

KOHN (KON) Leopold Aluezer (1867–1942), industrialist, self-government, social and charity activist. He was born on 27th January 1867 in Warsaw, the son of → Ludwika Lewek and Karolina Ruchla née Fajnkind (Feinkind) (1842 Warszawa – 1935 Częstochowa).

In 1889, Kohn graduated in chemistry at the Zurich Polytechnic Institute and, in 1891, he gained his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Geneva.

In Częstochowa, at the end of the 1880s, he ran a toy factory and was also co-owner of the Paper Factory and Mill. He also served as president of the “Warta” Jute Spinning and Weaving Plant. In 1920, as one of the representatives of Częstochowa industrialists, he signed an agreement on the standardisation of workers’ wages. In the 1930s, he was a board member of the Association of Częstochowa Industrialists. He was also an advisor to the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Sosnowiec. From 1932, as part of the Industrialists Association, he was on the Council of the 13th Group of the “Lewiatan” Central Union of Polish Industry, Trade and Agriculture. In 1909, he co-founded the Częstochowa Municipal Loan Society. For many years, he was a member of the board of directors of the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Merchants Association (SKP), heading the SKP’s reading committee. He also sat on the finance-budget committee of the Częstochowa City Council.

Within the city, Kohn was also involved in various educational, sightseeing and cultural initiatives. In 1906, he joined the Polish School Committee, whose major achievement was the establishment of the No.1 Polish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. In 1908, he was elected to the committee of the Industry and Agriculture Exhibition in Częstochowa. In that same year, he was co-organiser of the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Sightseeing Society (PTK). In 1908-1909, he was on the PTK’s audit committee. On behalf of the PTK, he wrote the chapter entitled *Handel i przemysł [Trade and Industry]* for the *Przewodnika po Częstochowie i okolicy [A Guide to Częstochowa and Surrounding Area]* (Warszawa 1909). He belonged to the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge and to the Częstochowa branch of the Warsaw Association of Hygiene.

Kohn was a well-known philanthropist. He was a long-time board member of the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). He supported the Society financially, as well as the TDdŻ Hospital. He also financially supported the Society for the Care of Homeless Children. He contributed towards the opening, in 1909, of an orphanage on ul. Fabryczna (Mielczarska).

In 1916, he represented property owners in talks with the German authorities regarding taxes. He acted as a representative of owners in "District 7", which encompassed ul. Centralna (Śląska), ul. Jasna (Waszyngtona), ul. Żelazna (Kopernika) and ul. Humbertowsk (Pułaskiego). Prior to 1914, Kohn lived at ul. Mikołajewska 13 (later, ul. Strażacka 13, then ul. Katedralna 8). At the end of the 1930s, he lived at ul. Wolności 24. He owned the property at ul. Teatralna 13 (Kościuszki, later al. Wolności).

He died in February 1942 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery.

In 1899, he married Natalia Noemi née Beckerman (1879 Radom-), the daughter of Piotr and Dorota née Tykociner. (He and his wife signed an agreement regarding property and common wealth.) The couple had two daughters:

- Janina (1900 Częstochowa-), a graduate (matriculated in 1917) of the Wacław Chrzanowski Gils' Gimnazjum, and
- Erna Stefania (23rd March 1911 Częstochowa-), who graduated from a gimnazjum in Zakopane.

Kociotek, Zaleska, *Gimnazjum i Liceum im. J. Słowackiego*, p. 120 (re: daughter Janina Janiny). – Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień II*, p. 129. – *Przewodnik po Częstochowie 1909*, p. 4. – "Dziennik Częstochowski" 1906, No. 161, p. 2; "Gazeta Częstochowska" 1909, No. 82, p. 3, 1910, No. 58, p. 39, No. 68, p. 2, No. 79, p. 2, No. 344, p. 3; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1907, No. 34, p. 2 (re: wife), 1908, No. 124, p. 2, No. 342, p. 3, 1910, No. 28, p. 2, 1916, No. 142, p. 5, No. 196, p. 3, 1918, No. 146, p. 4 ((re: wife)), 1919, No. 88, p. 2 (dotyczy żony), 190, p. 3, 1932, No. 65, 152, p. 3, 1935, No. 252, p. 3 (re: mother); "Kurier Częstochowski" 1919, No. 17, p. 5. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 195 i wykaz nieruchomości; *Informator 1889*, p. 47J; *Spis członków Stowarzyszenia Techników Polskich 1937*, p. 7; *Sprawozdanie Tow. Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 21; *Rocznik polskiego przemysłu i handlu 1936*, No. 27, 1938, No. 27; *Towarzystwo Przemysłowców Okręgu Częstochowskiego. Sprawozdanie za lata 1935–1936*, Częstochowa 1927, p. 23. – "Ziemia Częstochowska" 1976, vol. XI, p. 343; – APCz, Mag Cz 5011, p. 9, Częstochowska Fabryka Farb Zawodzie 26, k. 26; USC Częstochowa, death record No. 1024/1948.

Juliusz Sętowski