

KRELL Icek Majer (1869-1942), entrepreneur, Zionist activist, city councillor, member of the Jewish Community Council, social activist. He was born in Warsaw, the son of Abram and Fajga.

Krell graduated from a gimnazjum. From the end of the 1890s, he probably ran a tile factory. At that time, he lived on I Aleja, in Reicher's building). He later moved to Raków (from 1928, a district of Częstochowa), where he owned a home on ul. Kościelna (from 1930, ul. Okrzei), He also owned a house in Zawodzie. He was connected to Częstochowa both professionally and socially.

He was a representative of various Italian and Polish insurance companies and, initially, he ran the Hamburger & Krell Insurance Association in Częstochowa. He later had many subordinates and workers running his business and he devoted himself to social activities. He was a member of the board of directors (together with Rajmund Zawadzki) of the Częstochowa Loan Society. As an executive director of the Society, he was particularly distinguished for supporting Jews, who were at risk of being sold up.

In 1927, he was elected as a City Councillor on the list of the United Jewish Electoral Committee. On the City Council, he sat on the Savings Committee and on the Municipal School Council.

He was a religious, traditionalist Jews, dressing in the Hassidic fashion. He was one of the most outstanding leaders of the Częstochowa orthodox organisation *Agudas Yisroel* (with offices at ul. Katedralna 13). He was vice-president of the local organisation. In 1933, he served on the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council. He was a board member of "Linias Ha'Tzedek" Society to Aid Sick and Poor Jews and of the "Beis Lechem" Society to Aid Against Extreme Poverty. He served on the Committee of Management of the *Chevra Kadisha* Burial Society. He belonged to the Zionist "Agudas Ha'Tsionim" Society.

In 1941, during the German occupation, he was forced to live in the Częstochowa ghetto. He was taken during the deportation of the Jewish population (in September and October 1942) and perished in Treblinka.

In 1899, in Kłobuck, he married Rajzla née Weksler (1870 Kłobuck – 4th June 1928 Raków), the daughter of Szymon Ha'Lewi, and is buried in the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery (grave No. 572 I).

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 132 (re: wife). – Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 373, 374; Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, p. 181; Mizgalski, *Życie polityczne Żydów*, p.

130; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 168; *Żydzi częstochowianie* (brak paginacji). – “Nasz Głos Powszechny” 1936, No. 3, p. 4. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 292; *Rocznik adresowy 1901*, p. 548; *Sprawozdanie dyirekcji Towarzystwa Kredytowego Miasta Częstochowy za rok operacyjny 1933*, Częstochowa 1934, pp. 18, 20. – APCz, MagCz 5503, pp. 319, 383–384.

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski, Roman Sitkowski