

**GERICHTER** (GERYCHTER) Natan Nathiel (1858-1926), trader, Zionist and charity activist. He was born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1858 in Częstochowa, the son of Chil (1816-1877?), the owner of several real estate properties in Częstochowa who, in 1870-72, rented premises to the Russian army. His mother was Gitla (1824-1912) née Sztokman.

As a trader, Gerichter ran a grain warehouse in Częstochowa (at ul. Warszawska 12, and a sales office at ul. Warszawska 5). He was extremely active for charity. He led to the establishment of the *Hachnasat Orchim* brotherhood and founded the premises for that organisation. In 1886, he was co-founder and later (until 1926) a member of the board of the "Linat Ha'Tzedek" Aid Society for Poor and Sick Jews (previously known as the "Bikur Cholim" brotherhood). He was also a co-founder and long-time board member of the "Dobroczyńność" Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). In the TDdŻ, he co-headed the Nursing the Poor Department. He was a board member of the anti-begging department and the committee for support and loans.

He belonged to the board of the Hebrew Courses Association and courses for the illiterate at the Craft School for Jews. As a business activist, Gerichter belonged to the loans committee of the Częstochowa Mutual Loan Society and also to the audit committee of the "Achdus" Cooperative.

He was involved in Zionist activities. He was a member of *Chowewej Syjon* (Lovers of Zions). He later belonged to the board of the "Agudas Ha'Cyjonim" Zionist Association. He was active in collecting funds for Zionist activities. He was treasurer of Keren Kayemet (Jewish National Fund). During the war with the Bolsheviks, in August 1920, he made a financial donation to the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier (through the local Jewish Community Council). In 1921, he was co-founder of the Częstochowa Association of Jewish Secondary Schools. Representing that organisation, he co-founded the Jewish community gimnazjum.

He lived at ul. Warszawska 5. He died on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1926 in Krynica. His body was transported to Częstochowa, where he was buried in the Jewish cemetery.

Gerichter was married twice. His first wife (married in Praszka in 1883) was Hendla née Sudowicz (1863 Praszka - 13<sup>th</sup> February 1901 Częstochowa), the daughter of Dawid and Rajzla née Kempieński (?). They had three sons:

- Dawid (7<sup>th</sup> July 1884 - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1942), trader, who was murdered during the deportation of Jews from the Częstochowa ghetto
- → Chil;

- Zygmunt Szaja (2<sup>nd</sup> October 1892 Częstochowa-) who, in 1916, was a board member of the Courses for the Illiterate at the Craft School for Jews.

Gerichter's second wife was Laja (1<sup>st</sup> December 1863 Częstochowa-) née Openheim (Openhajn) aka Winer, the daughter of Szaja and Fajgla née Wajskopf.

Madej, *Rosyjski garnizon wojskowy*, p. 354 (regarding his father); Prüffer, *Szkolnictwo w Częstochowie*, p. 26 (regarding son Zygmunt); Sobalski, *Związki zawodowe, stowarzyszenia*, pp. 135, 136; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 160 (regarding son Chil). – "Częstochower Cajtung" 1926, no. 33, pp. 1, 4, 1932, No. 33, p. 5; "Dziennik Częstochowski" 1906, No. 107, p. 2; "Gazeta Częstochowska" 1909, No. 136, p. 8; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1920, No. 204, p. 3; "Nowy Express Częstochowski" 1926, No. 138, p. 3 (obituary). – "Biuletyn Instytutu Filozoficzno-Historycznego WSP w Częstochowie" 1998, No. 10 (1), p. 37 (Z. Grądzielski). - *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 187, 234, 291, 310; *Przewodnik po Wystawie Przemysłu i Rolnictwa*, p. 13; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 7. - USC Częstochowa, 1926, death record No. 131, k. 33; death record No. 263/1948 (Son Dawid). - Materials (excepts from registration books) in the ODDC collection.

**Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski**