

HERTZ (HERC) Jan (1869–1934), engineer, owner of technical office, social activist. He was born on 24th November 1869 in Częstochowa (?), the son of Julian, a merchant, and Ewa née Hirszfeld.

Hertz graduated from the Polytechnic University of Zurich in 1894. He returned home and, after serving apprenticeships in technical companies, in 1904, he opened a technical office in Częstochowa (in 1917, at ul. Kościuszki 17, from 1935 at al. Wolności 11). Hertz represented Częstochowa electricians at the National Congress of Electricians in Warsaw (7th-9th June 1919).

At the beginning of the 1920s, he co-founded and, later, was a board member (vice-president) of the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Technicians Union (later, the Polish Technicians Union of the Republic of Poland). In 1931, he established a company under the name of the “Radjolux” Electrotechnical Enterprise, with its offices at I Aleja 10). He was its co-owner.

Hertz was active in supporting the Jewish community of Częstochowa. In 1896, he was a member of the school committee, which established the Jewish Community Council’s *Talmud Torah* school (at ul. Garncarska 6/8). Later, he would sit on the board of the *Talmud Torah*. He sat on the board of the Horticultural Farm for Jews. From 1914, he was active in the Emergency Aid Committee where, to raise funds, he was responsible for the 8th District. From 1915, he was a member of the main committee and, later, the Emergency Aid board. From 1906, he belonged to the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge, where he was a member of the audit committee.

For many years, he belonged to the Association of Polish Merchants, where he was deputy secretary and a member of the audit committee. In 1917, he stood for election to the Częstochowa City Council. However, he was not successful. Hertz converted to Roman Catholicism. He died on 6th May 1934 in Warsaw and was buried in the Powązki Cemetery.

In 1913, he married Franciszka Zofia née Wollenberg, formerly Bernsztajn (1881 Warsaw–), the daughter of Maksymilian and Zofia née Landau, a gifted musician (as an instrumentalist and vocalist), who spoke four languages. Their son was Jan Tadeusz (1914-1947), pseudonym “Janek Czarny”, a graduate of the H. Sienkiewicz Gimnazjum, a clerk. During the German occupation, he was a soldier in the Polish Freedom Union and, later, and an officer in the Kedyw Home Army [Diversionary Directorate]. After 1945, he was manager of the “Aniołów”

Chemical Plant. He was seriously injured in a car accident and died on 19th July 1947 in Częstochowa.

Sętowski, *Cmentarz Kule*, p. 105 (re: son and infor re father). – Ręziński, *Szkolnictwo żydowskie*, p. 37. – “Gazeta Częstochowska” 1909, No. 120, p. 2, No. 136, p. 8, 1910, No. 58, p. 3, No. 147, p. 2; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1914, No. 311, p. 2, 1915, No. 165, p. 2, 1916, No. 110, p. 2, 1934, No. 104, p. 1 (obituary). – *Dodatek do spisu abonentów sieci telefonicznych 1932/33*, p. 13; *Rocznik częstochowski. Kalendarz 1903*, p. 93. – APCz, MagCz 4998, k. 2.– Księga protokołów Tow. Szerzenia Wiedzy k. 12, 38 (from the collection of Krzysztof Dziuba of Częstochowa). – Material from the ODDC collections (including typed biography of J. Hertz, written by Aleksander Gąsiorowski). – information from Irena Grosman of Częstochowa.

Juliusz Sętowski