

## Szlojme Dilewski RIP



The late Szlojme, son of Reb Dawid Dilewski, was one of the unique personalities in the Czenstochover *Landsmanshaft* of Montreal. He grew out of the folk masses and was a man of the people. He took a great interest in communal matters. Even before coming to Montreal, he contributed greatly in Częstochowa itself.

Following the collapse of the Nazi regime in Częstochowa, he managed to catch several Nazi murderers, who had tormented Częstochowa Jewry in the “Big Ghetto”, the “Small Ghetto” and in the HASAG camps. Szlojme Dilewski had a good memory and recognised everyone. His declarations to the investigation authorities and the testimonies he delivered in court were always of great importance – and, in all the cases, the Nazi murderers ended their lives on the gallows.

Szlojme Dilewski belonged among the exceptions who were miraculously saved along with their whole family - viz. with his wife Ester and two fine daughters, Cela and Basia.

Szlojme Dilewski, with his wife and daughters, were liberated from HASAG on [the night] of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 1945. Immediately following liberation, he became a *machnis orach*<sup>1</sup>. His dwelling turned into a hotel for any *landsmann* who had just arrived in Częstochowa, and he did not take a single penny from anyone.

In 1949, he arrived in Montreal. He was immediately active in the *Landsmannschaft*, taking an interest in all matters. To every function, from his own home, he brought all the things that were necessary – a tablecloth for the Presidium table, candlesticks, candles and prepared the flowers, etc. His house was like the seat of the *Landsmannschaft*, and the meetings of the Executive were held there with great frequency.

Externally, he made the impression of being a strong and healthy man - and no one knew that he was desperately sick.

On 18<sup>th</sup> Iyyar 5711 ([24<sup>th</sup> May] 1951), he suddenly fell ill and was admitted to hospital – and, by the next day, he was no longer among the living. He lived quietly and departed to eternity even more quietly.

Honoured be his memory.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Yid., from the Heb., one who provides guests and wayfarers with hospitality.]