

The *Częstochower* Circle in Argentina

The first *Częstochowa* Jews arrived in Argentina even before the First World War. But those immigrants, back then, had no connection one to another. It was only in 1927 that a group of *Częstochowa* immigrants, mostly young people, established a *Landsmannschaft* society.

They had no concrete plans as to what the organisation's activity would be, but a sentiment prevailed that they were to stick together.

Once the flow of immigrants increased, the society's activities broadened markedly. Its main task now became to assist the newly-arrived in creating labour for them, buying work-implements, finding accommodation, issuing loans to those in need, etc.

The number of members was not large then and the organisation's modest activity could have progressed normally. But, due to political, ideological differences, the society was liquidated after an existence of two years.

It was only in 1942, when the horrifying news reached us from *Częstochowa* and from the whole of Poland, did we realise that all forces needed to be mustered to provide our unfortunate brothers and sisters with aid.

At the initiative of Leizer Rozenberg, the "*Częstochower Landsleute Verein*" ["Cz. Compatriots Society"] was reorganised and, at a meeting in which a large number of *Częstochowers* participated, a new Board of Directors was elected, headed by Szulim Wirsztel z''l and which comprised the following *fellow landsleit*:

Chairman – Herman Marczak;

Vice-Chairman – Dawid Bulwik;

Secretary – Leizer Rozenberg;

Treasurer – Jakób L. Jakubowicz;

Executive members – Mordche Majerowicz, Dawid Kosowski z''l, and Leon Jakubowicz.

The new management at once embarked upon the realisation of its activity-programme, as the circumstances at the time dictated. Collections of money and clothing were conducted and we decided to support the "Joint", as an institution distributing direct aid.

Immediately following the War, we shipped twelve crates of clothing, school writing-materials and medicines to *Częstochowa*. We also sent two-thousand dollars over for a shoemakers' cooperative named "Argentina", which was created after the War in order to provide survivors with a livelihood.

Following the establishment of the State of Israel, we also sent individual aid to *Częstochowers* in Israel.

Częstochowers in Argentina gather three times a year - in March for the Annual General Meeting, in May to celebrate the Jewish State's Independence Day and the day after *Yom Kippur* for a memorial

prayer [service] at the monument which the Jewish community of Buenos Aires erected at the local cemetery in memory of the six million martyrs.



Częstochowers in Argentina; sitting, from right to left:

J.L. Jakubowicz, B. Galster, P. Majerowicz, J. Jakubowicz, M. Kantor, M. Liberman, M. Fiszer, Sz. Plawner, D. Laskowski, J. Marer, J. Amsterdam, A. Aleksandrowicz, I.M. Edelist, L. Wolman

The Credit Fund

At the initiative of Mordche Majerowicz, a credit fund was also established, which has existed in the organisation since August 1960 under directorship of the same management, but with co-opted individuals as the credit fund's secretariat.

The management of both institutions consists of:

Chairman – Binyamin Galster;
Vice-Chairman – Dawid Laskowski;
Secretary – Mordche Majerowicz;
Deputy-Secretary – Ajzyk Aleksandrowicz;
Treasurer – Leizer Rozenberg;
Deputy-Treasurer – Szulim Plawner.

[The committee of] the Credit Fund:

Jakób L. Jakubowicz,
Mojsze H. Kantor,
Leizer Rozenberg,
Mordche Majerowicz,
Pinkus Majerowicz and
Binyamin Galster.