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“The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz” in Częstochowa

The people’s-pioneering movement, “*The Craftsmen’s HaChalutz*” was already established in Wilna in 1933 by the Zionist public figure, Abraham Katz (now lives in the Land of Israel). Its aim was to propagate Zionistic ideas in the wider circles of the craftsmen family.

In Częstochowa, the branch of “*The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz*” was founded in July 1934, at the initiative of the renowned public activist and Zionist public figure, Abram Luzor Szajnfeld, and the craftsmen’s public figures Jakob Lewkowicz, Abram Gotlib, Mojsze Goldberg and Wilinger, as well as the Zionist activists Dr Bram and Dr Messing actively aiding its development.

Some of the activists from the general *Craftsmen’s Union* belonged to the “*The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz*” also. “*The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz*” conducted intensive Zionist-pioneering work amongst workers’ circles. At the beginning, this provoked a certain opposition to “*The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz*”. But, after a short while, when the opposition became convinced that the “*The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz*” dealt only in Zionist and cultural work, a harmonic cooperation was created, and almost half of the 200 craftsmen-members were members of both organisations.



Hebrew courses, lectures on Jewish history, Zionism and also on general social and other Jewish problems were conducted at our organisation’s fine premises (at Aleja 10).

“*The Craftsmen’s Ha’Chalutz*” organisation strove to ensure that members’ wives should also prepare themselves for *Aliyah*, so that they may be able to assist their husbands in their first steps in

the Land of Israel. Members, as is self-evident, also sent their children to Zionist educational institutions.

Due to its importance, the Częstochowa branch of "*The Craftsmen's Ha'Chalutz*" was also represented at the Centre in Warsaw.

From 1935 onwards, the Częstochowa branch, almost at every distribution of certificates, received one or two certificates for its members, who had distinguished themselves through their involvement and were already prepared for their *Aliyah*. Thanks to this, Mojsze Goldberg, Wolf Landsman, Abram Gotlib, Herberg, Izrail Buchman and Laski, Szneur were able to emigrate to the Land of Israel in those years. One of the last, Nuchem Szljach [?] also made *Aliyah* shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. All were good craftsmen and were able to do well in the Land [of Israel].

The Częstochowa branch also received special certificates for the craftsmen who were able to afford £250. Seeing as how, on each certificate, an entire family could emigrate (with children under 18), our branch, during its short existence, saved a several dozen souls from the bitter destiny that put such a tragic end to the entire Częstochowa Jewry.

(May this be some small consolation for those who have remained alive!)