

HELMAN Stanisław Bernard Szlama Berek (1868–1936), merchant, industrialist, board member of financial institutions, local government, patriotic, charity and social activist. He was born on 18th March 1868 in Częstochowa, the son of Chil, who ran a colonial goods and wine shop, and Chaja née Zimnawoda, brother of → Ludwik.

Helman graduated from a Russian four-grade junior boys gimnazjum in Częstochowa and from a commerce school. He was a co-owner of the S. B. Helman & Company Częstochowa Ceramics Factory which was located in Błeszno (now a suburb of Częstochowa). He also owned a currency exchange office (at II Aleja 23), as well as a building at ul. Krakowska 15 (where the “Wiąz” company’s carpentry workshops were located).

In 1901, he joined the Council of the Mutual Loan Society. Before 1914, he was deputy director of the City of Częstochowa Loan Society and president of the No.2 Częstochowa Savings and Loan Society (later, transformed into the Częstochowa Cooperative Bank). In 1906, he joined the Polish Schools Committee, which led to the establishment of the No.1 Polish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. Later, he served on the finance committee of that school.

As a well-known citizen of the city, following the outbreak of war, on 5th August 1914, he was invited to the Częstochowa Town Hall for a conference about solving the city’s difficult supply situation. Soon after, he was appointed to the extended composition of the City Council. Among other activities, he belonged to the commission which was developing a contract with the board of the Compulsory Power Plant. He again entered the City Council when he won a seat, in 1919, on the list of the Jewish Electoral Committee – a position from which he resigned in February 1921.

Helman was very active communally and charitably. In 1906, he co-founded the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge. In 1913, he co-founded the Social Work Society. He belonged to the board of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. From the autumn of 1914, he was active in the Emergency Aid Committee – he also paid an amount of 25 rubles to this Committee. In 1915, on behalf of the board of the Popular Bakery, he became a member of the Jewish branch of the Emergency Aid Committee. For many years, he sat on the board (and as treasurer) of the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ) and financially supported the TDdŻ Hospital. In the second half of the 1920s, he was a (supporting) member of the Częstochowa Anti-Tuberculosis Society. In 1916, he was a board member of the local Jewish Community Council (*gmina*). In August 1920, during

the war with the Bolsheviks, he financially helped the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier (operating through the Częstochowa Jewish gmina).

He lived at II Aleja 28. Presumably, from the beginning of the 1930s, he lived in Warsaw, but kept in contact with Częstochowa. (Circa 1936, he paid for the roof of the New Beit Ha'Midrash).

He died on 20th May 1936 in Warsaw, and was buried on 22nd May in the Jewish cemetery in Częstochowa (grave No. 1036 II).

He married Michalina née Hejman (14th July 1871 Praszka – 7th April 1914 Altheide, Germany), the daughter of Bolesław and Rozalia née Poznański. They had four children:

- → Bolesław,
- Jerzy (3rd November 1896 Częstochowa–1941?), engineer, who worked in his father's ceramics factory. He was a ceramics appraiser for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sosnowiec. During the war, in 1940, he was in Wilno, later hiding in Warsaw. Betrayed by a *szmalcownik* [blackmailer], he was murdered when trying to escape from a transport heading to the Treblinka extermination camp.

The other children were:

- Adolf (1899 Częstochowa–), who, in 1917, matriculated from the H. Sienkiewicz Society of Schools Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, and
- Roza (Róża) Helena (1907 Częstochowa–).

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 101, 415 (re: wife); *Sienkiewiczacy*, p. 229 (re: son Adolf). – Kon, *Monografia Straży Ogniowej*, p. 25; Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, p. 206; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 168. – Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień II*, p. 103. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1936, No. 21, p. 1, No. 22, p. 1, 6; “Express Częstochowski” 1929, No. 51, p. 3; “Gazeta Częstochowska” 1909, No. 136, p. 8; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1914, No. 212, p. 2, 1915, No. 128, p. 2, No. 209, p. 2, 1916, No. 103, p. 3, No. 208, p. 3; 1920, No. 204, p. 3; “Kurier Codzienny” 1927, No. 288, p. 5; “Kurier Warszawski” 1901, No. 232, p. 2; “Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie” 1932, No. 135, p. 4. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 188, 291, 297, 309, 311; *X Sprawozdanie Izby Przemysłowo-Handlowej w Sosnowcu za 1938 r.*, Sosnowiec 1939, p. 354 (re: son Jerzy); *Informator 1889*, p. 46J (re: father); *Kalendarz Handlowo-Przemysłowy 1927*; *Rocznik adresowy 1901*, p. 545 (re: father); *Sprawozdanie Częstochowskiego Towarzystwa Przeciwgruźliczego 1926–1929*, p. 28; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 21. – “Ziemia Częstochowska” 1990, vol. XVII, part 2, p. 193. – APCz, Akta m. Częstochowy 8884, 54/263 Mag Cz 5026, k. 8. – Księga protokołów Tow. Szerzenia Wiedzy w Częstochowie, p. 1 (wfromthe collection of Krzysztof Dziuba of Częstochowa).

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