

**MONAT** Arnold Urie (1866–1920?), sculpture artist, teacher. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1866 in Częstochowa, the son of Abram and Marianna née Mertz (1840-1899), brother of Adela (1868 Częstochowa-) and Wolf (1870 Częstochowa-).

The Monat family was connected to Krzepice and Panki where, probably in 1840, his father Abram was born (the son of Kałma and Ruchla née Kohn). In the mid-1860s, Abram lived in Częstochowa and worked as a trader, pretending to be a local resident. There, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1865, he married Marianna Mertz.

Until circa 1882, he lived and studied in Częstochowa. Later, when the family moved to Łódź, he began work as an apprentice in a printing house. In his father's store, he became acquainted with lithography and also became interested in art. He displayed undoubted artistic talent. However, his father was against his son's artistic education, especially at his expense. Monat managed to sell some of his portrait drawings.

These first earnings made him believe in himself. He left for London and for two years, studied at the National Art Training School. Later, he became a student of Prof. von Hoffmann in Vienna, from whose recommendation, he became a free student at the Academy of Fine Arts. He also studied in Paris, where he was accepted by the Russian-Jewish sculptor Mark Antokolski and, later, also by Prof. Aleksander Tondeur in Berlin. He received fair payment for his work, but still worked as a decorator. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he was connected with Berlin and, until 1914, he lived there permanently, running his own atelier.

However, he did not lose his ties with Poland, presenting his sculptures in collective exhibitions in 1898 in Łódź and, in 1912 and 1913, at the Society for the Promotion of Fine Arts in Warsaw. In March 1914, in Łódź, he held an individual exhibition (combined with an exhibition of paintings by Adolf Behrmann).

During World War I, he lived in Częstochowa (where he and his two daughters were registered). He later moved to Łódź, where he taught in A. Behrmann's art school. In the spring of 1918, he took part in an exhibition by the Society of Łódź Artists. In 1919, he lived in Częstochowa, running an open atelier (at III Aleja 57). On a special order, he created a plaster and bronze portrait sculpture of → Henryk Markusfeld. Several copies were bought by the subject himself, as well as by the Jewish Gimnazjum and the Częstochowa Craftsmen's Club.

In December 1919, he left permanently for Berlin where, probably soon after, he died.

In 1901, he married Joanna née Peglau. They had two daughters: Rita (1901 Berlin-) and Ilta (1903 Berlin-).

*Polski słownik judaistyczny*, vol. 2, p. 178 (here as "Henryk Monat"). – SAP, vol. V, p. 629. – M. Schach, *Arnold Monat*, "Ost und West" 1912 z. 3, cols. 223–226; "Częstochower Tageblatt" 1919 No. 226 (20<sup>th</sup> Oct.), p. 3. – APCz, marriage record (Abram Monat's) 27/1865; birth record No. 151, 1868; Marriage record No. 63/1901.

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