

ROZENTAL Zyskind Ber (1849-1926) cantor of the city synagogue. He was buried on 1st November 1849 in Konin, the son of Abram and Haja née Kloc.

Previously, from the beginning of the 1880s, he had served as cantor in Konin and in Płock. Following the death of cantor → Rafał Jankiel Londyński, he came to Częstochowa in 1894, with his four sons and a choir of sixteen singers. Immediately following an examination, he was appointed as the city cantor. He lived at Stary Rynek [Old Market Square] 9.

Each Saturday, he would give concerts at his home, with the choir and his daughter – he played the violin, his daughter played the piano and the choir sang. The street would be full of people, listening to these concerts. As a cantor, twice a year, Rozental performed public concerts. He conducted the orchestra and played the violin.

He was a learned Talmud scholar, had a music education (he played the violin and piano), created an entire range of Jewish compositions and enriched the art of cantorial music. He had a complete band with choristers and, each year, on the *Yamim Noraim* (*Days of Awe* – between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur), he prepared new compositions for prayers in the old Jewish tradition. Jewish music lovers eagerly came to the synagogue, during the holidays, to listen to his new works.

According to tradition, he prayed (singing) for the last time shortly before his death. He died on 23rd February 1926 in Częstochowa at ul. Ogrodowa 10.

His first wife was Gitla Rywka née Gliksman (1853? - 1903 Częstochowa). He married again to Ruchla née Dessau aka Madenberg (1848-).

Orenstein, *Churban Czenstochow*, pp. 354, 355; *Czenstochow*, p. 13; *Sefer Czenstochow I*, cols. 714, 715. – APCz, death record No. 7/1903; USC Częstochowa, death record No. 42/1926.

Wiesław Paszkowski