

BEM Aleksander (1885–), trader, political, social and local government activist. He was born on 19th June 1885 in Częstochowa, the son of Józef, a merchant and Chaja Sura née Reichman (Rajchman). He was the brother of → Karol (Kopel).

He was a trader, co-owner of a pharmacy store (at I Aleja 6). He ran co-operative activities. In 1916, he co-founded and, later, was a board member of “Strzecha Robotnicza” Workers’ Cooperative (offices at I Aleja 12). He was a leading activist of the Jewish Social-Democratic Workers Party Poalei Zion. In November 1918, representing that party, he joined the Częstochowa Workers’ Council.

On 10th December 1918, at a meeting of the City Council, Bern and other representatives of workers’ parties were co-opted onto the City Council – in accordance with an order of the Interior Minister. In 1919, he was elected to the City Council as a representative of Poalei Zion. From that year, he was a member of the Council’s Economic & Audit Committee. In 1921, at one of the Council’s sessions, he moved a motion to establish the Municipal Health Office.

Bem married twice. He first married Dwojra née Warszawska (14th January 1888 Częstochowa -), with whom he had a son Kazimierz (14th July 1914 Częstochowa -) who, in 1932, graduated from the R. Traugutt II State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and who, after 1945, was in Canada. His second wife was Zulejka Jadwiga Kachel (23rd July 1900 Warsaw -).

Bąkowski, *Z dziejów walk klasowych*, p. 70; *Czenstochower Jidn*, pp. 154, 175; Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, pp. 164, 205; Sobalski, *Związki zawodowe i stowarzyszenia*, pp. 70, 136; “Traugutt”, p. 233 (regarding his son). - “Goniec Częstochowski” 1921, No. 38, p. 3; “Nasz Świat” 1957, No. 1 (9), p. 9 (regarding his son); *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 241 (regarding his son). - APCz, Mag.Cz. 5026, sheet 8, 5583.

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski