

ASZ Leon Lejb (1899-1942), lawyer, sports and crafts activist, city councillor. He was born on 2nd June 1899 in Częstochowa, the son of Rabbi → Nachum and Sura née Arenstein (1861-1928).

In 1918, Asz graduated from the H. Sienkiewicz Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and began studying in the Law Faculty of the Jagiellonian University. In 1923, he studied in that University's Philosophy Department. He gained his Doctorate of Laws and, in 1928, he completed his legal apprenticeship and was accepted as a trainee barrister based in Częstochowa. After passing the examination, on 8th July 1931, he was sworn in before the Warsaw Bar Council. He ran a legal practice in Częstochowa (at ul. Piłsudskiego 9, later at No. 11 and, from 1938, at ul. Katedralna 9).

In 1934, he was a member of the board of the Rzemieślniczy Bank Spółdzielczy [Craft Cooperative Bank]. In 1940, the bank's supervisory board proposed him as the liquidator of that institution. Asz was an active in sports. In 1929-33, he served as president of the Jewish Gymnastics and Sports Association. From December 1933, he was vice-president of the "Makabi" Jewish Gymnastics and Sports Association.

He was also active in the area of crafts. He was honorary secretary of the Union of Jewish Craftsmen in Poland. In 1928, marking the 15th anniversary of the Częstochowa branch of the Union, (with his brother Mieczysław) he developed a publishing house called "Jewish Craft" [*Rzemieślnik Żydowski*]. He served as secretary of the Częstochowa committee of the Palestine Reconstruction Fund (Keren Hayesod). He was also a member of the local branch of the Polish Red Cross. In 1939, he was elected to the Częstochowa City Council, representing the United Jewish Electoral Bloc. During the occupation, he was head of the Main Secretariat of the Council of Elders (Judenrat). At the beginning of October 1942, he was transported to the Treblinka death camp and was murdered there.

Kulczykowski, *Żydzi – studenci UJ*, p. 506; *Sienkiewiczacy*, p. 42 (biography). - *Przewodnik gospodarczy województw: kieleckiego, krakowskiego i śląskiego 1938*. - Brener, *Widersztand*, p. 13; A. Gelbard, *19 teg in trebinke*, in: *Sefer Czenstochow*, Vol. 2, Jerusalem 1968, col. 164; Małolepszy, *Kultura fizyczna*, p. 74; Surma-Jończyk, *Spółdzielczość Żydów*, p. 279; Szwed, *Radni m. Częstochowy*, p. 48. – "Częstochower Cajtung" 1931, No. 28, p. 5, 1934, No. 8, p. 5, 1936, No. 14, p. 4, No. 15, p. 2, No. 17, p. 3, 1938, No. 40, p. 1; "Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości" 1928, No. 9, p. 148; "Express Częstochowski" 1928, No. 184, p. 5, No. 280, p. 3, 1930, No. 136, p. 3; "Nasz Głos Powszechny" 1936, No. 5, p. 3; "Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie" 1930, No. 136, p. 3. - W.P. „Lista pomordowanych pracowników wymiaru sprawiedliwości i adwokatów 1939–1945”, p. 1 (typed manuscript in

the collection of the State Archives in Piotrków Trybunalski). - Materials (excerpts from Registry books) in the ODDC collection.

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski