

## The Book Committee

# Kune Chrobołowski

Kune was born in the Łomża region, where his father Josef-Icek was a *melamed*. Already, as a boy of 9-10, Kune knew the Hebrew Bible and Russian well.

When the right to keep taverns was taken away from the Jews, poverty descended upon the small town where Kune's parents lived and, having no means of sustenance, the family began to wander, until they trudged their way into Częstochowa in 1905.

Kune secured a position as an employee in Markusfeld's wallpaper-factory.

In those years, when the Socialist Movement was spreading amongst the Jewish workers, Kune joined the Zionist-Socialist Workers Party (S.S.). He was active among the Jewish workers, whom he instructed on Socialism and Territorialism. With his strong Lithuanian pronunciation<sup>1</sup>, Kune gained an influence over the Jewish masses. Throughout all the changes his party underwent, Kune remained loyal to the Territorialist interpretation of the Jewish Question.

Besides his political work, Kune was also very much involved with other communal institutions, such as "Lira", the Jewish Literary Society and the Y.L. Perec Primary School.

Chrobołowski was an active collaborator in the local Jewish press - co-founder of the *Częstochower Reklamen Blatt* ["Advertisements Page"], collaborator in the *Częstochower Tageblatt* ["Daily Newspaper"], as well as in the political weekly paper *Das Neue Wort*, which was issued by the *Częstochowa Vereinigt* Party.

In the First World War, Chrobołowski was sent to the front as a soldier and took part in the battles.

He was captured as a POW by the Austrian Army. After the War, he returned to Częstochowa.

In 1923, Chrobołowski travelled to America, where he settled first in New York and then in Los Angeles, where he lives to this day.

In America, too, Chrobołowski participates in an array of periodical publications and is active in communal life.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Although Kune was Polish, his family probably belonged to the anti-Chassidic faction of Jewish orthodoxy (aka "Misnagedim" or "Litvakes"), who adhere to the Lithuanian rite as regards pronunciation of Hebrew and Yiddish. This group was very abundant in the Łomża region.]