

The Great 1925 “*Keren Ha’Yesod*” Fundraiser in Częstochowa

The “*Keren Ha’Yesod*” fundraiser in Częstochowa, which was proclaimed on 16th January 1925, was especially successful, thanks to the participation of the great poet and Zionist activist Leib Jaffe, later a member of the “*Keren Ha’Yesod*” directorate in Jerusalem.

A thousand-strong crowd, who came together with delegations from all Jewish societies and financial institutions, welcomed the important guest from the Land of Israel at the train-station.

That same evening, a festive *akademia* was held at the largest hall in the city - at the hall of the fire department – which was packed full. A large number of the assembled public were not able to enter.



The festive “Keren HaYesod” akademia in 1925, with the participation of Leib Jaffe

The opening of the ceremonial *akademia* was announced with a “guards” trumpet signal, after which the youngsters of “*Ha’Shomer Ha’Tzair*” marched in, [dressed] in their holiday attire.

At their head came the commanders, who carried fluttering blue-white flags, as well as the Polish national flag.

To the sound of the Polish national anthem and the “*Hatikvah*”, played by an orchestra, the Chairman of “*Keren HaYesod*”, Natan Kohn, opened the *akademia*.

Rabbi Nachum Asz was the first to greet the important guest, in the name of the *Prezydium* [Executive Committee]. Subsequently, [he was] greeted by delegations of all institutions and organisations in the following order:

Chaim Weksler – in name of the *Kehilla*, Hebrew; A.A. Szajnfeld – Union of Zionists (also in Hebrew); J.Sz. Koblenz - *Mizrachi*; Sz. Nemirowski – “Retailers’ Union”; Natan Gerichter - *Keren HaYesod*; Stawski – craftsmen’s clubs; A. Kohn – *Hitachdut*; Koplowicz – Zionist Socialist Party “*Tzeirei Zion*”; A. Gotlib – *Poalei Zion*-right; M.Ch. Tiberg (Hebrew) – *Tzeirei Mizrachi*; B. Altman – Zionist Socialists – *HaChalutz*; A. Danziger – *HaChalutz HaMizrachi*; Józef Goldsztajn – “*Tarbut*”; Mrs Weksler – “Women’s Union”, “*Ezrah*”; Lewit – “*HaShachar*” [The Dawn] youth organisation; D. Szlezinger – directorship of the Jewish gymnasium; Dr Sziffer – in the name of the teachers of the Jewish high school; Dr Bram – “*TOZ*” [Jewish Health Care Society]; Natan Kohn - “*Dobroczynność*” [Charity] association; N. Gerszonowicz – “*Gordonia*”; Wajsman – “*Aviv*” [Spring]; I. Gitler – “*HaShomer HaTzair*”; Herszlikowicz – “*Trumpeldor*”; Sztrausberg – “*Beis Lechem*” and Jurkowicz – “*Hachnoses Orchim*”. [They] all pledged to assist in “*Keren HaYesod’s*” fund-raiser.



The “Keren Ha’Yesod” committee, in which all the Zionist parties of the city were represented.

The poet, Leib Jaffe, told of life in the Land of Israel, of the hopes of the Jews in the Land of Israel, of their joys and suffering, of the work and the building and of the Jewish People’s obligation to help build a national home in their home of old.

On the morrow, a general assembly was held at the New Synagogue. Here, the guest gave details on the fighting in the Land of Israel. [He] told of the heroic death of Joseph Trumpeldor, by which the crowd was moved to tear. Describing the plight of the Jews in the exile-lands, the speaker attested that the only way and the only salvation for our people is the Land of Israel.

A festive resolution was adopted, in which the assembled took it upon themselves to aid in the building of the Land of Israel with all their might.

During his visit, the guest visited various Jewish institutions and organisations. He was received everywhere in a very friendly manner and with deference.

At the Merchants’ and Manufacturers’ Union, a great assembly was held with Mr Sz. Rodal as Chairman, at which everyone pledged to participate actively in “*Keren Ha’Yesod’s*” fundraiser. Also, upon his departure, a great crowd accompanied the important guest Leib Jaffe to the train and, there, sang the “*Hatikvah*” with great enthusiasm.