

ASSORODOBRAJ (ASORODOBRAJ) Nachman Naum (1877–1943), engineer, teacher and school principal. He was a craftsman and a city councillor. Born on 10th December 1877 in Dubrowno (Belarus), he was the son of Mowsza and Nichana née Kisin.

He graduated from the *Realschule* in Warsaw and, in 1904, graduated from the Rotwand and Wawelberg Mechanical-Technical School. On 29th March 1905, he became head of the Crafts School for Jews and transformed it into a modern technical school. He introduced annual examinations and scholarships for the most talented students for them to continue their technical studies education. With the aid of the ICA Jewish Colonisation Society, he equipped school workshops with modern equipment and replaced petrol engines, which emitted toxic fumes, with electric ones. He hired good teachers - Aks (Russian, arithmetic, nature studies), Abram Awner (Polish and German languages), → Perec Willenberg (hand-drawing) and Wajsberg (Hebrew language and Jewish history). Here, he taught geometry, physics, technology and technical drawing. The school which, at first, had a problem with recruiting students, now gained a reputation as a first-class institution and was popular not only in Częstochowa, but also in other surrounding towns.

After the outbreak of World War I, he left for Russia and, in 1918, returned to Częstochowa. After the War, when emigration to Palestine began, at the school, he launched evening locksmith and carpentry courses where, in just a few months, dozens of adults received an elementary technical education.

Assorodobraj was active within the craft fields. In 1912, at his initiative (with the engineer → Paweł Rattner), the Jewish Resursa Rzemieślnicza [Craft] was established. From April 1914, he served as its chairman. Later, after the Resursa was transformed into the Częstochowa branch of the Central Union of Jewish Craftsmen in Poland, he again served as chairman at the beginning of the 1920s. In 1913, he was a member of the Council of the Second Częstochowa Craftsmen's Loan and Savings Society. In 1919, he was one of the founders of the "Samopomoc" cooperative. In that same year, he was also a co-founder of the Częstochowa branch of the Trade Union of Jewish School Teachers. From November 1906, he was a member of the Society for the Propagation of Knowledge. He involved himself in patriotic activities, among them being, in 1919, while collecting funds for a Polish recruit, he collected money in the area of Częstochowa's *Stare Miasto* [Old Town].

In that same year, representing the Jewish Electoral Committee, he ran for election to the city council. He became a deputy councillor and, in 1923, he

gained a seat on the city council following the resignation of → Mojżesz Zandsztajn. He left the school at the end of 1920 and left for Warsaw to take up a position as an inspector for the Organisation for the Development of Industrial, Craft and Agricultural Creativity amongst the Jewish Population of Poland (ORT). Probably, in the mid-1920's, he left for Warsaw, where he lived on ul. Senatorska. In the 1930s, he moved to Grodno, where he worked as an inspector of ORT schools. During the German occupation, he was in the Grodno ghetto. From there, in January or February 1943, he was transported to a death camp where he perished (in Treblinka or Auschwitz-Birkenau - his family states Majdanek).

His first wife (from 1st June 1907) was Rywka (5th June 1879 Warsaw – 16th August 1925 Skolimów) nee Wierchowska, daughter of Lewi and Chaja nee Kryśławin. She was buried in Warsaw, in the Jewish Cemetery on Okopowa. He remarried, marrying his wife's younger sister, Tamara (21st December 1889 Warsaw - 20th July 1982) nee Wierchowska, daughter of Lewi and Chaja nee Kryśławin, a geography teacher in the Jewish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. She was buried in the Evangelical-Reformed cemetery in Warsaw. With his first wife, he had two daughters - Nina Assorodobraj-Kula (2nd November 1908 Częstochowa - 6th November 1999 Warsaw) - a Polish sociologist, a historian of social thought, a professor at Warsaw University 1935-77, and Leonia (10th September 1913 Częstochowa -), [who] married Kahan, later known as Leokadia Służewska.

To była wspaniała szkoła. Z dziejów Szkoły im. H. Wawelberga i S. Rotwanda w Warszawie (1895–1951). W stulecie założenia szkoły, by H. Świątkiewicz, Warsaw 1995, p. 204; *Czenstochower Jidn*, p. 69; Rędziński, *Szkolnictwo żydowskie*, p. 40; Sobalski, *Związki zawodowe, stowarzyszenia*, pp. 131, 136; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 166; B. Temkin-Bermanowa, *Dziennik z podziemia*, Warsaw 2000. - *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 189, 193; "Rzemieślnik Żydowski" (one-off), pp. 2, 3. - "Express Częstochowski" 1928, No. 184, p. 5; "Gazeta Częstochowska" 1909, No. 136, p. 8; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1909, No. 181, p. 2, 1919, No. 88, p. 2; "Częstochower Cajtung" 1929, No. 38, p. 3. – Minutes Register of the Society for the Propagation of Knowledge in Częstochowa, Book 3 (in the collection of Krzysztof Dziuba from Częstochowa).

Wiesław Paszkowski, Juliusz Sętowski