

Mojsze Wajnman

The “Friends of Częstochowa” Society in Paris

The *Częstochower landsmannschaft* in Paris was already established back in 1926. The group of *landsleit* who founded the *Częstochower Société* forty years ago were Blum, Ortman, A. Ferleger, the Wrublewski brothers, A. Slabiak, the Gutman brothers, B. Kopinski, Wajsbard, Cymberknopf, Kamelgarn, Frankowski, A. Kopinski [and] J. Lewkowicz. The association of *Częstochowa landsleit* was established to aid others, above all assisting in accommodation problems and, often, with money also, in order to enable survival during a period of unemployment.



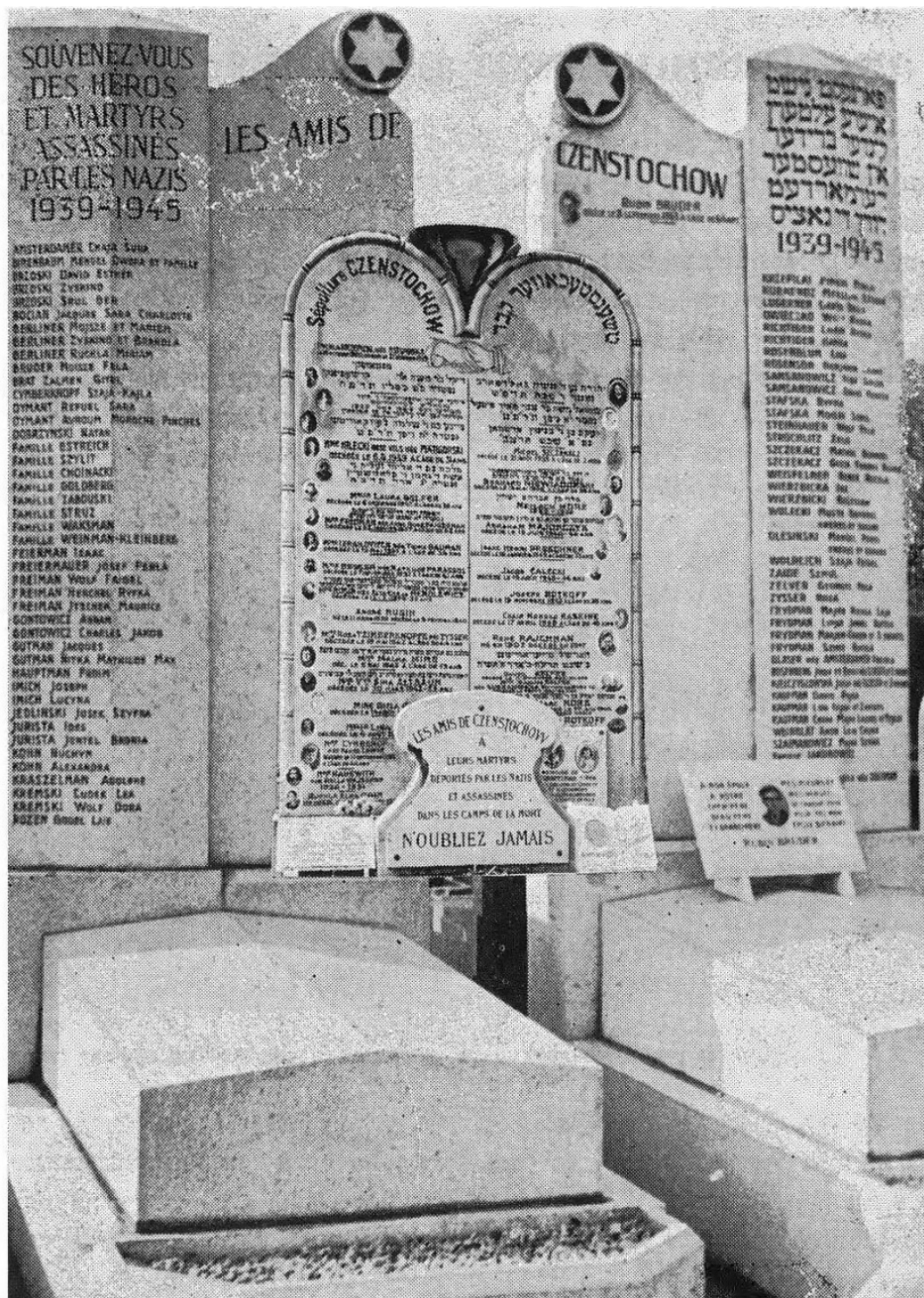
The Committee of the “Friends of Częstochowa” Society in Paris.

Already in its first days, the *Société* developed a widely range of activity in a series of areas. With the great inflow of immigration in 1927 and, later in Paris [?], the *Częstochower Patronage* was established, to assist the *Częstochowa* political arrestees in the Polish prisons. The Patronage became a parallel organisation, alongside the *Société*.

During the War years, the society, due to the horrific terror against Jews, was forced to cease its activity.

After the War, we organised the committee anew and the *Częstochower Société* in Paris grew to become an important communal force in general Jewish life. Together with the social undertakings which the organization conducts for our fellow *landsleit* in France, at an earlier point, the *Société* also sent medicines to Israel for *Częstochowers* who required them, as well as large sums of money for *Magen David Adom* in Israel.

Each year, on the anniversary of the liquidation of the *Częstochowa* ghetto, we organise a memorial service, which is also attended by the natives of the neighbouring *shtetlach*. Each year, before *Yom Kippur*, we congregate together, with the thousands of Paris Jews, at the Bagneux Cemetery, in front of the monument to the Jewish Resistance and front-line combatants, where we commune with the memory of the other six million martyrs.



Stele to the martyrs at the [Bagneux] Cemetery in Paris, erected by the Cześćstochower Committee in Paris.

The current committee consists of:

- Prof Lewi – Honorary President
- Dawid Wrocławski – President
- Mojsze Wajnman – General Secretary
- Sam Krzepicki – Treasurer
- Abram Kemski [sic Kremski] – *Président des Fêtes* [Master of Ceremonies]
- Pankowski – *Président Sanitaire* [Health Chairman].

Members of the Executive are: Mal [?] Landau, Awner, Jankel Fiszman, Izzy Lugerner, Marek Swierczewski, Leizer Sender, Maurice Kremski, Charles Zabuski, Leon Wolecki [and] Jakób Szmulewicz. Social Committee: Ester Wrocławski, Ester Altbaum, Andrzej Wajsfelner [and] Różka Lugerner.