochower landsleit.
The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft makes use of the Keneder Odler by putting in notices regarding the memorial services, different functions, congratulations and condolences. Thus, the Executive is in continuous contact with the landsleit.

The Keneder Odler is much loved by the Częstochower landsleit, because numerous historical articles on the life, struggle, heroic fight and destruction of the Częstochowa Jewry in the times of the Nazi tyranny also find their expression within its columns.

It has already become a custom, with Częstochower landsleit, prior to each memorial service, to read in the Keneder Odler a historical article about the Częstochowa Jewry by Dr Benjamin Orenstein.

It was, therefore, an understandable thing, that for the fiftieth anniversary of the newspaper, the Executive conveyed a very warm congratulation, which was printed on p. 53 of the Keneder Odler’s Golden Jubilee Book.

As of late, the paper is published three times a week.

**Melech Ravitch’s⁹ Jubilee**

In connection with the fiftieth anniversary of Melech Ravitch’s literary activities, the Executive of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft sent a lengthy, written congratulations, in which the cultural traditions of Częstochowa Jewry were expressed, for which the Society regards itself as a cultural partner in the jubilee. A modest gift was also added to the congratulations, as an expression of recognition for the jubilee celebrant.

A large number of Częstochower landsleit took part in the celebration, which was held in 1962 at the Jewish Public Library.

The jubilee celebrant, Melech Ravitch, sent the Society a thank-you letter.

The Society also participated in Melech Ravitch’s seventieth birthday [celebration], which was held on 11th January 1964¹⁰. The celebration was very impressive and bore a historical character.

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⁹ [TN: Pseudonym of Canadian Yiddish essayist and poet Zacharia-Chone Bergner (1893-1976), originally born in Radymno, Poland (Galicia).]
¹⁰ [TN: Ravitch’s actual 70th birthday was on 27th November 1963, or on 23rd November of that year according to the Hebrew calendar (18th Kislev).]
The Yiddish Scholastic System

The Society has a positive attitude towards the Yiddish language and Yiddish culture. Executive meetings and general meetings are conducted in Yiddish, as is the correspondence also. From this, it is clear that the Society is interested in the Yiddish scholastic system and Yiddish education. The Executive affords the Yiddish scholastic system a great deal of moral cooperation, as well as financial support within the bounds of our possibility.

The Society conveyed warm congratulations for the Golden Jubilee of the Peretz Schools, which was printed in the souvenir book published on 4th April 1964.

Picture Exhibition of Nazi Massacres

From 15th to 24th January 1963, an picture exhibition of Nazi crimes was held at the auditorium of the Jewish Public Library.

The picture exhibition was organised by the Association of Former Concentration Camp Inmates [Survivors of Nazi Oppression], and by an entire array of Landsmannschaften and the Jewish Cultural Club of Montreal.

The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft took a very active part both in the organisational work of the exhibition and in the [accompanying] programme.

The Society’s General Secretary, Dr Benjamin Orenstein, was a Presidium Member of the Organising Committee, performing the function of Public Relations, while Mojsze Altman was a member of the Organising Committee.

The opening night of the exhibition was held on Tuesday, 15th January 1963, and the Consul of Israel, Mr Benjamin Sela, and the General Consul of Denmark, Jørgen Ditlev Scheel, took part in it. The evening was dedicated to the chief researcher of the Holocaust era, Dr Philip Friedman z”l, whose third death anniversary it was at the time. The main speaker on this theme was the author of the book The Life and Writings of Dr Philip Friedman - which is the General Secretary of the Society, Dr Benjamin Orenstein. Mojsze Altman formed part of the Presidium on the opening night.

During the course of the exhibition, besides the opening night, three other evenings were held, which were dedicated to

- the commander of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Mordche Anielewicz z”l;
- Dr Emanuel Ringelblum z”l and
- to the life, struggle and destruction of the Jews in the ghettos and concentration camps.

On Saturday evening, 19th January 1963, which was dedicated to the heroic Commander Mordche Anielewicz z”l and the Jewish resistance movement, Dr Benjamin Orenstein was the Chairman and he spoke about the resistance movement in Częstochowa.

11 [TN: This 58-page work was published in Montreal in 1962.]
At this exposition there were also pictures of the HASAG camps in Częstochowa.

The picture exhibition, the opening night and the three [accompanying] evenings aroused very great interest and were visited by thousands of people, both by Jews and non-Jews and from all strata of the population.

The picture exhibition was broadcast on television, radio and by the entire press – Yiddish, English and French.

The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft, with its active participation in the exposition, gained much prestige, honour and recognition.

**The Jewish Cultural Club**

One of the most respected and important cultural institutions in Montreal is, without doubt, the Jewish Cultural Club. Each of the Club’s functions is a truly cultural happening. An entire array of actresses belongs to this club. They perform the artistic programme at memorial services and at all functions arranged by the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft, thereby assisting in the activities.

The fact that Dr Benjamin Orenstein - the General Secretary of the Society - is the spiritual leader of the Club, has contributed greatly to the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft participating in the Club’s activities.

Thus, the Club has developed and the weekly functions are on such an elevated spiritual level, that the Club is unable to accommodate all the interested parties who wish to attend. The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft is therefore compelled to suffice with receiving the opportunity to officially participate in the annual celebrations, which are held at the larger venues.

At these annual celebrations, a representative is always delegated to [deliver] the greeting. The delegated “greeters”, until now, have been the Chairman of the Cultural Committee, H. Rosenblum (at two celebrations), the President of the Society, Lajbke Jakubowicz, the Treasurer of the Society, Harry Klein and the Secretary of the Society, Symcha Silver. Attending these yearly celebrations has already become like a tradition for the Częstochower landsleit and it is very inspiring for everyone.

**Dr Philip Friedman Memorial Evening**

The Cultural Club has the chazuke [presumptive status] of holding the memorial evenings in sacred memory of the great historian and chief researcher of the Holocaust era, Dr Philip
Friedman z”l. The Cultural Club has held first a *shloishim*¹² and then every *yuhrzeit*¹³ to this day. The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft has officially participated in all these services.

The second *yuhrzeit* service was held at the Snowdon “Y”¹⁴ on 10ᵗʰ February 1962 and the Society was represented in the Presidium and also by a special speaker.

The Society’s representatives were Harry Klein and Mendel Frydlender.

**The Book “The Life and Writings of Dr Philip Friedman”**

For the second *yuhrzeit* of Dr Philip Friedman z”l, the book by Dr Benjamin Orenstein entitled *The Life and Writings of Dr Philip Friedman* was launched. It was published by the Jewish Culture Club of Montreal. In connection with this, the Club held a celebration at the Mount Royal Hotel, which took place on 16ᵗʰ June 1962.

The Culture Club invited the *Częstochower landsmann* Tzvi Rosenvein from New York to the celebration as guest speaker. This brought the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft and the Culture Club even closer. A large number of *landsleit* participated in the celebration. The President of the Society, Lajbke Jakubowicz, was part of the Presidium and he also gave a congratulatory address.

A delegation from the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft, headed by Secretary Symcha Silver, presented Dr Benjamin Orenstein with a gift, at which point the President of the Society, Lajbke Jakubowicz, delivered the following presentation speech:

> “Most eminent Dr Orenstein, it is indeed a great honour that the *Częstochower Landsmanshaft* has given me, that I should purchase a symbolic gift for you. Truly, this gift is very modest, but it expresses our profound appreciation of your dedicated and beneficial work for our Society.

> On behalf of the *Częstochower Landsmanshaft*, I wish you, Dr Orenstein, along with your wife, long, long, healthy and creative years and that, with this gift, you should create many works for the entire Jewish people, as well as for the *Częstochowers throughout the globe*.”

The Society made good use of the visit of the important *landsmann* Tzvi Rosenvein and, on the following morning, on Sunday, 17ᵗʰ June 1962, an highly crucial meeting of the Executive was held at the home of the *landsmann* Charles Konarski, in which our prominent guest participated.

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¹² [TN: Heb., “thirty”; memorial ceremony held on the thirtieth day after a person’s death.]
¹³ [TN: Yid., lit. “year-time”, viz. death anniversary which is observed every year.]
¹⁴ [TN: Ref. to the Young Men’s Hebrew Association (YMHA).]
Radomer [Mutual] Aid Society of Montreal

[When] the Radom landsmann Tuwja Friedman15 arrived, from Israel, on a certain occasion in New York, the Radomer Aid Society wished to invite him to Montreal and arrange a mass gathering. To this end, they called a conference of the Landsmannschaften in Montreal, in order to work together in organising the gathering so that it should bear a folksy character. Representatives of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal were President Lajbke Jakubowicz and General Secretary Dr Benjamin Orenstein, who both took an active part in organising the popular gathering.

At the last session of the Organising Committee, on 19th September 1960, they considered the question of greetings by the representatives of the Landsmannschaften at the mass meeting, which was set for Tuesday, 27th September 1960, at the large hall of the Adath Yeshurun-Hadrath Kodesh Synagogue.

As the number of Landsmannschaften was large, it was impossible for representatives of all the Landsmannschaften to deliver salutations. It was then agreed that one representative would make the greeting on behalf of all the Landsmannschaften. The General Secretary of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft, Dr Benjamin Orenstein, was unanimously chosen to deliver the salutation on behalf of all the Landsmannschaften and aid societies which formed part of the Committee and that this speech was to be given in three languages - Yiddish, Hebrew and English – this is what happened.

After the very successful mass gathering, the Radomer Aid Society sent the following letter:

“10th October 1960

Radomer Aid Society of Montreal

to the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal.

Eminent President,

We hereby express our utmost gratitude for the aid of your Society to the success of the gathering with the participation of Tuwja Friedman.

A special thanks to Dr Benjamin Orenstein for his fine salutation.

In the hope that we shall, once again, work together on similar occasions, we remain,

With the regards of the Landsmannschaft,

(Stamp of the Radomer Aid Society and two signatures)"

15 [TN: Tuwja Friedman (1922-2011) was a Nazi hunter and director of the Institute for the Documentation of Nazi War Crimes in Haifa, Israel.]