

GINSBERG Herman Gerszon (1868-1933) chemical engineer, pioneer of Polish industry, member of the Jewish Community Council, charity activist. He was born on 14th or 28th April 1868 in Częstochowa, the son of → Karol, an industrialist, and Rozalia née Kohn.

He began his studies at the Polytechnic University of Zurich in the winter semester of 1889 and graduated on 16th January 1892 with a diploma in chemical engineering (Diploma No. 8683). In 1893 (following the death of his father), he took over the family business. (In 1898, he was co-owner of the Paper Factory and Cardboard and Cylinder Mills.) In 1897, together with → Jan Grossman, → Szymon Neuman and → Henryk Markusfeld, he founded the "Warta" Jute Spinning and Weaving Plant. He soon became the company's president and managing director, a position which he held until his death. Administrative management was exercised by → Szymon Senior. Technical director was the engineer Roman Brzeziński. Factory production was managed by engineer → Aleksander Poznański.

Circa 1908, Ginsberg left for Warsaw permanently. This was probably related to his participation in the transformation of a chemical plant in Strzemieszyce and the establishment of the "Strem" Chemical Plant (with an office in Warsaw at ul. Mazowiecka 7). Ginsberg was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Bank Zachodni. In 1927, (alongside Erno Turnai), he was manager of the Automor Polish-American Association of Engineers in Warsaw.

He was active in charitable works. In 1899, he founded and was first president of the "Dobroczytność" Charitable Society for Jews (TdDŻ), of which he later became an honorary member. He sat on the board of the Talmud Torah. From 1909, he belonged to the building committee of the TDdŻ Hospital, financially supporting the hospital's building and equipment (including, in 1913, paying 500 rubles towards that project). He was a member of the Jewish Community Council.

He died on 16th November 1933 in Vienna and, on 20th November 1933, his remains were interred in crypt No. 13030 in the Friedhof Feuerhalle Cemetery in the Simmering district of Vienna. On that day, a memorial service was held in the New Synagogue in Częstochowa.

His wife was his cousin Leonia Laja née Ginsberg, the daughter of Wilhelm and Estera née Landau (6th April 1875 Łódź-). They had three children - daughter Róża (17th June 1902 Częstochowa-), and sons → Ernest Jan and → Karol (1896-).

Sobalski, *Przemysł częstochowski*, pp. 60, 95, 164. - "Częstochower Cajtung" 1933, No. 48, pp. 1 and 6; "Gazeta Handlowa" 1929, No. 54 (6th March), p. 3; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1918, No. 146, p. 4, 1933, No. 265, pp. 2, 3; "Tygodnik Handlowy" 1928, No. 2 (6th January), p. 15. - *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*; p. 289; *Rocznik częstochowski. Kalendarz 1903*; pp. 91, 94; *Sprawozdanie Tow. Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 21.— APCz, birth record No. 49/1868 (of H. Ginsberg), birth record No. 330/1902 (of daughter).

Wiesław Paszkowski