

**POZNAŃSKI** Aleksander (1869 – after 1939), textile engineer, factory director, independence and social activist. He was born on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1869 in Częstochowa, the son of Jan (1839 Częstochowa -) and Augusta Gusta née Hejman, the grandson of 2<sup>nd</sup> Guild merchant Aleksander Zyskind Poznański (1815? - 1861 Częstochowa).

Poznański graduated from the Real Gimnazjum in Warsaw, where he was involved in patriotic activities. On 17<sup>th</sup> March 1890, he was arrested in Warsaw, after the socio-revolutionary newspapers “Pobudka” and “Ognisko” were found in his possession. He was accused of belonging to the Polish Youth Union and was sentenced to four months in prison. He completed his textile studies, presumably in Berlin, as this is the city in which he undertook an apprenticeship in a textile factory. Circa 1902, he began work at the “Warta” Spinning and Weaving Plant in Częstochowa and soon became one of the factory’s directors.

He was involved in independence activities. From circa 1901, he belonged to the Polish Socialist Party (PPS). In 1903, he joined the PPS Intelligence Circle in Częstochowa. After the split in the PPS in November 1906, he sided with the PPS-Revolutionary Faction (PPS-FR). In 1907-1908, he was a member of Częstochowa District Workers’ Committee (OKR) of the PPS-FR. He took part in underground meetings, which took place in Raków (now a suburb of Częstochowa), including in the apartments of the doctor Mieczysław Michałowicz and the engineer Władysław Hackiewicz.

From April 1907 until the end of 1910, his apartment at ul. Cerkiewna 6 (Kilińskiego) served as a weapons store for the PPS-FR Combat Organisation. The weapons had been transferred there (for fear of a search) from the “Częstochowa” Steel Mill in Raków.

Poznański was a well-known social activist. In 1906, he belonged to the Polish Schools Committee, which led to the establishment of the No.1 Polish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. As a member of that school’s Supervisory Board, he took part in the meetings of the Pedagogical Council. He was a co-founder of the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge (TSzW) and, in 1909, was its president. In 1908-1910, he belonged to its board and its library committee. He donated funds towards the TSzW and donated books to its library.

In 1907, in the elections to the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Duma, he was a member of the electoral committee of the Progressive Union in Częstochowa. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1910, he was arrested as the result of testimony provided by the provocateur Antoni

Sukiennik. He was held under arrest in Częstochowa and, from 27<sup>th</sup> February 1911, in the provincial prison in Piotrków. He was released on 18<sup>th</sup> June of that same year, after his family paid bail of 5,000 rubles. In May 1914, during the trial of eighty-two members of the PPS-FR Zagłębie Dąbrowskie and Częstochowa, he was acquitted.

Until 1939, he worked as an engineer at the “Warta” factory. In the 1930s, he belonged to the Society for the Promotion of Regional Culture and also of the Polish Sightseeing Society. According to Dr. Stanisław Nowak,

*“Poznański was a sincere Pole, a sincere PPS member, a man of high culture, a true European, very well educated, someone who distinguished himself very positively amongst the group of PPS member of that time”.*

He and his wife, Hanna, had a son, Remigiusz, an engineer who, in 1931, was employed by the French-Belgian railway society, as the technical manager of the Trans-Saharan Railway.

*Przewodnik po Częstochowie 1909*, p. VIII (advertisements). – P. Martynowski, *Polska bojowa*, Łódź 1937, p. 115; Sętowski, *Czyn zbrojny*, pp. 95, 204 (biography), 221. – A. Uziembło, *W Częstochowie i na Rakowie*, “Niepodległość” vol. XIV, 1936, p. 251; Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień II*, pp. 73, 103, 110, 113, 121. – “Dziennik Częstochowski” 1906, No. 161, p. 2, No. 224, p. 2, 1907, No. 29, p. 2, No. 118, p. 3, 1909, No. 50, p. 3; “Express Ilustrowany” 1931, No. 158, p. 3; “Gazeta Częstochowska” 1909, No. 136, p. 8; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1907, No. 118, p.3, No. 195, p. 3, 1912, No. 46, p. 2, No. 248, p. 3; – *Spis abonentów sieci telefonicznych 1939*, p. 52; – APCz, Jewish gmina civil records 1869, birth rec. No. 85; Archiwum Akt Nowych, Warszawa, oddział VI, Archiwum PPS 305/III/vol. 14, podvol. VIII, pp. 25–26, 117 (tesyimony of Antoni Sukiennik); AGAD, Prokurator Warszawskiej Izby Sądowej 1, 655, pp. 32–33, 87, 7091, k. 100, 7961, k. 59, 100, 127. – Minutes book of the Tow. Szerzenia Wiedzy w Częstochowie (in the collections of Krzysztof Dziuba of Częstochowa).

**Juliusz Sętowski**