The “Twin Towns” of Pajęczno and Sulmierzyce

The two small towns in the Częstochowa-Radomsko region - Pajęczno and Sulmierzyce - contained simple, dear and hearty Jews. They travelled to the markets and were sellers of geese. [They were] merchants and craftsmen, who toiled hard and bitter to make a living, but who lived respectably and married their children off comfortably. Sulmierzyce and Pajęczno were like twins holding hands. They travelled to one another’s market-days, arranged marriages between each other, bought books for their libraries together and worked in unison in various cultural fields.

In Pajęczno, the shepherd [fig.] was the proud Jew Fajwisz Jabłoński hy”d, whom even the non-Jews respected. He was the spokesman and leader of the shtetl’s Zionist youth, in the spirit of Izaak Grinbaum’s “Al Ha’Mishmar”¹ [“On Guard”] faction.

Grinbaum’s influence was felt in Sulmierzyce also. There, one of Fajwisz’s relatives was active – Symcha Kuszynski hy”d, a gentle and dear, young man, who always had a smile on his lips and who projected kind-heartedness and good spirit. He could be found at all the important regional conferences and he was especially active for Keren Kayemeth Le’Israel.

Of all this, nothing has remained. It has all been tragically erased, drowned in a sea of blood and tears.

¹ [TN: Early Radical Zionist faction in Poland.]