

**MAJTLIS** (MEITLIS, MEJTLIS) Izrael Ber (1861–1941), merchant, industrialist, charity activist. He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1861 in Modrzejów, the son of Salomon and Laja née Openheim (-1929), possibly related to Icek Hersz Majtlis (1846 Modrzejów - 1928) who, in 1897, leased a mining plot (iron ore) to the B. Hantke Society.

Majtlis was a wholesaler of coal and coke in Częstochowa, at ul. Mikołajewska 13 (later, it was ul. Katedralna 8). From 1914, he also owned the lime kilns under the name of Izrael Meitlis Lime Company (at ul. Złota 136. In 1937, it was bankrupt). He co-owned the Meitlis Brothers & Wiernik Trade and Expeditionary House in Częstochowa. In 1907, he co-founded and, in 1927, was a member of the board of the Częstochowa Cooperative Bank (at I Aleja 7). He was also a member of the committee of management of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Częstochowa Savings and Loan Society.

He belonged to the “Dobroczynność” Charitable Society for Jews (TDdŻ). He was a member of the Poverty Section and financially supported the poor and the TDdŻ Hospital (including, in 1913, a donation of 100 rubles). During the war, from 1914, (together with his son Józef) he helped the Emergency Aid Committee. In 1920, during the war with the Bolsheviks, he donated 1,500 marks to the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier (operating through the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council).

With his family, he lived in a tenement at ul. Katedralna 8. (He also owned the property at ul. Mickiewicza 13).

He died on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1941 in Częstochowa (in his home at ul. Katedralna 8) and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery (grave No. 044 I). The inscription of the Majtlis family grave reads:

*“Perished at the hands of Nazi bandits: Majtlis Józef, Helena, Samuel, Halina, Herman, Franka, Rafael, Zuzanna, Teofil, Jakub, Helena, Władysław, Mieczysław”.*

His wife was Judyta née Haftka (24<sup>th</sup> May 1860 Częstochowa – 15<sup>th</sup> November 1933 Częstochowa). They had six sons [and a daughter]:

- Józef (Josek) Icek (17<sup>th</sup> January 1883 Modrzejów – 1942?), accountant, charity activist
- → Herman Chaim (1885 Częstochowa - 1942),
- Jakub (17<sup>th</sup> January 1888 Częstochowa - 1942?), office worker
- → Paweł Pinkus, lawyer,
- Maurycy (31<sup>st</sup> July 1903 Częstochowa - 1942 Treblinka),

- Samuel (22<sup>nd</sup> November 1907 - 1942) who, in 1925, graduated from the H. Sienkiewicz State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, as well as a daughter
- Dorota (9<sup>th</sup> November 1890 Częstochowa–).

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 276; *Sienkiewiczacy*, p. 231; Surma-Jończyk, *Spółdzielczość Żydów*, p. 261, 280, 281, 282; A.E. Paszkiewicz, *Dzieje wapna na ziemiach polskich, w: Inżynierowie polscy w XIX i XX wieku*, vol. VIII, Warszawa 2005, p. 143. – “Express Częstochowski” 1929, No. 116, p. 3, 1930, No. 9, p. 2; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1909, No. 136, p. 10, 1914, No. 268, p. 2 (re: son Józef), 1920, No. 204, p. 3; “Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie” 1932, No. 135, p. 4. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 9, 13 (advertisements), 188, 233, 311; *Rocznik adresowy 1901*, p. 551; *Sprawozdanie Tow. Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, pp. 7, 19, 21. – APCz, unit No. 1, ref. 8823, Nos. 343, 379 (re son Jakub); USC Częstochowa, death record No. 728/1941, register 112. – Materials (including extracts of records from civil registers) in the ODDC collections.

**Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski**