

George Klein



George Klein [Godl Klajner] was born in Częstochowa into a prominent and strictly religious family. He firstly attended the *cheder* of Jechiel Grylak and then the Jewish Gimnazjum. He graduated from [Wincenty] Szudejko's [Boys'] Gimnazjum and received a *matura* [Pol., Certificate of Secondary Education].

Influenced by *Haskala* [Jewish Enlightenment] literature, he was infected by the Zionist idea and joined the ranks of the *Tzeirei Zion* [Youth of Zion] movement. At sixteen, he was already recognised as an active member and was elected Secretary of the *Keren Kayemeth* Committee. He was sent, as a delegate, to the first national conference of *Keren Kayemeth*, which was held in Warsaw. As the youngest secretary in the entire country, he was presented to Professor Dr Chaim Weizmann, who was participating in the conference.

Sometime later, he joined the *Poalei Zion* [Workers of Zion] movement and played a significant role in communal life, being active along with the, then already respected, activists such as Jakow Berman, Henoch Pradelski, Izrael Dancyger, Mordche Wajnberg and others. George Klein belonged to the Craftsmen's Union, the Jewish Public Library and the [Jewish] Gymnastics-Sporting Association¹.

At nineteen, he left Częstochowa and moved to Brussels, Belgium. A few years later, he left Brussels and emigrated to Canada, settling with his wife in Montreal.

Here in Montreal, he was communally active and was elected President of the Canadian Hebrew Sick Benefit Society. As a delegate of the Society, he was present at the laying of the cornerstone of the Jewish [General] Hospital in Montreal.

Immediately after the War, the Czenstochover Aid Society was established and George Klein was one of its founders. He was elected Honorary President of the Society. He and his wife assisted extensively in the activities of the Aid Society in the field of financial means to aid the *landsleit*, who had been saved from the death and fire of the Nazi tyranny. He contributed a great deal to the book *Czenstochover Yidn*, which was published in New York in 1947.

To this day, George Klein helps in the activities of the Society and has been instrumental in the publication of this book.

¹ [TN: "Żydowskie Towarzystwo Gimnastyczno-Sportowe" in Polish – or "ŻTG-S".]