CONTINUATION

Poem for Edmund Kessler's Birthday

Your hopes and dreams
Your unfulfilled expectations
Passed on through me
Your continuation.

Your bitter disappointments
The price of life's exactations
Yearn for fulfillment in me
The Second Generation

The words you wrote in secret
About our family
Our people
Our tribulation
Become my revelation

Now we are
One mind
One heart
One purpose

The dignity you were denied
The words that were not said
Find their voice in mine
Where father stops
And daughter starts
I do not know
The hazy lines between life and death
Cannot be explained
I only know the task left unfinished
Still remains

This task defines what I must do
This book, my birthday gift to you
To share the history of our nation
This bond of love
Our continuation.

Written June 2, 2007 by Renata Kessler

Wedding Portrait of Edmund and Fryderyka Kessler
Lwów, Poland, 1937

*In memory of my parents, Edmund
and Fryderyka Kessler and their rescuers,
Wojciech and Katarzyna Kalwinski,
who along with their son Kazimierz,
risked their lives and those of their
family to save twenty-four Jews during
the Holocaust.*

*I would also like to acknowledge my
late cousin Henryka Lyszczaak,
her husband Wiktor Lyszczaak,
and their friend Jacek Bukowski
who encouraged me in this endeavor.*

*Written in memoriam for Ruth Dorfman
and Berta Mandel and all others
who perished in the Shoah
so that their voices might be heard.*