

PRZYSUSKIER Stanisław (1888-1942), engineer, teacher, head of school, sport and social activist. He was born in Warsaw, the son of Menachem Mendel.

After graduating from the Warsaw Real Gimnazjum in 1905, he left for Germany, where he studied at a polytechnic and, in 1910, received an engineering diploma. He then worked in Germany and only returned to Warsaw in January 1920.

On 22nd June 1922, he was appointed as director of the Częstochowa Crafts School for Jews (at ul. Garncarska 8/10). At that time, the school was in very bad condition – it had not yet recovered from the devastation of war. Its number of students was minimal and the workshops were devastated. In just a short period of time, he raised the school to such a level that it was recognised as a model school of its type in Poland. In addition to the carpentry and locksmithing departments, he launched an electro-technical department. The same building housed the evening Supplementary School for Jewish Men.

In June 1937, the fifteenth anniversary of his work was celebrated. In those fifteen years, over 400 students had graduated from the school. All of them found employment (in their own workshops or in factories), up to 80% in their chosen trade. Over 500 apprentices graduated from the evening school. Also, no one from that group was unemployed. In 1938, he expanded the school's buildings and, in that same year, the school was recognised as a "technical gimnazjum".

During the occupation, the director retained the school. Despite the limited curriculum for training and workshop activities. It provided students with employment and protection against forced labour. From December 1940 to May 1941, he led vocational courses (carpentry, locksmithing, tailoring), organised at the school by the *Judenrat*. In the summer of 1942, the Germans closed the school.

Przysuskier was also involved in sports. From the mid-1920s, he was active in the Jewish Gymnastics-Sport Association. He was a board member (in 1928 elected as vice-president) of the "Jordania" Sports Club. He was also active in the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population (TOZ), including in April 1927, he delivered a lecture on "The Attitude of Jewish Society Towards TOZ".

Until the outbreak of World War II, together with his family, he lived in the school building at ul. Garncarska 8/10). His wife was lawyer Maria Przysuskier,

with whom he had a daughter Janina. The whole family perished in the autumn of 1942 at the Treblinka extermination camp.

Brener, *Widersztand*, p. 56; Małolepszy, *Kultura fizyczna*, p. 75. - "Nowy Express Częstochowski" 1926, No. 258, p. 3, 1927, No. 126, p. 3; "Częstochower Cajtung" 1932, No. 27, p. 5, 1937, No. 25, p. 4. – Szkolnictwo w Częstochowie 1939–1941 (handwritten in Częstochowa Municipal collection).

Wiesław Paszkowski, Juliusz Sętowski