

GRADSTEIN (GRADSZTAJN) Markus (1860–1915), owner of banking house and commercial currency exchange, city councillor, social and charity activist. He was the son of Herszlik and Laja née Szlezinger.

Gradstein was the owner of several tenement buildings in Częstochowa, among them great architectural buildings such at ul. Teatralnej 24 (al. Wolności 10) and at II Aleja 35, where he lived.

From circa 1892, in Częstochowa, he ran a banking and commission business (at II Aleja 27) and, from 1902, a commercial expediting business (at II Aleja 35) – its branches were located in customs houses in Sosnowiec, Granica (Maczki), Szczakowa (Jaworzno-Szczakowa) and Herby. His company dealt with all customs and shipping matters (import and export of raw materials and industrial goods), as well as commercial issues. In 1909, he was one of the founders of the Częstochowa Loan Society – he belonged to its management committee and supervisory board. He was also a member of the discount committee of the Częstochowa branch of the State Bank.

For a number of years, until 1915, he was a member of the City Council. He was extremely active in communal and charitable areas.

From the end of the 19th century, he was a board member of the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). From 1908, he was a member of the TDdŻ Hospital construction committee. After the Hospital was opened, he contributed 300 rubles towards its work. He also financially supported the TDdŻ loan union.

In 1906, he joined in the work of the Polish School Committee, which established the I Polish Philological Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. Later, he joined the board of the 4th circle of the Admissions Association [?] of that Gimnazjum.

He belonged to the Voluntary Fire Brigade. From 1906 until 1915, he was a member of its board. He was a member of the financial and technical committee for the construction of a fire station and, finally, he worked on a sub-section about the Częstochowa Brigade for the *Rocznika częstochowskiego. Kalendarza na rok 1903* [1903 Częstochowa Yearbook and Calendar].

He was one of the founders of the Social Work Society. He was a member of the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge (TszW), also supporting it financially. Gradstein was also active in the cultural sphere. From 1900, in the rear of his

tenement (at II Aleja 35), he arranged entertainment, where one-act plays were performed, musical bands played, children danced and “living images” were shown. With an interest in art, he collected paintings. From 7th to 14th March 1909, in his home at II Aleja 35, he organised and presented an exhibition from his own collections, as well as from other Częstochowa collectors - Kazimierz Reklewski, Cyprian Apanowicz, → Kazimierz Grosman and Karol Rozenfeld. Proceeds from that exhibition were donated to charity.

He died on 16th June 1915 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery (grave No. 292 II).

Gradstein married twice. His first wife, whom he married in 1886 in Częstochowa, was Augusta (Gustawa) née Wiernik (15th January 1868 Częstochowa – 24th February 1907 Berlin, buried on 27th February 1907 in the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery). They had three children - Maria, Juliusz (→ Juliusz Gardan) and → Alfred. In 1908, he married Dorota née Landau, previously Szenman/ Schönman (-1918 Warszawa). This marriage produced no children.

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 91 (re. wife Augusta). – Gąsior, *Bank Handlowy*, pp. 60, 61; Kon, *Monografia Straży Ogniowej*, pp. 19, 20; Szatkowski, *Monografia przemysłu częstochowskiego*, pp. 16, 17. – *Przewodnik po Częstochowie i okolicy 1909*, p. 143; *Przewodnik po Wystawie Przemysłu i Rolnictwa 1909*, p. 40; Romanowski, *Przewodnik po Częstochowie* (advertisement). – Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień II*, pp. 102, 103, 194. – “*Dziennik Częstochowski*” 1906, No. 108, p. 2, No. 161, p. 2, 1907, No. 55, p. 4 (re. wife Augusta), No. 118, p. 3, No. 133, p. 2, No. 161, p. 3; “*Goniec Częstochowski*” 1908, No. 89, p. 2, No. 334, p. 2, No. 349, p. 5, 1909, No. 21, p. 2, No. 65, p. 2, No. 66, p. 1, No. 69, p. 2, No. 114, p. 2, No. 120, p. 1, No. 195, p. 2, 1910, No. 1, p. 1, No. 99, p. 2, No. 120, p. 3, 1912, No. 48, p. 2, 1915, No. 150, p. 2 (obituary), No. 151, p. 2, No. 156, p. 2, 1918, No. 224, p. 3 (re. wife Dorota), 1919, No. 190, p. 3. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 184, 185, 289, 309; *Rocznik częstochowski. Kalendarz 1903*, pp. 91, 102; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, pp. 3, 9, 21. – APCz, MagCz 4776, k. 1, 2, 4, 22, 23, 28. – USC Częstochowa, death record No. 169/1915.

Juliusz Sętowski