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By Genazym
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LOT 56:
Ledger of the Chevra Kadisha of Tomashvar. 1781-1829.

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Ledger of the Chevra Kadisha of Tomashvar. 1781-1829.

Historic ledger from one of oldest Jewish communities in Transylvania. This official ledger of the Chevra Kadisha of the Tomashvar Jewish community documents the society's activities between the years 1781-1829 and contains dozens of handwritten lists, signatures, and autographs of community Rabbanim, most notably among them Harav Dovid Oppenheim and Harav Tzvi Hirsh Oppenheim.

The ledger also features the policies, standards, and rules of the Chevra Kadisha, list of Cheva Kadisha members, list of community members, and payments to the Chevra Kadisha, along with the authorizations of the society's directors and accountants.

Harav Dovid Oppenheim (1750-1821) authored Nachlas Dovid on the Torah. He was the great-grandson and namesake of Harav Dovid Oppenheim — a disciple of Maharam Berabi. In 1798, he was appointed as Av Beis Din of Tomshavar, Transylvania where he gained international repute for his brilliant mind and extensive halachic responsa. He corresponded frequently with the Chasam Sofer regarding Yoreh Deah questions . Eulogies given about him were preserved in Likutei Chaver ben Chaim Vol. 1

His son **Harav Tzvi Hirsh Oppenheim (1797-1859)** was a disciple of Maharam Bennett and succeeded his father in 1821 as Rav of Tomashvar. One of the chief Rabbanim who spearheaded the public battle against Aharon Chorin, the Hungarian rabbi-turned-heretic who pioneered early religious Reform, Harav Tzvi Hirsh published Einei Hadaas to dispute his teachings. His efforts to battle the Reform earned him the respect and approbation of the Chasam Sofer who included eight of the letters that he penned to Harav Tzi Hirsch Oppenheim in Shu"t Chasam Sofer and inscribed "I am acquainted with this man and his teachings. He is illustrious, sharp, and well-versed in Torah; he served great sages and is regarded as a tzaddik..."

The ledger also features lists signed by Harav Dovid Oppenheim and dozens of other lists and signatures in the handwriting of his son Harav Tzvi Hirsh Oppenheim. It is interesting to note that Harav Menachem Mendel Panet of Dash identified Harav Dovid Oppenheim's handwriting from letters that he'd sent to his father, the "Mareh Yechezkel". In his approbation to the sefer Nachlas Dovid, he praises the beautiful, impressive handwriting.

Tomashvar, 1829-1829. [5] 183 leaves. Large, impressive ledger. Page size: 36x24cm. Numerous moth holes. Original red leather binding.

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