

KROMOŁOWSKI Alfred Abram (1908 - 1980s), legal advisor, lawyer, political activist. He was born on 3rd January 1908 in Częstochowa, the son of Jakub (1882? - 17th May 1941 Częstochowa), owner of a small soap factory, co-founder of the Jewish Gymnastic-Sports Association, and Stefa Szewa née Górka (-26th May 1942 Częstochowa). His parents died of natural causes during World War II.

Kromołowski changed schools several times. He attended the Union Gimnazjum in Częstochowa and, in 1931, he graduated from the 7th grade of the Stanisław Niemiec Gimnazjum in Radomsko. During his school years, he belonged to the *Ha'Shomer Ha'Tzair* Jewish scouting movement, which he left when he entered the gimnazjum. He was a co-founder of a branch of the B'nei Zion (later Herzlia) Zionist organisation in which he was active for a short time. Due to a history of rickets, he was excused from military service.

In 1931, he entered the Law Faculty at the University of Warsaw. On 20th September 1935, he graduated with a Master's degree in law. In that same year, he filed an application, with the Appeals Court in Warsaw, for a legal apprenticeship in Częstochowa. In 1938, his documents were returned with a refusal. He believed that the reason for the refusal was antisemitism. (After the war, he wrote that he had been persecuted by the *Sanacja* authorities because of his Jewish origins.) In a questionnaire, he stated that, in 1935-1937, he worked in the law practice of B. Lejzerowicz in Warsaw, as an "apprentice, performing all the activities of a trainee lawyer, except for representation in court".

In 1937, when his father found him a job at the Merchants and Industrialists Association, he returned to Częstochowa and was legal advisor to → Marian Hassenfeld, until the outbreak of the war. He was a member of the Commerce and Office Workers' Union in Częstochowa. In 1938-1939, he worked communally as assistant secretary in the Committee to Aid Refugees from Germany.

On 4th September 1939 ("Bloody Monday"), he was arrested by the Germans and imprisoned in the Zawodzie barracks – he was held there until the end of October of that same year. From 7th December 1939 until 20th September 1942, he worked as a tax clerk in the Trade and Crafts Department of the Częstochowa Council of Elders (*Judenrat*). At the end of September 1942, during a selection, he was chosen for deportation. However, his life was saved by *Judenrat* member Maurycy Kopiński. During the next selection, he took advantage of some German inattention, and fled. He managed to get into the camp assigned for

Jews – the “Small Ghetto”. Here, he was assigned to work in the *Judenrat*'s housing office.

On 4th January 1943, he avoided deportation to the camp in Treblinka. However, in February, the Germans selected him for deportation to the Skarzysko camp. He was saved by his cousin Helenka Tenenbaum (the lover of Hauptmann Schupo, Paul Degenhardt). He obtained a job doing manual work with the Hagen company, which constructed railroads. He was later moved to the HASAG Apparatebau, where he was a quality department labourer. During a selection during the night of 19th March 1943, he was saved from death by the Jewish commandant of the camp → Bernard Kurland. After suffering from typhus, he was given lighter work in a group of camp cleaners. On 16th January 1945. He avoided deportation and, at night, left the camp following the Germans' retreat.

At the end of 1945, he was nominated as a legal trainee at the Grodzki and District court in Częstochowa. However, he had to cease work due to “exhaustion and illness after going through the camp”. In 1946-1949, he worked as an administration manager and then as a law clerk at the ZMC Tape Products Manufacturing Plant in Częstochowa. At the end of 1949, he was involved in organising the Local Retail Trade (MHD). He worked there as head of the planning department and as a law clerk. In 1950, he began working as the legal advisor to MHD in Częstochowa. In 1951, he began a legal apprenticeship at the law office of → Mieczysław Idźkowski in Częstochowa, and then worked at No.2 Legal Team in Częstochowa. In 1951, he was moved to organising the Local Construction Materials Industry Plant, where he was legal advisor, at the same time, working in the legal department of the “Twórczość” Cooperative. On 29th April 1953, he passed the examination at the Provincial Law Chamber Stalinogród (Katowice). He worked in the No.2 Legal Team in Częstochowa, with offices at al. Wolności 33.

In 1947, he joined the Democratic Front in Częstochowa and, as a party activist, he was head of ideological training and a member of the City Committee. From 1949, he served as a board member of the Jewish Culture and Art Society. At the end of 1950, it was transformed into the Częstochowa branch of the Jewish Social-Cultural Association in Poland. Kromolowski became a member of the executive and the ideological training committee.

He retired on 1st November 1974 and continued working in a limited manner due to pension regulations. On 2nd September 1976, he resigned from legal practice. Soon after, with his wife and children, he left for Copenhagen. He died

there in the 1980s and was buried in the Mosaisk Vestre Begravelsesplads, (Vestre Kirkegårds Alle 11, 2450 København SV), a Jewish cemetery in Copenhagen. He was an amateur painter. He also wrote extensive memoirs – they remain handwritten and are stored in the Yad Vashem Institute.

Kromołowski married twice. His first wife was Stella Estera née Szmulewicz, who perished on 20th July 1943. After the war, he married Róża Monhajt. They had two children.

Adwokaci regionu częstochowskiego (W. Paszkowski), pp. 134–136 (photo.); Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, pp. 134 (re: father), 277 (re: mother). – Zembrzuski, *Przewodnik po Częstochowie*, p. 146; J. Pietrzykowski, *Hitlerowcy przed sądem w Częstochowie*, Katowice 1964, pp. 33, 69. – Jewish Historical Institute Archives, Judenrat statistics annual 1940, vol. I, p. 78. District Law Council in Częstochowa, personal files of Alfred Kromołowski.

Wiesław Paszkowski