

AKERMAN Dawid (1881–), craftsman. Social activist. He was born on 13th September 1881 in Lublin, the son of Hersz and Gitla née Bojmgold. At the age of fourteen, he came to Częstochowa as a bronze work apprentice. Two years later, he left for Warsaw. There, he joined the Bund. In 1903, he returned to Częstochowa.

Here, he met Dawid Malarski, → Mendel Szuchter, Majer Fajnrajch and Kopel Gerichter, and became one of those most active in the organisation of socialist Zionists. During the strike at the Weinberg factory, he met → Józef Kruk, who involved him in the work of the party. Together with → Aron and Nachum Syngałowski, Akerman established an organisation of socialist Zionists in Częstochowa. When, in 1905, Dawid Malarski was arrested, Akerman was sent to Warsaw, where he learned the “technique” that was helpful in freeing Malarski from prison. During the strike in October 1905, as a committee representative, he was in charge of feeding the striking Jewish workers at Gold’s teahouse.

In 1909, he went to Warsaw and, a year later, left for London. There, he worked as a silversmith, later opening his own workshop creating popular jewellery. Over time, he expanded his business, exporting and importing popular ornaments and haberdashery. In 1924-25, he became involved with a group of socialist Zionists led, earlier, by J. Kruk. Akerman, together with D. Dawidowicz, took part in the establishment of ORT in London, as well as in a number of communal and aid projects. Kruk and other communal leaders, when visiting London, would stay in his home in Stamford Hill.

His wife (from 1906) was Chana Ajchel from Lublin, a social activist. After 1945, they became involved in helping the Jewish inhabitants of Częstochowa. They had three sons, one of whom, Jerome, was a pilot in the British Air Force.

Czenstochower Yidn, pp. III, IV, 117, 323.

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