

Women in the Financial Arena

In Częstochowa, there was an entire array of women, who played a respected role in economic, communal and political life. There were women, whose husbands studied [Torah] day and night or who busied themselves with communal affairs and, as a result, these women ran the businesses.

In the forefront of the financial arena, four women were known - Mrs Frydrych, Mrs Openhajn, Mrs Birenholc and Mrs Stopnicka.

Frydrych, the wife of Lajbisz Frydrych, who lived at Aleja 2, ran a shop with products from the *Częstochowianka* factory and, later, she manufactured similar products herself.

Openhajn, Jochanan Openhajn's wife, was the owner of an ironmonger's at ul. Narutowicza 10.

Birenholc, the wife of Burech Birenholc, specialised in children's outfits, at first at ul. Narutowicza 3 and, later, at Nowy Rynek 10.

Stopnicka, Aron Stopnicki's wife, had a glass shop, first at ul. Narutowicza 12 and, later, at Nowy Rynek 14.

These women began running their businesses in 1906, and they attained great respectability in financial life.

With the onset of the Nazi era, Mrs Frydrych managed to emigrate, with her two daughters, to the Land of Israel. Mrs Openhajn died of natural causes. Mrs Birenholc and Mrs Stopnicka, on the other hand, were deported from Częstochowa to Treblinka, where they were annihilated along with the fifty thousand Jews of Częstochowa.