

Harry Klein (Herszl Klajner)

Foreword

It was the goal of the *Częstochower* Executive in Montreal to publish this book on a broad scale, to reflect the relief and communal activities of the *Częstochowers* in Montreal, Toronto and in the United States.

A Book Committee was chosen, with Harry Klein and Harry Rosenblum as Co-Chairmen, M. Szwimer as Vice-Chairman and Mrs Lucy Nisker as Treasurer. This book is to constitute a supplement to all the hitherto numerous publications.

Indeed, let all the more books be published. Let all the more be written, so as not to allow the world to forget the gruesome massacres by which the Nazi-Amalek nation viciously and cruelly destroyed a third of the Jewish people - innocent children, women, men and the elderly.

Our work, in the home of old, which to our great misfortune is no more, was invariably not the deed of a single individual - no matter how great or small that person might have been. It was a joint, collective endeavour. The great Jewish masses flowed along with us like a wide stream, and the youth carried us forward. It was only together with them that we were able to carry out all that was done, such as the Yiddish press, the workers' clubs, the professional unions, the I.L. Peretz School, kindergartens, the Craftsmen's Club, the Sporting Association, etc. Without the Jewish masses, we would have been as fish on dry land.

That is why our grief is so great, and our agony deeper than the ocean, that they are no longer here. All that, which generations before us, and afterwards, we ourselves built and created, was so cruelly destroyed by the barbaric Germans.

This book contains historical treatises, documents, testimonies from the miraculously saved *landsleit*, and accounts of the communal and cultural life in our dear *Częstochowa* of old. There are articles here about institutions, personalities – [special] individuals and common Jews – and also on the activities of the *Częstochower landsmannschaften* on a wider scale.

At the same time, this book serves as a worthy headstone for the *Częstochowa* martyrs and heroes, who fell in sanctification of the Name [of God] and the People [of Israel].

The Book Committee, as a whole, and each member individually, deserves gratitude and acknowledgement for devoting time, strength and effort, as well as raising the financial means for this book to be published.

May the hands of those, who worked along and contributed to the publication of this book, be strengthened.