

PERETZ (PEREC) Aron (1881–1957) dentist, city councillor, political, sports and political activist. He was born on 18th December 1881 in Zamość, the son of Nuchim and Maria née Erlich. His father was related to I. L. Perec and Aron Peretz, as a boy, stayed in the writer's family home.

After completing *cheder*, he received a secular education, matriculating from a gimnazjum in Siedlce. As a gimnazjum student, he took part in the revolutionary events of 1905. In that same year, he was arrested and imprisoned in Brest Fortress for his activity in the Bund. In 1907, he was exiled to Siberia. From there, he escaped to Tiflis and, from there, he made his way to Charkow. There, in 1909, he completed his tertiary education and received his dentistry diploma.

In 1911, Peretz and his wife settled in Częstochowa. He owned a dental clinic at Nowy Rynek 4 (pl. Daszyńskiego). As part of the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population TOZ (of which he was a board member), he ran a dental surgery and gave lectures on oral hygiene.

He was active politically. In 1918-1922, he was one of the Częstochowa Bund's most active members. In 1927, representing the Bund, he became a deputy councillor on the Częstochowa City Council. In 1929, entered the City Council, replacing → Marek Lederman, who had resigned.

Prior to 1914, he was one of the organisers of the cultural life of Częstochowa Jews. He sat on the board (in 1912, he was president) of the "Lira" Musical-Cultural Society. He belonged to the drama section of the Jewish Literary Society. He directed performances by members of that section (including one play staged on 16th April 1911). In 1929, he co-founded the Friends of Jewish Theatre Arts.

Peretz was also active in sports. In 1921, he took part in the reactivation of the activities of the Jewish Gymnastics-Sports Association (ŻTGS), becoming its president and later a member of its board. In the 1930s, he was one of the most distinguished activists of the Częstochowa branch of the "Jutrznia" Worker's Physical Education Association.

He was also a member of the "Dobroczynność" Charitable Society for Jews and of the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Red Cross. In 1936, Peretz was elected as a senior of the Jewish Community Council (*gmina*). At the end of 1937, at the impressive celebrations of the fortieth anniversary of the Bund (attended by over 500 people), Peretz was recognised as a Bund Veteran.

In 1939, he lived at pl. Daszyńskiego 4. In September 1939, during the German aggression against Poland, the Peretz family left for Włodzimierz Wołyński. Following the entry of the Red Army, they volunteered to go further into the Soviet Union. The Peretz family returned to Poland in 1945 and settled in Gliwice, where Aron opened a dental surgery. He took part in the local cultural and social life.

He died in 1957 in Gliwice.

In 1910, he married Chana Horowicz (1890 - 1950 Gliwice), who was active in the Bund. They had two children:

- a son Mojżesz Mietek (1st April 1912 Częstochowa - 1980). In 1930, he completed Year 7 at the H. Sienkiewicz State Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. While a gimnazjum student, he belonged to the Communist Union of Polish Youth (a student circle consisting of pupils from the Sienkiewicz and Traugutt gimnazja). He worked as an electrical engineer. In 1934, he was in Lyon (studying engineering) and, during the war, he was with his parents in the Soviet Union, where he married. After the war, with his wife, he returned to Poland, where he worked, in Śląsk, as a steel foundry engineer. In 1968, he left for Germany, where he died.
- Córka Zofia, married surname Lipic (1921 Częstochowa - 2005) married in the Soviet Union and remained there. She was an English teacher. Years later, she emigrated to the United States, where she died.

Kozłowska, *Żydowski ruch teatralny*, p. 45; Małolepszy, *Kultura fizyczna*, p. 76; Małolepszy, *Ruch sportowy*, p. 84; *Żydzi częstochowianie* (brak paginacji), p. 169; T. Mielczarek, "Życie polityczne robotników częstochowskich 1918–1939", Warszawa 1988, p. 250 (maszynopis w zbiorach Biblioteki Miejskiej w Częstochowie); Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, p. 145, 152; Sętowski, *Żydowskie Towarzystwo Gimnastyczno-Sportowe*, pp. 257, 258; Szwed, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, pp. 159, 169; Mielczarek, *Organizacje robotniczych partii żydowskich*, p. 47. – "Express Częstochowski" 1929, No. 64, p. 2, No. 258, p. 3; "Nasz Głos Powszechny" 1936, No. 2, p. 3. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1913*, p. 206; *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 299; *PCK Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 30; *Sprawozdanie Tow. Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*; *Urzędowy spis lekarzy 1939*, p. 51. – APCz, unit No. 1, ref. 8858, k. 901 (re: son Mojżesz).

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski