Izaak Zander

Shoichet Reb Mojsze Zander

He was born in 5649 [1889] to his father Ze’ev [Wolf], in the town of Gorzkowice. He studied with the Head of Court of Pławn, author of “Yad Ha’Levi” [“Hand of the Levite”]. He trained in ritual slaughter and examination [of the carcasses] with Reb Leibale, the Shoichet of Belchatów, and was ordained as a shoichet and examiner by Reb Isuchor Dov [Ber] Graubart, the Rabbi of Będzin, author of “Divrei Yisochor” [“The Words of Issachar”].

He gained renown as an expert slaughterer with a wonderfully skilled hand. He first served as shoichet in Starczów and Klobuck. In Klobuck, he was also active in public matters. He gave Torah lessons to young and old, arranged the town’s eruv\(^1\), kept the books for the charity fund founded by the “Joint” and was a committee member of the “Yessod Ha’Torah” cheder and “Beis Yaakov”.

In 1929, he was appointed shoichet and “second cantor” in our city’s Main Synagogue.

My father, Reb Mojsze, had a pleasing bearing and received each and every person cheerfully. In his conversations with people, he would intercalate Torah undertones. He was naturally humble and distanced himself from conflicts. He was chosen as a council member of the “Shoichets’ Organisation” in Poland. He was called on to rectify [differing] practices and to mediate in conflicts that arose between shoichets and rabbis and Kehilla leaders in different localities.

He was a Radomsko chassid, and, when he came to visit his Rebbe, he was honoured with leading the prayer service, as well as songs at the “tables”.

Of his seven offspring, his son (the writer of these lines) and his daughter Naomi (Zysel) have survived and are both in Israel.

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\(^1\) [TN: A technical boundary made of wire which allows Jews to carry in public areas on Shabbes.]