

OLIWENSZTEJN Bencjon (1832–1908), clergyman, member of the rabbinical court. He was most probably born in Warsaw, as he was associated with that city for a large part of his life. He was the son of Eliahu and Estera Hana.

It is not known where he was educated and with which rabbi he received his *smicha* [rabbinic certification] – whether it was an orthodox rabbi or someone who was associated with a Hasidic court.

In Częstochowa, he was involved in one of the large prayer-houses. He also entered into the rabbinical court (*Beit Din*). The inscription on his matzevah of “great judge”, and an image of a wardrobe with books, suggests that he was especially valued as a rabbinical judge, for his knowledge of religious law and for his common sense.

His time in Częstochowa cannot be considered as an episode in life as, when he died, he had the status of permanent resident. He died on 30th June 1908 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery (grave No. 1052 II).

He was a widower, following the death of his wife Laja née Szol.

Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 175. – APCz, unit No. 58, death record No. 109/1908.

Wiesław Paszkowski