

I. Gans (Gancwajch) z"l

The *Częstochower* Circle in Australia

The *Częstochower* Centre in Australia, [originally] named *Czenstochower and Vicinity Fraternal Aid in Australia* was founded in Melbourne on 22nd September 1946.

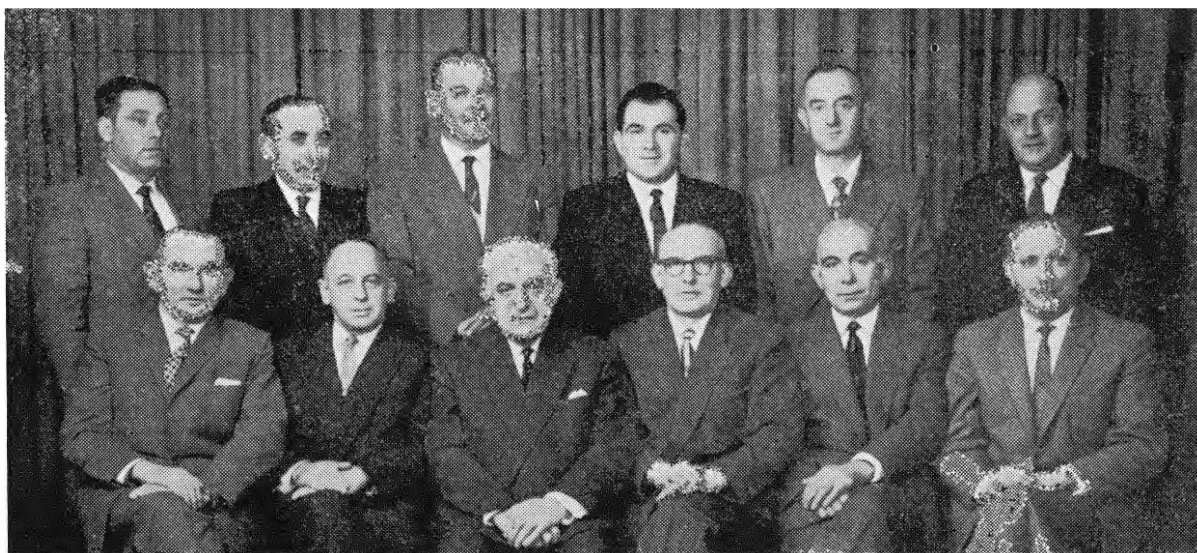
The first Executive was comprised:

- I. Gans (Gancwajch) - President;
- L. Lederman – Vice-President;
- D. Lissek – Treasurer;
- M.D. Fuchs – Honorary Secretary;
- Executive members: P. Lew¹ [?], and L. Rayman.

The Committee comprised:

- A. Balsam, D. Zołtak, Jakób Lew, I. Lew, P. Moszkowicz, S. Small, D. Firstenberg, M. Kaszman, D. Rechtman, L. Shaw, S. Shaw, and D. Sztajnic.

At the time, there were forty *Częstochower* families living in Melbourne, while in Sidney, there were just a few. During the first period of our activity, we sent shipments of clothing, shoes, soap and food to *Częstochowa*. Later, when it was impossible to send aid directly to *Częstochowa*, we sent packages and financial aid to our *landsleit* in the DP [Displaced Persons] camps. We acquired immigration permits for a large number of people from *Częstochowa* and the vicinity, who were in the German camps, in Italy, France and Belgium. A certain proportion of them came to Melbourne and settled down there. We also procured permits for twenty orphans from the *Częstochowa* orphanage.



Częstochower Circle in Australia;

***Sitting (right to left): M. Krakauer, J. Granek, L. Rayman, I. Ganc, Ch. Kozens, A. Lewkowicz.
Standing (right to left): J. Klajner, D. Granach, P. Szmulewicz, H. Herszkowicz, G. Tobiasz W. Stawski.***

¹ [TN: ליי in the original Yiddish, pronounced like the French "lieu."]

Once the State of Israel was established, we inscribed the Częstochowa martyrs in the *Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael's "Sefer Ha'Medina"* ["Book of the State"].

Between 1949 and 1951, we sent three substantial shipments of foodstuffs to the *Częstochowers* in Israel. In 1952, we planted 100 trees in memory of the Częstochowa martyrs at the KKL Forest of the Martyrs in Jerusalem.

In the first years of our existence, we made efforts to organise our fellow *landsleit* in Sidney, in order to set up a committee there also. Sadly, though, we did not have a proper following there.

Since 1947, in Melbourne, we hold an annual "*Yizkor Evening*" on the second night after *Yom Kippur*, when the bloody Częstochowa *akcja* commenced.

Nowadays, there are more than 200 families from Częstochowa and the vicinity living in Melbourne.

The Committee [now] consists of the following:

- I. Gans – President;
- L. Rayman – Vice-President;
- J. Granek – Treasurer;
- H. Koznis [sic Kozens] – Honorary Secretary.

Committee members are:

- D. Dranek [sic Granach],
- H. Herszlikowicz,
- G. Tobiasz,
- A. Lewkowicz,
- M. Nowak,
- W. Stawski,
- M. Krakauer,
- L. Klajner,
- P. Szmulewicz.