

The Book Committee

Towarzystwo Kredytowe

The Credit Society

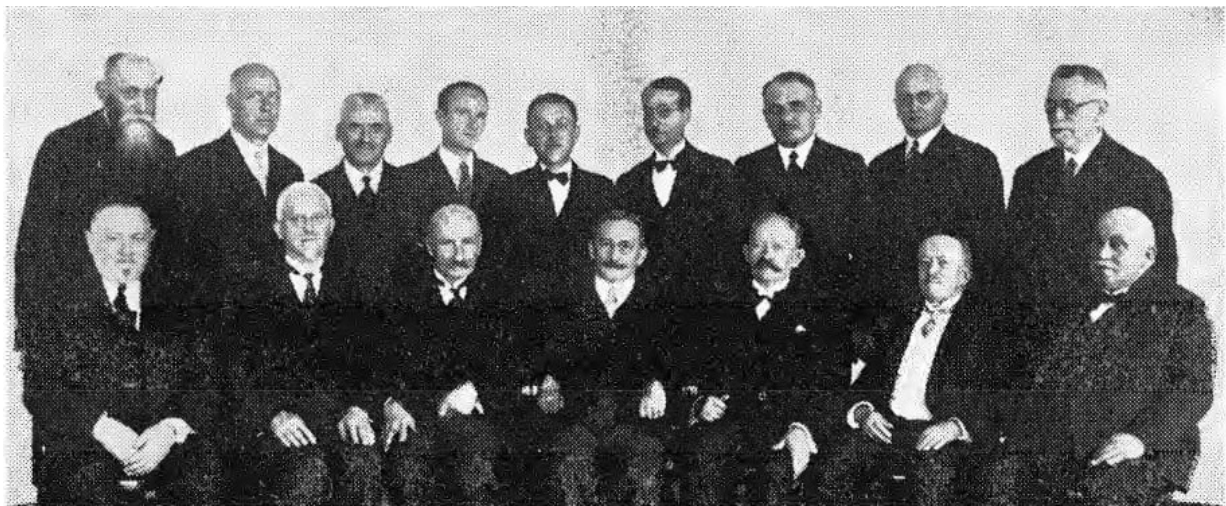
Under the Polish name, which in simple *Mameloshen* [mother-tongue; i.e., Yiddish], means “Credit Society”, the *Towarzystwo Kredytowe* existed for many years in Częstochowa as the “Municipal Mortgage Bank”.

This bank was founded with joint funds from Jewish and Christian home-owners and it, indeed, served the interests of [both] Jews and Poles together.

One of the bank’s principal founders, who for decades held the honorary office of Bank Director, was the renowned oculist and long-standing mayor, Dr Martuszewski.

In passing, it should also be noted that, during his term as mayor, this successful and Jew-friendly, community public figure installed the drainage system and organised stable omnibuses in the city, something which greatly assisted the development of Częstochowa.

Dr Martuszewski’s liberal disposition enabled cooperative work between Polish and Jewish home-owners, such that the Board of Directors of the Mortgage Bank also included Jewish representatives: Anczel Warszawski and Chaim Weksler (both well-known *Mizrachi* social activists), Reb Icze Majer Krel (renowned “*Aguda*” leader), Goldwasser, B. Moszkowski, Sz. Rodal and Wolf Rozenchwajg (all three, social activists).



Board of Directors

Standing (from left to right): Icze Majer Krel, Bogusławski (not Jewish), not Jewish, Sz. Rodal, Goldwasser, Chaim Weksler, not Jewish, Warszawski. Sitting (from left to right): Wolf Rozenchwajg, Szenczik (not Jewish), Picznas (not Jewish), Dr Martuszewski (not Jewish), unknown (not Jewish), unknown (not Jewish), B. Moszkowski.

It also be noted that the “Credit Society” was the only joint Jewish-Polish institution not to be dominated by the local antisemites and their hatred of Jews!

Sadly, this ideal situation also met a bitter end.

As we read in "*Częstochower Zeitung*" No.19, dated 13th May 1938, the Polish Jew-devourers celebrated their demonic victory and, at the Credit Society's annual general meeting, held on Sunday 29th April 1938, thanks to a new electoral system, only Christians were elected. It is characteristic that the always "Jew-friendly" Dr Martuszewski was swept away with the current of antisemitism and agreed to be elected among the six Poles in the supervisory council. The three new directors were also Christian-*Endecja* [members] - their "leader", the lawyer Zawadzki and his two "followers" in hatred of Jews, Councillor Piątkowski and Roman Trawiński.

Reb Icze Majer Krel, who had until then been one of the directors, and Reb Chaim Weksler, one of the Deputy-Directors, were forced to relinquish their posts. Thus ended the "love" between Poles and Jews in Częstochowa.