

The Book Committee

The Jewish Society for Knowledge of the Country

Częstochowa also had a “Jewish Society for Knowledge of the Country”, which in Polish was called *Żydowskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze* [Jewish Sightseeing Society], although a Polish Society of this kind [already] existed in Poland, which was supported by the central government and the municipal authorities.

Even if Jews were admitted as members there, at the same time, they were given a “gentle hint”, more often than not, even a brutal one, that “they were unwanted”. Due to this, in many cities, Częstochowa amongst them, such Jewish societies were founded, which organised outings to different interesting places, mainly to the country’s historical sites, at which those knowledgeable in Polish history spoke about the past of the localities.

This Jewish Society attracted a great section of the youth and other, regular people also.

Below, we present a summary of a report on one of the annual general meetings, which took place at the Mrs Z. Wajnsztok school, at Aleja 20 and in which Mr Dubrowicz, a delegate of the Warsaw Central Committee, also participated.

Director Lilien and Dr Lajzerowicz sat on the executive committee and F. Blumenkranc was the meeting secretary.

The Society was, at that time, going through an internal crisis and was threatened with total liquidation.

Prof L. Wajnsztok lectured on the reasons that had brought about such a situation, and Professor Brandlewicz even proposed that the Society be liquidated.

The delegate from the Central [Committee], Mr Dubrowicz, showed, in a long address, what a moral defeat it would be for the Polish Jews if the institutions which they had created with so much effort should begin to be liquidated and what joy that would bring the antisemites. He appealed to the sense of responsibility of the members present and urged them to elect a new administration of active members, which would be able to renew and revive the Society’s activities.

Following the debate, in which F. Blumenkranc, Prof Brandlewicz, Mrs Horowicz, Mrs Wasserman, Dr Lajzerowicz and Sz. Frank participated, a new administration was elected, which pledged to energetically resume the work and return the Society to its former standing.

The new administration consisted of F. Blumenkranc, J. Goldman, Prof L. Wajnsztok, Dr Lajzerowicz, Dr Lilien, Miss Salat, Epszajn, J. Rzonczyński and Szybel.

The auditing commission comprised Prof Brandlewicz, Grinbaum and Wasserman.

In the Court of Honour were Adv. Leon Asz, A. Perek and J. Rozener and, as representatives, Mrs Wasserman and Sz. Frank.

(This important institution continued to exist until the great destruction of Jewish Częstochowa!)



An outing to Mirów, in 1929, by the Jewish Society for Knowledge of the Country in Częstochowa. Among others, in the photo are: Sz. Frank, A. Luksemburg, Kopinski, Rabinowicz, Borzykowski, Sztajnhardt, Mmes. Szuma Ajer and Szezinger, Lewkowicz, Mrs Ganana [?], Erlich, Frajmauer and Mrs Haper.