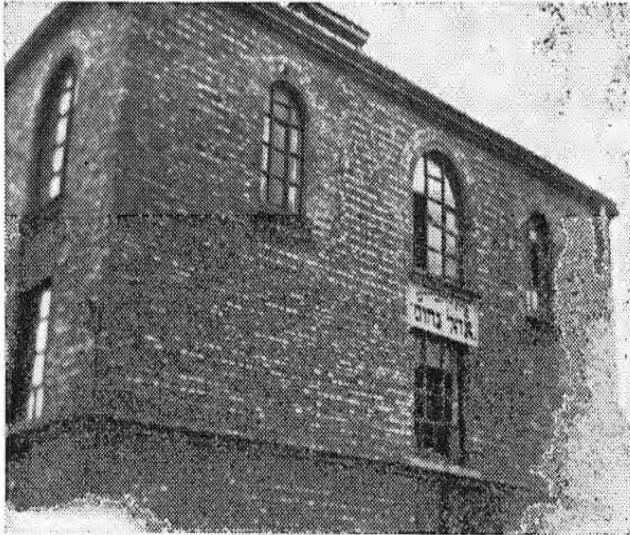


The Book Committee

The Building of the Old Study-Hall (A Historical Chapter)



The study-hall after the destruction of our city

In one of the copies of the “*Częstochower Zeitung*” [“*Częstochowa Newspaper*”] that has reached us (the publication date is missing), we have found these details, which we publish here verbatim, due to the important details it contains.

In 1834, Częstochowa, a young community, had only one synagogue and a small study-hall in which prayers were held in the winter, because the synagogue’s interior was too cold. Over the course of time, the population grew and the community felt the need for a large study-hall.

At the initiative of community leader, Leibel Kohn, on the 1st of Adar 5594 [Feb. 10th 1834],

a meeting was held at the home of a community representative at the time, Mr. Gerszon Landau, at which it was decided to build a large study-hall with a women’s section.

To implement the plan, the following committee was chosen: Gerszon Segal Landau (“little” Gerszon), Izaak Leib Bermanski, Juda Leib Tenenbaum, Eisik-Szymon Ginsberg and Majer Majzel.

That same day, an announcement was made by the Częstochowa rabbinical court, which was comprised of Reb Mojsze Majzel (the rabbi of Dyhernfurth) [Brzeg Dolny], Reb Nusen Oderberg and Reb Jakob Elyohu Rozen, that all Jews were to gather on Adar 7th at the study-hall for an assembly regarding the building of a new study-hall.

The second *shames* [sacristan], Lipman Pukacz, as was then the custom, went throughout the city and, with the synagogue mallet, knocked on all the doors and windows of the Jews’ homes reminding them to obey the court’s call. The assembly on the appointed evening was wonderful. All the Częstochowa Jews were gathered. The judges and also, the then-famous scholar and opulent man (the Rabbi of Szczekociny), Reb Jona Landau, delivered warm sermons and all the Jews were asked to contribute as much as possible to the cause. The sermons left an active impression on those gathered. A great number of Jews enlisted as members of the study-hall and many donations were received. In a short time, the required sum was collected and they erected the new study-hall building.

In 5596, the new study-hall was built and named “*Ohel Nuchem*” [Nachum’s Tent], in memory of our teacher the Rabbi Reb Nuchem Asz z”l [of blessed memory].

(During their rule, the Nazis destroyed the building together with the city's synagogue).