

KONARSKI Mieczysław Mendel (1888-1942), lawyer, patriotic and social activist. He was born 25th August 1888 in Częstochowa, the son of Leopold Lewek (24th December 1854 Częstochowa-), toy factory owner (at ul. Garncarska 48), and Dorota née Sieradzka (1860 Lututów), brother of → Adam.

After graduating in law, Konarski lived and practised in Częstochowa (until the mid-1920s at ul. Spadek 2, later until the second half of the 1930s at II Aleja 24, and until the end of the 1930s, at II Aleja 41). In 1931, at a meeting of Częstochowa lawyers, he selected as a deputy delegate to the Warsaw Law Council.

In 1919, representing the Jewish Electoral Committee, he was called before the Central Electoral Committee in Częstochowa, which was to ensure the proper conduct of elections to the City Council (RM). In 1927, on the Independent Jewish Intelligentsia list, he stood for the RM - but without success.

He engaged in patriotic activities. In March 1919, on the Nowy Rynek (pl. Daszyńskiego), he took part in a Polish recruiting campaign. In February 1921, he was a co-organiser, later chairman, of the Plebiscite Committee (a plebiscite in Górny Śląsk) of the board of the Jewish Community Council. He supported Częstochowa Jewish students and secondary education in Częstochowa. He was co-founder (on 2nd August 1922) of the Częstochowa branch of the "Auxilium Academicum Judaicum" Committee to Aid Jewish Students, in which he served on the board. (He also served there as deputy secretary). In 1933-1934, together with → Norbert Kon, Roman Wajcen and Kazimierz Marshal, he was a member of the expansion section of the student housing estate (in Olsztyn near Częstochowa) of the R. Traugutt No.2 State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa.

He participated in the activities of Jewish financial institutions in Częstochowa. In the second half of the 1920s, he was member of the supervisory board of the Industrialists and Merchants Bank. In 1934, he became president of the Interest-Free Loans to Jews Fund.

Konarski was also involved in other fields of social activity. In 1915, on behalf of the board of the Popular Bakery, he joined the Jewish section of the Emergency Aid Committee. For many years, he served as vice-president of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population (TOZ) in Częstochowa. In 1927, he co-organised the Social Club of the "Warta" Częstochowa Sports Club. In 1928, he joined the B'nai Brith lodge in Kraków. On 25th March 1937, at the station in Rudniki, near Częstochowa, he was seriously injured in the Luxtorpedo train crash.

He was vice-president of TOZ, including during the period of German occupation. In February 1941, he became partially paralysed as a result of severe mental experiences. In April of that same year, the Germans forced him and his family to live in the Częstochowa ghetto (having previously lived at ul. Kościuszki 1). On 22nd October (or 2nd November) 1942, during the deportation to the Treblinka extermination camp of the Jewish population in the local ghetto, he was beaten by a German officer and, in agony, was thrown into a wagon.

His wife was Krystyna - actually Klara née Broniatowska - (3rd July 1890 Częstochowa-), daughter of → Ludwik Lewek Broniatowski and Racla née Flatau, board member (treasurer) of the Parents Committee of the R. Traugutt No.2 State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. They had a son Lucjan (1921-1942), a graduate of the No.2 State Gimnazjum (1938), who perished in Treblinka.

Adwokaci regionu częstochowskiego (J. Sętowski, W. Paszkowski), pp. 126–127 (biogram). – Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, p. 228. – Pietrzykowski, *W obliczu śmierci*, p. 71; – M. Światała, *Pierwsze wybory do Rady Miejskiej w Częstochowie w niepodległej Polsce – 9 marca 1919 roku*, in: *Częstochowa w pierwszych latach Polski odrodzonej*, ed: R. Szwed, J. Mizgalski, W. Palusa, Częstochowa 1994, p. 33; “*Traugutt*”, pp. 74, 235 (re: son). – Rybicki, *Pod znakiem Iwa i kruka*, pp. 63, 80, 152. – *Informator handlowo-przemysłowy m. Częstochowy na 1928*, p. 58; *Spis abonentów telefonicznych 1935*, p. 49; *Spis abonentów telefonicznych 1939*, p. 49. – “*Dziennik Zarządu m. Częstochowy*” 1924, No. 3, p. 11 (re: brother Adam); “*Express Częstochowski*” 1927, No. 262, p. 3; “*Goniec Częstochowski*” 1915, No. 209, p. 2, 1919, No. 88, p. 2, 1921, No. 38, p. 3; “*Nasz Głos Powszechny*” 1932, No. 260, pp. 3–4 (re: brother Adam), 1936, No. 3, p. 4; “*Nasz Świat*” 1958, No. 1, p. 18 (re: syna); “*Nowy Express Częstochowski*” 1927, No. 70, p. 40; “*Polonia*” 1937, No. 4471 (26th March), p. 1; “*Słowo Częstochowskie*” 1934, No. 53, p. 3, No. 241, p. 5. – APCz, AmCz 5412, p. 226, 228, group No. 1, ref. 8823 (list of conscripts), No. 283. – Materials from the ODDC collections (as well as re: wife).

Juliusz Sętowski