

**GANCWAJCH** Izrael Lejb (after 1924 “Ivon GANS”) (1897-1963)<sup>1</sup>, Zionist, journalist, merchant. He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1897 in Częstochowa, the son of Hirsz Gancwajch and Rywka Brandla née Jezower.

He received his religious upbringing in his parents’ home. At the age of thirteen, he entered the gimnazjum. Influenced by modern, Jewish literature, he became an ardent Zionist. His comrades were Eliezer Płocki, secretary of the Zionist Organisation in Częstochowa, and well-known writer → Wolf Wiewiórka. In 1919, he came to Berlin, where he continued his studies. He later left for Antwerp, where he lived until 1924.

In that same year, he quit his studies and began trading in diamonds, while, continuing his Zionist activities. He worked together with Dr. Kubowicki and Dr. Prużański. He served as commissioner of the Jewish National Fund (KKL) and wrote articles for the Belgian Zionist periodical.

In 1924, he left for Australia, settling in Melbourne and trading in butter. He changed his name to “Ivon Gans”. In 1946, he founded the Częstochower Centre of which, from 1956, he was the chairman.<sup>2</sup>

*Czenstochower Jidn*, p. XIV. - APCz, Unit No.58, birth record No. 443/1897.

**Wiesław Paszkowski**

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: He died in Melbourne on 29th July 1963 aged 65 and was buried in the Jewish section of the Melbourne General Cemetery – Grave No.MGC-JEW-Comp-I\_No-469. His matzeva (headstone) shows that he was born in Częstochowa on 28th December 1897, that he was married to Helen and had no children and that he was the brother of Bella, Gucia, Abram, Miriam, and Ruzska.]