

GINSBERG Karol Kopel (1833-1893), merchant, industrialist, communal activist. He was born on 1st November 1833 in Częstochowa, the son of Jakub and Salka née Dawidowicz.

He was engaged in business. From circa 1872, together with → Berek Kohn, he was owner of the K. Ginsberg and Kohn American Mill and Paper Factory (at ul. Krakowska 19). At the end of the 19th century, it was renamed as the Paper, Cardboard and Tube Factory. From 1879, along with Ginsberg and Kohn, the co-owners of the factory were → Ludwik Kohn and → Leopold Kohn. It was one of the largest factories in the Kingdom of Poland. (In 1885, it employed 215 workers.)

Ginsberg was active with the Volunteer Fire Brigade (SOO). On 17th December 1876, he was invited to a meeting of the city's most eminent citizens to advise on methods of maintaining the SOO in Częstochowa. In 1883-84, he served on the SOO's board of management.

From the 1870s, he belonged, and made donations, to the Agricultural Settlements and Craft Shelters Society (which organised correctional facilities for young criminals and took care of them upon their release). He also donated large sums towards charity work in Częstochowa including, in 1882, donating 100 rubles for this purpose.

From February 1883, he belonged to, and was president of, the synagogue supervisory board (elected together with → Leopold Kohn and → Leon Oppenheim). As a supporter of *Haskala* (the Jewish enlightenment emanating from Germany) he tried, without success, to reform the religious customs of the members of the community. He also planned to close the cemetery near Kucelin and buy a property closer to the city. These actions caused dissatisfaction within the Częstochowa Jewish community, with the Orthodox and *Chassidim* blocking the changes. Ginsberg and his supporters left the city synagogue and created several, separate *minyanim*¹. They applied to the authorities for permission to build a new synagogue. The New Synagogue was built in 1899, after his death.

Ginsberg died on 11th May 1893 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery (grave No. 1325 II).

¹ [TN: A "minyan" is a quorum of a minimum of ten post-bar mitzvah males required to conduct a prayer service.]

Om 21st August 1885, in Częstochowa, he married Rozalia née Kohn, the daughter of → Berek Kohn. Their son was → Herman.

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 8. - Kon, *Monografia Straży Ogniovej*, pp. 6, 12; Paszkowski, *Na częstochowskim Cmentarzu Żydowskim*, pp. 8, 285–288; Sobalski, *Przemysł częstochowski*, pp. 44, 45, 164. - "Kartka Ogłoszeń Handlowych, Przemysłowych i Informacyjnych" 1883, No. 7, p. 1; "Tydzień" (Piotrków) 1883, No. 6, p. 4. - "Rocznik Tow. Osad Rolnych" 1880; *60. sprawozdanie Straży Ogniovej*, p. 3.

Wiesław Paszkowski