

**HASSENFELD** (HANKIEWICZ, HASSENFELD HANKIEWICZ) Marian Mordechaj (1901–1993), lawyer, legal advisor, academic teacher, sports and social activist. He was born on 28th August 1901 in Częstochowa, the son of Józef Josek (1863-1929) and Stanisława Gustawa née Ebersman (circa 1870-1942), who was shot in the Częstochowa ghetto.

In the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Hassenfeld family came from Germany and settled in Poland. Hassenfeld's paternal grandfather, Jehuda (circa 1835 - circa 1908) owned a small farm in Rędziny, near Częstochowa. His father, Józef, was a merchant. He was a flour wholesaler and, from 1918, owned a small mill.

In 1920, Hassenfeld graduated from the H. Sienkiewicz No.1 State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and, later, studied in the Law Faculty at the University of Warsaw. From the fifth grade of gimnazjum until he graduated from university, he supported himself by giving private lessons. He graduated in law in 1926 and, in the following year, he became an unpaid court trainee. He began working as the secretariat manager and legal clerk at the Association of Industrialists and Merchants Association in Częstochowa, and also as legal advisor to the *Gnaszyńska Manufaktura*. After passing the judge's examination in 1930, he completed his lawyer's apprenticeship at the offices of → Jan Glikson.

During this period, he served as vice-president of the Association of Court and Legal Trainees in Częstochowa. In 1934, after passing the bar examination, he and his wife ran a legal practice in Częstochowa. In the 1930s, he gave lectures to local government officials as part of courses run by the Association of Industrialists and Merchants Association. He published articles on treasury issues.

He was also a football referee and sports activist. He completed a football referees' course in 1926 and belonged to the Kielce *Subkolegium* of Football Referees. He was vice president and, later, president of District Football Union in Kielce. From 1928, he served on the board (as treasurer), and was later president of the "Warta" Częstochowa Sports Club.

Hassenfeld was Vice-President of the "Dobroczytność" Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). He was a member of the board of the Committee for the Construction of the Jewish Gimnazjum.

At the beginning of 1939, he left Częstochowa and lived in the eastern part of Poland. He returned to the city in December of that same year. From January

1940 he managed the Registration and Statistics Department of the *Judenrat*. Suspected of underground activity, on 5th August 1940, he was arrested and imprisoned in the German prison in Zawodzie in Częstochowa. He was released through the efforts of family and friends. From 1941, he lived in the Częstochowa ghetto.

As chairman of the TDdŻ, he looked after the aged care home, the orphanage and the hospital. At the end of 1941, thanks to external help, he extracted himself from the ghetto and hid near Koniecpol. From 1942, under the surname "Hankiewicz", he then hid in Warsaw. Together with his wife, who was in hiding with him, he looked after his niece from Częstochowa – eleven-year-old Irena Librowicz (later, Irit Amiel). Hassenfeld was active in the underground Council to Care for Jews. During the uprising in 1944, he and the other residents of ul. Marymoncka were transported to Wawrzyszewa by the Germans. There, he was held there as a hostage, but managed to escape. He hid in the Pocieszna Górka settlement (in the Piotrków County). In February 1945, he returned to Częstochowa, where he and his wife opened a legal practice.

In 1952, on the authority of the Katowice Bar Council, he organised legal teams in Częstochowa. In 1953, he joined the No.1 Lawyers Team. He was also legal advisor to the municipal authorities and to several industrial plants in Częstochowa. Hassenfeld was also employed as a researcher at the Higher School of Economics (WSE) in Częstochowa, where he was vice-chancellor (1949-51) and, later, chancellor (1956-60). In 1960-61, he served as the representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, regarding the liquidation of the WSE [Higher School of Economics]. He was a member of the Organisational Committee of the School of Engineering in Częstochowa. In 1952-53, and again in 1960-61, he taught law at the School of Engineering (from 1955, the Częstochowa University of Technology).

In 1945–46, he was a member of the Industrial Commission of the Municipal National Council. He was co-organiser and, later, vice-chairman of the District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes. He was a co-founder of the District Court in Częstochowa, as well as of the Association of Democratic Lawyers. He belonged to the board of the Polish Teachers Union (ZNP).

He retired in 1976, but was still communally active. He chaired the Historical Commission of the Częstochowa Bar Council, which prepared the history of the Częstochowa-Piotrków bar. He headed the group of retirees and pensioners at the Bar. He was a member of the audit committee of the Polish Economic

Society. He was active in the local branch of the Polish Tourism and Sightseeing Association.

His articles appeared in, among others, *Ziemi Częstochowskiej*. He co-authored an article (with Alfred Czarnota) *Wyższa Szkoła Ekonomiczna w Częstochowie* (*Ziemia Częstochowska* 1961, vol. IV).

He died on 17th April 1993 in Częstochowa and was buried in the Kule Cemetery (section 111, row V, grave 5). His honours included the Knight's Cross OOP and the Gold Cross of Merit. He was a feature character in Hanna Krall's *Tajemnicą jest to...* (fourth part *Białej Marii*, Warszawa 2013).

In 1929, he married Dorota Dora née Goldman (→ Dorota Hassenfeld). They had no children.

*Adwokaci regionu częstochowskiego*, pp. 95–97 (photograph); Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 304 (re: father); Sętowski, *Cmentarz Kule*, pp. 102, 103. – Jelonek, *Z dziejów życia muzycznego*, p. 85; Małolepszy, *Kultura fizyczna*. – “Express Częstochowski” 1929, No. 12, p. 2, No. 72, p. 2, No. 285, p. 2; “Głos Narodu” 1947, No. 136, p. 4; “Nasz Głos Powszechny” 1936, No. 3, p. 4; “Palestra” 1980, Nos. 8–9; “Życie Częstochowy” 1964, No. 290, p. 6, No. 100, p. 8. – USC Częstochowa, death record No. 995/1993. – Materials (his own biography and memoirs of Marian Hassenfeld, as well as a photographs and other documents) in the possession of his relative Anna Goldman of Częstochowa.

**Adam Kasperkiewicz**