

**FISZEL** Abram (1885-1942), cantor, music teacher. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1885 in Sosnowice (Sosnowiec), the son of Mordechaj Markus and Liba Chana.

He was an extremely well-educated outstanding cantor. “He was a beautifully, resonant baritone. He presented himself well at the pulpit, reciting beautifully, classically and musically”.

He came to Częstochowa when, in 1914, after the first cantor of the New Synagogue and his teacher, → Abraham Ber Birnbaum resigned, he became his replacement. In addition, he was a music teacher in the Jewish primary schools and at the Jewish Gimnazjum. He also led various choirs, e.g., in 1934, the student choirs at all three Jewish comprehensive schools. In the 1938/1939 school year, he was employed at the No. 12 Comprehensive School (at ul. Przemysłowa 10/14).

He lived in the New Synagogue building and, on Christmas Day 1939, when it was set on fire, he and his family managed to escape at the last moment. As he was left with no roof over his head, he lived in a small house in the synagogue’s yard and did not want to leave the place where he had served as cantor for many years. He led services in the basement of the burnt-out synagogue building. On the day of Yom Kippur, 21<sup>st</sup> September 1942, before being deported to the extermination camp, all day he prayed there with a crowd of the faithful. He was fatally shot on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1942. According to one version, he perished when a Ukrainian policeman shot blindly into a crowd of Jews at the bus station square, near the New Synagogue. According to another version, a German policeman, riding a bicycle, ordered Fiszel to run after him. When he could not keep up, he was put up against the wall of a house and shot. He is buried in one of the mass graves on ul. Kawia in Częstochowa.

His wife, Helena née Minc (1892-1942), and three of their daughters, perished in Treblinka. Their fourth daughter, Laja Danciger, survived. During the occupation, she lived in Łódź and, after the War, settled in Israel.

*Czenstochower Yidn*, p. 216; *Sefer Czenstochow I*, cols. 715, 716; *Czenstochow*, pp. 13, 14. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1926, No. 9, p. 1; 1931, No. 34, p. 5; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1917, No. 101 (4<sup>th</sup> May), p. 3, 1934, No. 109, pp. 3, 4.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**