

I met Eizyk at a party dedicated to the founder of YIVO in Vilnius, Dr. Max Wajnrajch, when he was a member of the YIVO Society in Kutno. I remember how Katriel bought a book, which YIVO had reprinted from a very old edition.

It was rumored among the youth that Katriel Eizyk was striving to find a black flower, especially for funeral wreaths.

A strange story happened to him. In the Teachers' Remembrance Book, he was included in the list of those who died during World War II, when Eizyk lived in the Land of Israel after the war. His brother Aharon is also mentioned as a martyr. Katriel Eizyk died in Israel from an illness he contracted during his wandering in Russia.

Here in Israel, he again tried to engage in flower-growing. His wife, a daughter of the Russian people, worked hard to make his life easier and to accompany him as a true life-partner.

Katriel Eizyk was very hospitable, a devoted Jew and patriot. Despite receiving a new farm and land from the new Polish government, he left everything and came to the Land of Israel to begin anew.

His brother Aharon lives today in Kutno. He lives in their old apartment.

There are Kutner residents in Israel today, who received their training thanks to Eizyk, outside Kutno.

### **Yaakov-Shalom the Clockmaker**

Among the worshipers, where my father was davening, was a clockmaker – Yaakov-Shalom Haller. He used to love attacking those religious elements who fought against the new Jewish settlement in *Eretz Israel*. He was never tired of waging a fierce war to Orthodox Jewry.

Years later, I met his son, when we worked together in the pioneering movement, especially at the *Keren Kayemet*. I learned that his father was the overseer of the city clock, and he, Yaakov-Shalom, was rewinding it. In the evening, his son and I used to visit the train station clock, according to which he used to set the city clock, which was found on the City Hall building.

Once, I went up to the clock tower with him and looked from there at my hometown of Kutno. My heart told me that I was absorbing the feeling – forever...

### **Moshe Lubinski**

Every Passover, he would organize a *Seder* night in his private home for the Jewish soldiers of the 37<sup>th</sup> regiment who, for various reasons, had to stay in the barracks. For this, the rabbi used to visit the colonel before the holiday and ask him a leave for the Jewish soldiers.

After their *Seder* at home, people used to visit the *Seder* at Moshe Lubinski's, where they could see Jewish soldiers, with cheerful, festive faces, who were feeling at home and well, like with their parents. Moshe Lubinski and his wife were especially pleased that they had the privilege of fulfilling the *mitzvah* of "All who are hungry, come and eat".

I remember how he once rebuked the people for the fact that some Jews are ashamed to speak Yiddish.

## **KUTNER FIGURES**

*by Yaakov FERENBACH, Nahariya*

### **Katriel Eizyk – The Jewish Farm-Owner**

Outside the city lived Katriel Eyzik, the owner of a farm. (A Jewish landowner was a rare phenomenon in Poland). Katriel Eizyk was a unique man. I remember how he used to go every Sunday morning in his sleigh to pick up the mail.

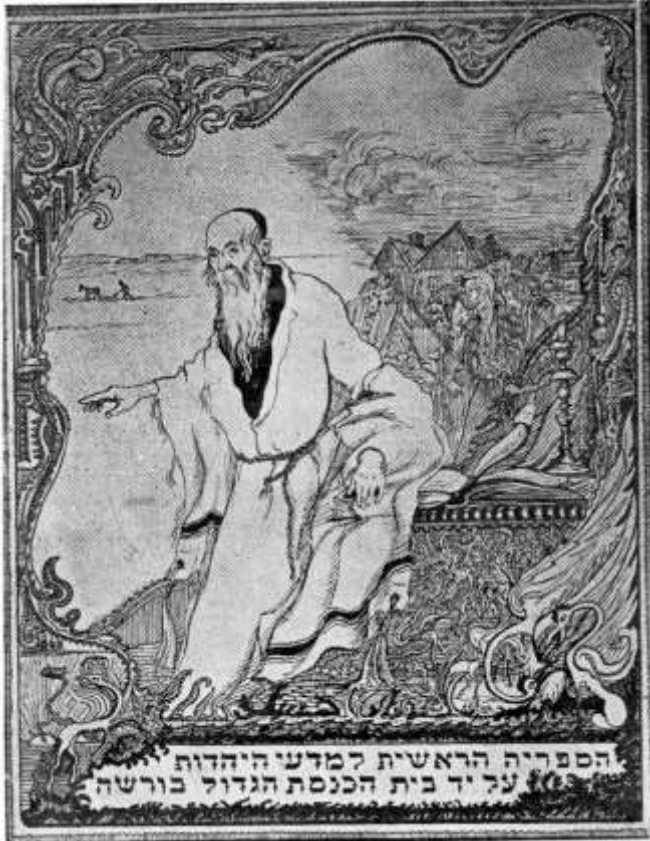
He had a training-kibbutz for Jewish youths who were preparing them to immigrate to Israel.

Katriel Eizyk's specialty was flower-growing.

He was a patron of Jewish culture and art. He is said to have planted the garden at the YIVO House in Vilnius.

### The Last Kutno Rabbi

Shortly before my emigration to Israel, the Kutno Rabbi, Rabbi Yitzhak Yehuda Trunk z"l, passed away. With his death, about six months before the Second World War, the crown of the Jewish community of Kutno, to which it gave so much splendor and beauty, was taken from it. The Kutner rabbi had not only a prestigious pedigree from his father and illustrious grandfather, Rabbi Yehoshele Kutner, but also had one by himself. The last years of his life he devoted to publishing the writings of his illustrious grandfather.



Drawing of Chaim Tyber z"l for the library near the great synagogue in Warsaw, Tłomacka 13. The competition ("Ex-Libris") awarded him 50 złotych

A large funeral was organized for the Kutno Rabbi, as befits such a personality. At the funeral, eulogies were said, which lasted a long time. Circles were made around the deceased, in the *Beit Midrash*, covered with a cloak of his great-grandfather. The funeral lasted until late at night.

### Israel Yehoshua Trunk<sup>1</sup>

I remember reading his articles on psychology in the Warsaw "literary pages". I made efforts to meet him. He left an extraordinary impression on me. We met in Łódź, at the residence of his uncle, the father of Yechiel Yeshayahu Trunk, the author of the 7-volumes "Poyln".

Then, his first Yiddish book about the psychologist Alfred Adler was published. As a sign of friendship, I distributed this booklet among the Jewish intelligentsia.

In Kutno, there was a lung-sufferer, a certain Frenkel. Israel Yehoshua Trunk gave lectures on scientific topics, and the proceeds were set aside for the benefit of the sick Frenkel.

### My Grandfather and Parents

My grandfather, Mr. Moshe-Aharon, passed away in 9 Elul 5677<sup>2</sup>. He used to study with plain Jews, simple artisans in Ein-Yaakov, a synagogue named after Rabbi Leibish. The grandfather visited the Land of Israel when the Turks still ruled the country.

With the most sacred feelings, I remember my father Mr. Abraham-Dov-Berish and my mother Chana-Miryam (born Wisniewska), as well as my sisters Zipora Ferenbach-Bauman and Chaya Ferenbach and my brother-in-law Chaim-Israel Bauman.

<sup>1</sup> TN: AKA Israel Trank. See on pages 270-271 of the original book. Not to be confused with his grandfather, the Gaon of Kutno.

<sup>2</sup> TN: August 27, 1917.