

**KON** (until 1914 KOHN) Norbert (1887-1942), chemist, industrialist, social activist. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> July VII 1887 in Nasielsk, the son of → Edward and Augusta née Prentki, the brother of → Waław Konar and → Stefan Kolin.

He graduated from the Russian Boys' Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and, later, from the Karlsruhe polytechnic. He was an engineer, holding a doctorate in chemistry. From 1913, he ran a private chemical laboratory in Częstochowa and, from 1920, he was also co-owner, together with Ignacy Helman, and director of the "Dąbie" Chemical Processing Factory.

Kon was engaged in educational and cultural activities. In 1915-1917, he was a member of the board of self-education courses organised by the Schools Welfare Society. During these courses, he lectured in inorganic chemistry and nature. From 1914, he also gave lectures (including in the offices of the Częstochowa Medical Association and the Charitable Society for Christians), the proceeds from which were allocated to poor teachers – including in February 1915, when he spoke about X-rays and radioactivity and also about the future of the wireless telephone. In 1917, he was one of the signatories of an appeal calling upon the inhabitants of Częstochowa to donate towards the building of the W. Biegański Public Library.

From the outbreak of war in 1914, he was active in the Emergency Aid committee and, from 1916, also in the Jewish section of Emergency Aid. On behalf of the municipal Food Deputation, he checked the quality of flour used to bake bread in the Jewish Popular Bakery, as well in bakeries of the Welfare Council and Unity Association. W 1933-1934, he belonged to the expansion section of the Częstochowa R. Traugutt No.2 State Gimnazjum Olsztyn, near Częstochowa.

He lived at II Aleja 31 (in a tenement belonging to his father). In 1941, he was forced by the Germans to move into the ghetto. He died (shot by the Germans?) on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1942 in Częstochowa (in the hospital at ul. Przemysłowa 10), during the deportation of the Jewish population to the Treblinka extermination camp.

He married Malwina Marusia née Rajkis and had a son, Marcel Marek Kon-Konara (1920 Warszawa – 1936 Częstochowa), who was a student at the R. Traugutt State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. (His grave can be found in the Częstochowa Jewish Cmeetery – grave No. 1151 II).

Czech, *Kalendarium przemysłu*, p. 159; Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 125. – Prüfer, *Szkolnictwo w Częstochowie*, pp. 28, 29, 31, 42; Sętowski, *Doktor Edward Kohn i jego synowie*, p. 114. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 195; “*Express Częstochowski*” 1929, No. 22, p. 3; “*Goniec Częstochowski*” 1914, No. 283, p. 3, 1915, No. 6, p. 3, No. 32, p. 2, No. 55, p. 2, No. 85, p. 2, 1917, No. 25, p. 3, No. 205, p. 3. – APCz, MagCz 8296 (Częstochowa district list of engineers); USC Częstochowa, death record (of Marcel Marek Kon-Konar) No. 35/1936, death record (of Norbert Kon) No. 139/1945.

**Juliusz Sętowski**