

MEHRING (MERING, MERYNG) Mojżesz (1898-1943?), teacher, city councillor, Zionist, social activist. He was born on 7th December 1898 in Bolechowo near. Stanisławów, the son of Josel and Etlá née Hamerman.

Mehring graduated from the eight-grade gimnazjum in Stryj. At university, he gained a doctorate in philosophy. He taught religion, Hebrew language and Jewish history in the Gimnazjum and Comprehensive School of the Society of Jewish Secondary and Comprehensive Schools (at ul. Dąbrowskiego 3a and, later, at ul. Jasnogórska 8/10).

In 1931, he became committee chairman of the “Lira” Society’s Singing and Music Circle. (The Circle was active from 1932 to 1935). In the second half of the 1930s, he served on the board of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population TOZ, as well as of the Hebrew Courses Association. In 1930, he co-organised the ethnographic section of the Jewish Sightseeing Society, which collected material on the culture and customs from the everyday life of Jews in Częstochowa and the surrounding area. In 1936, he joined the board (he was secretary) of the Committee for the Building of Jewish Community Schools in Częstochowa. In 1933, he was a member of the Jewish Community Council and, for a time, served on the Gmina Council. As a Zionist, he fought fiercely, in the *Gmina*, against the rival pro-Polish gimnazjum of → Dr. Filip Axer.

He was a local government activist. In 1934, standing on the United Jewish Economic Bloc list, he was elected as a deputy councillor. He became a city councillor, in 1935, following the resignation of → Maurycy Neufeld from the City Council. From 1938, he belonged to the City Council’s committee which worked on projects of administrative affiliation in Częstochowa. In 1939, he was elected as a city councillor, standing on the list of the United Jewish Electoral Bloc.

From the beginning of the German occupation, following the closure of the Jewish schools), he organised private educational classes. He also gave readings and lectures on historical topics. He lived at ul. Dąbrowskiego 28, then at ul. Jasnogórska 34 (to 1941). He was later forced to move into the ghetto.

Appointed by the Council of Elders (*Judenrat*) as TOZ commissar, on 25th March 1941, he dissolved its board of management, which was ordered by the German authorities, with the aim of limiting TOZ’s activities. On 21st September 1942, as a Zionist delegate, he was to take part in a conference about the creation of an armed resistance organisation. The conference never took place due to the arrest, by the German police, of the organisers. In October 1942, he was

transported from the Częstochowa ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp. For a certain time, he worked in the camp's Jewish service. He was later murdered. His death was witnessed by Samuel Willenberg.

His first wife was Beila Itla Laufer. They had a son, Juda (1924? Częstochowa-). Following the divorce, in 1936, he married Estera (3th August 1897 Częstochowa-) prev. Rozental, the daughter of Mordka Szulim Kon and Rojza née Glikzman. She was a Polish teacher at the Gimnazjum and Liceum of the Society of Jewish Secondary and Comprehensive Schools in Częstochowa. The couple had a daughter. His wife Estera, together with their daughter Estera and stepson, died in in 1942 in Treblinka.

Zagórowski, *Spis nauczycieli 1926*, p. 294; *Słownik nauczycieli*, p. 59 (re: wife also). - Grzędzielski, *Oświata żydowska w Częstochowie*, pp. 178, 179, 182, 183; Malko, *Życie muzyczne Częstochowy*, p. 305; Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, pp. 186, 258; Sętowski, *Żydowskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze*, p. 60; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie miasta Częstochowy*, pp. 160, 169; Urbanowicz, *Rzemiosło*, p. 229; *Żydzi częstochowianie. Współistnienie – holocaust – pamięć*, p. nlb. – Einhorn, *Wybrany, aby żyć*, p. 56; Willenberg, *Bunt w Treblince*, pp. 14–15, p. 97–99 (photo). – “Almanach Częstochowy” 2000, p. 99; “Express Częstochowski” 1930, nr 197, p. 3; “Nasz Głos Powszechny” 1936, nr 2, p. 2, 3, nr 3, p. 4. – *Sprawozdanie kierownictwa filii ck gimnazjum w Stryju za rok szkolny 1916/17* – digital version: <http://www.pbc.rzeszow.pl/dlibra/plain-content?id=5084> (as a grade 7 pupil). – USC Częstochowa, marriage record No. 162/1936; APCz, birth record No. 1897/263; APCz, Mag.Cz. 5573.

Andrzej Kuśnierczyk, Wiesław Paszkowski, Juliusz Sętowski