

**GELBARD** (GELBART) Jerzy (1894-1944), architect, painter, graphic artist. He was born on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1894 in Częstochowa, the son of → Adolf Abram and Gustawa (1st January 1869 Piotrków - 19<sup>th</sup> July 1942 Warsaw) née Kohn, the brother of Seweryna Halina (1892 - 1942?), who perished during the occupation, and Alina, doctor, married to → Józef Wierzbowski who, after the War, lived in Łódź.

In 1912, he graduated from the Gustaw Kościński No.I Polish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. As a student at the gimnazjum, he belonged to the local "Linia Ha'Tzedek" Society for Helping Poor and Sick Jews. In 1912-14, he studied at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. The outbreak of war, in 1914, found him in Częstochowa. At that time, he became friends with painter → Eugeniusz Zak, who was related to him through Zak's wife Jadwiga, the daughter of → Dr. Edward Kohn. In Częstochowa, they shared a studio and, for a certain period, Gelbard was influenced by Zak's work.

From November 1918 until 1920, he served in the Polish Army, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiment of the Legions. From 1918, from the second year, he studied at the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology. In 1922, he received his diploma as an engineer-architect. In 1916-19, he exhibited his paintings in the gallery of the Society for the Promotion of Fine Arts in Warsaw. In 1917-22, he was friends with poets from the "Skamandra" circle. He prepared its publications graphically, including a portfolio of lithographs to texts by Antoni Słonimski's *Cyrk* ["Circus"].

In 1920-25, he travelled to Paris several times. He undertook his interrupted architectural studies at the École des Beaux Arts. He also attended the École des Arts Decoratifs. He also worked in an architectural office, specialising in reinforced concrete structures. He travelled to Italy, Brittany and Normandy. He devoted a lot of time to painting - painting portraits, landscapes and still-lives. Gelbard considered himself to be a painter, also as a poster artist. In 1923, together with Tadeusz Gronowski and Antoni Borman, he established the "Plakat" graphics studio, which was active in the fields of advertising graphics and interior design. In 1925, he worked with a Polish exhibition organisation at the International Exhibition of Decorative Art. In 1926, he exhibited his own work (two paintings) at the Autumn Salon in Paris and, in 1934 and 1935, at the Winter Salons of the Institute of Propaganda Art.

After his return to Warsaw, he took up architectural design. Together with Roman Sigalin, he ran an architectural office on ul. Sienna. He designed

industrial buildings, public buildings, schools (including, in 1936-38, the building of the Częstochowa Jewish Gimnazjum), restaurants, cinemas (including, in 1929, together with Grzegorz Sigalin, the "Casino" cinema in Częstochowa), and residential buildings (tenements and villas). Projects created by him or by his team (together with G. Sigalin, Lucjan Korngold and Witold Woyniewicz) were displayed in exhibitions of the Association of Polish Architects. They were published by Polish and foreign specialist magazines. They received awards and distinctions at competitions, including designs for Warsaw's main railway station (together with R. Sigalin and W. Woyniewicz, an award, 1929), the building of the National Audit Office on al. Szucha in Warsaw (3<sup>rd</sup> prize) and the building of the Sickness Fund in Sosnowiec (prepared with the team, 1<sup>st</sup> prize).

During the German occupation, he was forced to live in the Warsaw ghetto. (He shared an apartment with Roman Kramsztyk). At that time, he drew and painted a lot, which was an escape from the reality of life in the ghetto. Together with architect Maksymilian Goldberg, he worked at a school where he taught drawing and architecture to children. Due to a lung disease, he spent some time in Otwock. After returning to Warsaw, thanks to his Polish friends, he received documents in the name of "Stanisław Kostek Kwiatkowski. He hid with Kazimiera Żuławska (the widow of the writer Jerzy Żuławski). In 1943, he was arrested and, for eleven months, he was held in Pawiak prison. He was then transported to the Majdanek camp. He was not identified by the Germans and worked there as a gardener. He perished in 1944, during the evacuation of the camp. At the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery (grave No. 1140 I), there is a symbolic inscription dedicated to Adolf, Gustawa, Seweryna and Jerzy Gelbard. Gelbard's painting, *Głowa marynarza* ["Sailor's Head"], is in the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw. Several of his posters are in the Poster Museum in Wilanów.

His wife (from 1922, in Paris) was Izabella née Szwartz (1897-1969), aka Hertz. She used the alias "Stefania Czajka" (after 1945, after marrying Władysław Stachowicz, she used the surname Czajka-Stachowicz). She studied the history of art at the University of Warsaw and, later, at the University of Berlin. She ran her own bookstore in Paris. From 1931, she published literary works. Thanks to her husband's efforts, she was taken out of the ghetto. She survived the occupation in Dobrzyń near Otwock, hidden by the Kowalówko family. From 1945, she was a cultural-education officer for the Education Ministry in Katowice. She later worked at the National Museum. She was the author of reports, stories and articles for the "Przekrój" and "Świat" magazines.

S. Łoza, *Architekci i budowniczowie w Polsce*, Warszawa 1954, pp. 91, 280; Paszkowski, *Budynek Żydowskiego Gimnazjum*, p. 164; Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 277

(regarding the family); *SAP*, vol. II (E. Mościbrodzka–Derecka), pp. 300–301 (regarding his wife). - *Ten jest z ojczyzny mojej. Polacy z pomocą Żydom 1939–1945*, edited by W. Bartoszewski, Z. Lewinówna, ed. III, Warszawa 2007, p. 505 (also regarding his wife). – “*Express Częstochowski*” 1928, No. 175, p. 3, 1929, No. 48, p. 2; “*Goniec Częstochowski*” 1932, No. 196, p. 3. - *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 292. - [www. zycie-i-tworczosc-architektow-jerzego-gelbarda-i-romana-sigalina/](http://www.zycie-i-tworczosc-architektow-jerzego-gelbarda-i-romana-sigalina/).

**Juliusz Sętowski**