

**KOHN** Gustaw (1868–1927), industrialist, factory director, city councillor, court juror, charity and social activist. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1868 in Częstochowa, the son of → Leopold and Rozalia née Neufeld (1844 Częstochowa - 1926 Częstochowa), brother of → Maksymilian and Józef (1871-).

Kohn graduated from the Russian Boys' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, and then from College of Weaving in Wattwil (Switzerland). After returning to Częstochowa in 1891, as an engineer, he began working in the factory of "Stradom" Jute and Hemp Product Stock Society. He held various positions there. In 1907, he became one of the factory directors. In 1924–1927, he was managing director of the "Stradom" Częstochowa Textile Plant. Kohn was also a co-owner of the "Bawełna" Mechanical Weaving Plant.

Following the outbreak of war, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, together with sixty-three other people, he took part in a conference, which discussed the difficult financial situation of the city's population. In 1915, he was appointed to the extended composition of the Częstochowa City Council. In 1916, he was a member of a city commission to prepare a contract with the Board of the Częstochowa Power Plant. In 1917, he was elected to the City Council (in constituency elections – from constituency II). He belonged to the Hospitals Committee, the Electric Light Committee and the Food Commission. He was responsible for the distribution of bread ration cards and (together with → Aleksander Wolberg) the supervision of the baking of rationed bread in Częstochowa bakeries, including the bakery of the "Emergency Aid" Committee. In July 1918, he resigned as a councillor and was replaced by → Zygmunt Stiller).

He was a board member of the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council. For a number of years, he served as a court juror and as a member of the board of the County Health Fund. He was active communally and in charity work. He belonged to the "Dobroczynność" Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). In 1914-1918, he served as curator of the TDdŻ Hospital in Zawodzie in Częstochowa. As reported in the "Kurier Codzienny" (1927, No. 118), "Thanks to his energy, the hospital survived the difficult times and became an exemplary institution".

From the autumn of 1914, he served as treasurer of the "Emergency Aid" Committee. He took part in fundraising for this organisation (including, in November 1914, where he was responsible for raising funds from ul. Stradomska). In 1917, he served as curator of the Boarding House for Beggars and the Homeless (at ul. Garncarska 67). In 1922, he co-founded and, later, was a board member of the Częstochowa branch of the "Auxilium Academicum Judaicum" Committee to Aid Jewish Students. Kohn made financial donations to

various charitable institutions and libraries in Częstochowa. He also belonged to the Committee for the Construction of a Workers' House of the "Jedność" Trade Union, at the "Stradom" textile factory.

He died on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1927 in Częstochowa (in his own home at ul. Stradomska 27), and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery (grave No. 1359 II).

His wife was Regina Róża née Szpigiel (1876 Częstochowa – 26<sup>th</sup> October 1942 Częstochowa?), the daughter of Izydor and Cyrla née Ginsberg, social and patriotic activist (including, in 1919, she collected money in Stradom, in Częstochowa for a Polish recruit). From 1907, she belonged to the Society for Spreading Knowledge in Częstochowa. They had

- a son Leopold (5<sup>th</sup> July 1910-) who, in 1929, completed Grade 7 at the H. Sienkiewicz 1<sup>st</sup> State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa,
- a daughter Lena (28<sup>th</sup> August 1901 Częstochowa-) married surname Rozenchwajg
- a daughter → Maria Kohn-Szajn.

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 391. – Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, p. 147; *Z dziejów Żydów w Częstochowie* (J. Mizgalski), p. 242. – "Goniec Częstochowski" 1914, No. 311, p. 2, No. 352, p. 2, 1915, No. 37, p. 3, 1916, No. 103, p. 3, No. 208, p. 3, 1917, No. 108, p. 3, No. 166, p. 2, No. 205, p. 3, No. 217, p. 4, 1918, No. 143, p. 4, 1919, No. 88, p. 2 (re: wife); "Kurier Codzienny" 1927, No. 117, p. 2 (obituary), No. 118, p. 3 (mention). – "Ziemia Częstochowska" 1990, vol. XVII, part 2, p. 192, 193; APCz, Akta m. Częstochowy 8850, No. 514 (re: son), MagCz 3618, akt No. 9, 4998, k. 2, 591, 5011, pp. 7, 9, 5718, p. 15, 8850, k. 514 (re: son Leopold); USC Częstochowa, record of the Jewish Community Council 1927, death record No. 111, k. 29. – Materials (genealogy of the family) in the ODDC collections.

**Juliusz Sętowski**