

IMICH Józef Rubin (1868–1942), merchant, industrialist, communal, cultural and charitable activist. He was born on 9th August 1868 in Częstochowa, the son of Herszlik Herman (circa 1830-1927), merchant, member of the burial society, treasurer of the Jewish section of Emergency Aid, his mother was Rozalia née Pankowski.

Together with his father, Imrich ran a company, which was established in 1857. It ran wholesale and retail stores selling paper, stationery, cement, plaster, varnish and paints (at II Aleja 16, where he lived and was co-owner of the tenement. He also had a colonial goods and wines store.

In 1899, together with → Aleksander Wolberg, he established a small chemical plant, which expanded and, from 1904, operated under the name “Zawodzie” Józef Imich & Company Paint Factory (30 employees worked there). He also owned a timber yard at ul. Teatralna 54 (now ul. Wolności). In 1907, he co-founded the 2nd Częstochowa Savings and Loan Society (later, the Cooperative Bank, with its headquarters at I Aleja 7). For many years, he was a member of its board and council and, from 1926 to 1937, of the Bank.

He was active in the field of education. He was a member of the school committee which, in 1906, established the Jewish community’s *Talmud Torah* (at ul. Garncarska 6/8). Imich was a volunteer teacher at this school (until the Russian authorities forbade him from doing so).

As a respected citizen of the city, in 1907, he was invited to take part in the (6th) electorate in elections to the Second State Duma. He belonged to the board (established in 1913) of the Częstochowa Association of Factory Owners and Merchants.

He was active in cultural societies - from 1906, in the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge and, from 1908, in the “Lira” Musical-Literary Society (of which he was a co-founder). He published postcards, including those with views of Częstochowa.

He was heavily engaged in charitable activities. With → Edward Jacobsohn and → Izydor Freund, he co-founded “Beis Lechem” Aid Society Against Exceptional Poverty. He was a co-founder and long-time board member of the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). He financially supported the TDdŻ Hospital. (In 1912, he donated 200 rubles towards the construction of the hospital and, in 1913, he donated 50 rubles on the occasion of its opening).

He also gave donations to the Aged Care Home and Orphanage, as well as to the Shelter for Girls. He was a member of the Welfare Council at the Crafts School for Jews and was a trustee of the Horticultural Farm for Jews in Częstochowa. From 1915, he was a member of the central committee of Emergency Aid.

During the war with the Bolsheviks, from July 1920, he chaired the Committee for Aid to the Polish Soldier, which operated through the Jewish *gmina*. (This committee's funds were used for, among other things, the treatment of soldiers at the TDdŻ Hospital). As a donor, he contributed significant funds to the account of that committee. In 1921, as a trustee of the city's hospitals, by resolution of the City Council, he joined the City Council's Health Commission. In the second half of the 1920s, he was a member of the Częstochowa Anti-Tuberculosis Society. At the beginning of the 1930s, he served as curator of the TDdŻ Hospital in Częstochowa.

In 1941, during the German occupation, he was forced to live in the ghetto. In October 1942, during the mass deportation of the Jews from the Częstochowa ghetto, he was transported to the death camp in Treblinka. (His death was reported, in 1946, by his son Aleksander.

His wife was Ludwika Laja née Kwasner (1874 Łódź–). She belonged to the board of the TDdŻ Shelter for Girls and, during World War I, worked as a volunteer in the kitchen of No. 2 Jewish section of Emergency Aid.

The couple had three[?] sons:

- → Aleksander, Alfred (20th October 1894 Częstochowa – 20th April 1932 Częstochowa), who graduated from the Gustaw Kościński No.1 Polish Gimnazjum and, in 1916–18 (and later in the 1920s,) studied in the Philosophy Faculty on the Jagiellonian University. He was then co-owner, with Maurycy Weksler, of the “Metallum” Metal Products Manufacturing Plant;
- Stanisław (1896 Częstochowa–), who graduated in medicine at the Jagiellonian University (degree in 1923), in the 1930s worked as a radiologist at the Health Insurance Health Department (at ul. Batorego 5) in Kraków. He survived the German occupation and, presumably (before 1956), left the country.

Corpus studiosorum E–J, p. 871 (re: sons Alfred and Stanisław); Kulczykowski, *Żydzi – studenci UJ*, p. 710 (re: sons Alfred and Stanisław). – Czech, *Kalendarium przemysłu*, p. 55; Rędziński, *Szkolnictwo żydowskie*, p. 37; Sobalski, *Przemysł częstochowski*, pp. 153, 193; Surma-Jończyk, *Spółdzielczość Żydów*, pp. 261, 280; Urbanowicz, *Rzemiosło w Częstochowie*, p. 230. –

“Express Częstochowski” 1929, No. 114, p. 4 (re: son Alfred); “Gazeta Częstochowska” 1909, No. 136, p. 8, 10; „Goniec Częstochowski” 1907, No. 6, p. 2, 1908, No. 71, p. 3, 1914, No. 268, p. 2, 1915, No. 136, p. 2 (re: father), No. 165, p. 2, 1916, No. 287, p. 2, 1919, No. 88, p. 2; 1920, No. 185, p. 4, No. 204, p. 3, 1932, No. 93, p. 2, 3 (re: son Alfred); “Nowy Express Częstochowski” 1927, No. 218, p. 2 (re: father and son Alfred); “Nowiny Częstochowskie” 1932, No. 73, p. 1 (re: son Alfred – obituary); “Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie” 1932, No. 135, p. 4, 1934, No. 69, p. 6. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 188, 291, 311, p. 9 (advertisements), (re: wife); *Informator 1889*, p. 46; *Przewodnik po Wystawie Przemysłu i Rolnictwa*, p. 184; *Rocznik adresowy 1901*, p. 545; *Rocznik lekarski 1933/34*, cols. 262, 278 (re: son Stanisław); *Rocznik częstochowski. Kalendarz 1903*, p. XXXVI (re: father); “Rocznik Muzeum Okręgowego w Częstochowie” 1989, z. 2, p. 135; *Sprawozdanie Częstochowskiego Towarzystwa Przeciwgruźliczego 1926–1929*, p. 28; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 4, 19, 21. – APCz, Gimnazjum Kościńskiego 19 (re: son Alfred), MagCz 5032; group No. 1, ref. 8830, No. 220 (re: son Alfred). – USC, death record No. 1054/1946. – Księga protokołów Tow. Szerzenia Wiedzy, p. 3 (copy in ODDC collection); materials (extracts from census) in ODDC collections.

Juliusz Sętowski