

**GROSMAN** (GROSSMAN) Jan (1851–1924), industrialist, communal and political activist. He was born on 9th April 1851 in Częstochowa, the son of → Lazariusz (Lazarus) and Rozalia née Buchner, the brother of → Stanisław and → Michał.

Grosman was the owner of the tenement building at III Aleja 54 and, together with his brother, he owned a limestone mine, three limestone kilns on Złota Góra in Częstochowa, as well as a sawmill. In 1881, he co-founded a button factory (Jan & Stanisław Grossman Coconut and Wooden Buttons Factory). In 1912, it was converted into a joint stock company known as the Joint Stock Association of the Częstochowa Button Factory, formerly Jan & Stanisław Grossman. In the Kingdom of Poland, it was the largest factory producing buttons from coconut (called “stone”). It was located at ul. Ogrodowa 38.

In 1897, (together with → Henryk Markusfeld, → Herman Ginsberg, → Ludwik Kohn and Szymon Neuman), he co-founded and was, later, co-owner and board member of the “Warta” Jute Spinning and Weaving Mills in Częstochowa.

He occasionally engaged in political activity. In the 1906 elections to the 1st State Duma, he stood as a Progressive Union candidate – however, he was unsuccessful. In that same year, he took part in the work of the Polish Schools Committee which, in Częstochowa, established the I Polish Gimnazjum.

He as a member of the Częstochowa Industry and Agriculture Committee. In 1909, during their exhibition, together with his brother Stanisław, he presented (not within the competition) the technique of manufacturing coconut buttons. He was a board member of the Merchants Association. In 1907, he took part in an Association meeting at which discussion centred on the regulating of work hours and rest periods for the employees. In 1910, he was a member of the Association’s Arbitration Commission.

He was a member of the “Dobroczynność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). From 1908, he sat on the committee for the construction of the TDdŻ Hospital. Together with his brothers, he donated 10,000 rubles towards that project. From 1906, he belonged to the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge (TSzW) to which, he donated books. He was a member of the audit committee of the Częstochowa branch of the Warsaw Hygiene Society.

In the opinion of Dr. Stanisław Nowak, “He was one of the most outstanding Częstochowa industrialists. He was a very cultured man, his house being one of the centres of artistic life in Częstochowa. [...] His father [Jan] and son

[Kazimierz] were Jews – educated, intelligent people, who were brought up in the Polish spirit”.

Grosman had a valuable collection of Polish paintings. He showed part of his collection, in 1909 in Częstochowa (in the tenement at II Aleja 37), at an exhibition organised by → Markus Gradstein.

In Częstochowa, he lived at ul. Piotrkowska 2 (the little Grosman palace). He later lived at II Aleja 29. After 1914, he moved permanently to Warsaw. He died on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1924 in Warsaw and was buried in a Jewish cemetery there.

His wife was Ewelina née Kohn (1857 Warsaw-), the daughter of Mojżesz and Hinda née Fajersztajn, a communal activist, a member of the TSzW, and a member of boards of TDdŻ sections: Obstetrics for the Poor and Protection for Girls, at ul. Fabryczna (Mielczarskiego). The couple had:

- a son → Kazimierz,
- a daughter Helena (1888 Częstochowa – after 1963 New York), married name Weksler and
- a daughter Stefania (1879 Częstochowa–). She married a doctor from Łódź, Józef Marzyński (1870–). She was a communal activist who, in Łódź, founded an institution “Kropla Mleka” [“A Drop of Milk”].

*Nekrologi “Gońca Częstochowskiego” 1906–1925*, p. 162. – Sobalski, *Przemysł częstochowski*, pp. 57, 60, 179; – Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień III*, pp. 96, 121, 124, 133, 143, 144, 199. – “Dziennik Częstochowski” 1906, No. 161, p. 2; “Gazeta Częstochowska” 1909, No. 31, p. 3, No. 45, p. 2, No. 79, p. 2, 1910, No. 58, p. 3; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1907, No. 6, p. 2, No. 34, p. 2, No. 52, p. 2, 1908, No. 72, p. 2, 1909, No. 69, p. 2, No. 195, p. 2, 1918, No. 146, p. 4, 1924, No. 186, p. 2; “Tydzień” (Piotrków) 1885, No. 5, p. 3; “Wiadomości Częstochowskie” 1906, No. 43, p. 2. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 246, 289, 291 (re: wife), 16 (advertisement); *Rocznik lekarski 1932/33*, col. 433 (re: Józef Marzyński) – APCz, Częstochowa municipal record No. 27/69, k. 551, 552; unit No. 58, birth record No. 42/1851; – Meeting minutes book of the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge in Częstochowa (copy in the ODDC collections), book No. 1 (re: also daughter Helena), 3. – Materials (reports from Irena Grosman of Częstochowa, as well as other materials regarding the family) in the ODDC collections.

**Juliusz Sętowski**