

**RUFF** Maurycy (- after 1929), engineer, board member of financial institutions, independence and social activist.

From 1897, he was administrator of the "Warta" Textile Factory. In 1911-1925, he was director of the Częstochowa branch of the Bank Ryski. As a financial practitioner, he was a board member of the Częstochowa Savings & Loan Fund and of the supervisory council of the Second Częstochowa Savings & Loan Society. He was a member of the audit committee of the Mutual Loan Society and a member of the finance commission of the Częstochowa City Council.

Following the outbreak of war, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, together with sixty-three well-known citizens of the city, he took part in a conference aimed at preventing the difficult financial situation of the people of Częstochowa. At this meeting, he joined the finance committee.

He was soon appointed to the expanded composition of the City Council and served as a councillor until 1917. He participated in independence activities. In 1904-1907, together with his wife, he belonged to the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) and its intelligentsia circle in Częstochowa. According to Adam Uziembła, "the party and its staff owed them a great deal". During the war with the Bolsheviks, he financially supported the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier. In August 1920, he donated 200 Polish marks.

Ruff was also involved in social activities. In 1906, representing the Polish School Committee, he took part in the creation of the No.1 Polish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. He was co-founder, a member of the audit committee and, in 1906-1907, was a board member of the Society for the Spreading of Knowledge. He also sat on the board of the "Lira" Musical-Literary Society. He served as president of the Association of Commercial and Industrial Employees in Częstochowa.

Organisationally, he prepared a conference of representatives of national trade unions and associations, which took place during the Industry and Agriculture Exhibition in Częstochowa in 1909.

He delivered lectures on the history of trade development (including, in 1907, on the development of trade and economic relations from the dawn of history through to the Middle Ages). In 1914-1916, he lectured in Trade Courses at the Trade Workers Association of Częstochowa. In 1915, during the war, he was a board member of the Częstochowa Loans Fund. He belonged to the "Dobroczytność" Charitable Society for Jews.

In Częstochowa, he lived at ul. Piłsudskiego 13 and, later, at II Aleja 33. After 1929, he probably left Częstochowa.

He married Maria née Zylber, a social and independence activist, with whom he had a son → Jan.

Prüffer, *Szkolnictwo w Częstochowie*, p. 37. – Nowak, *Z moich wspomnień II*, p. 72. – A. Uziembło, *W Częstochowie i na Rakowie*, "Niepodległość" 1938, vol. XIV, p. 236. – "Dziennik Częstochowski" 1907, No. 118, p. 3; "Express Częstochowski" 1929, No. 32, p. 3; "Gazeta Częstochowska" 1910, No. 103, p. 3; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1908, No. 96, p. 2, 1909, No. 115, p. 2, No. 120, p. 1, No. 136, p. 9, No. 142, p. 9, 10, No. 161, p. 2, 1910, No. 148, p. 3, 1912, No. 56, p. 3, 1914, No. 212, p. 2, 1915, No. 170, p. 2, No. 189, p. 3, No. 234, p. 3, 1920, No. 204, p. 3. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 186; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*. – Minutes Register of the Society for Spreading Knowledge in Częstochowa (in the collections of Krzysztof Dziuba of Częstochowa), k. 1, 14.

**Juliusz Sętowski**