

## A ŁĘCZYCER IN FRANCE

by David WACHTEL, Paris

translated from the Yiddish by Carole Turkeltaub Borowitz and David Shirman.

With reverence and a shiver in heart I am setting of to write about my snowy hometown Łęczyca, which I had left in 1927 emigrating to France. And how can one forget you, city of childhood and youth, with your great Jewish organizations, institutions, parties and societies? What is preserved best in my memory is the drama group (in which I had also acted).

As a novice, I had a hard time on Paris soil. Already before the war serious attempts were made in the capital city of France to establish a homeland association ("Société") for our townsmen. The outbreak of war had brought all these attempts and plans to nothing.

My experiences in the occupied France are a chapter of their own. Thanks to the kindness of several Frenchmen, I have managed to survive through the war.

After the liberation, the efforts of the survivors of Łęczyca to create a society was even greater. The first memorial service in the Lancry Hall attracted a huge audience. But we were too few in Paris to maintain such an organization solely by our own means. Therefore, it was natural to get in touch with the Kutno homeland association, under whose hospitable roof, and in collaboration

with people from several neighboring towns, we find ourselves nowadays and will continue with our collaborative activities.



Remembrance Day by the gravestone of Łęczyca, (in Polish) "On the 4th anniversary of the mourning for our Parents, Brothers and Sisters murdered by the Hitlerian barbarians. Łęczyca 10 V 1946"