

SZAJA Herman Herszlik (1870-1942), industrialist, social and charity activist. He was born on 11th July 1870 in Częstochowa, the son of Mordka and Rywa née Szyfer.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Szaja owned a metal products factory, in Częstochowa. Established in 1894, it produced corkscrews and toys (children's watches, brooches, tin clowns). From 1876, he also owned the Spectacles, Binoculars and Toys Factory at ul. Spadek 5. (In 1913, the factory operated under the name "The First National Spectacles & Optical Glass Factory".) By August 1914, most of the production was exported to the Russian Empire.

In the 1930s, Szaja ran a factory at ul. Garibaldiiego 19, the real estate at this address belonging to his wife. (In 1933, it was the "Metal Products, Protective Glasses & Optical Glasses Factory".)

He was active in the charitable field, belonging to the "Dobroczytność" Charitable Society for Jews. In 1913-1914, he was a member of both the board and Council of the Second Częstochowa Crafts Savings and Loan Society, its headquarters being at II Aleja 27. In 1934, he served on the board (as secretary) of the "Makabi" Jewish Gymnastics-Sports Association.

He perished on 30th October 1942, during the deportation of the Jews from the local ghetto.

In 1894, in Częstochowa, he married Szyfra née Woźnic (1877 Częstochowa-), the daughter of Szlama and Temera née Aronowicz. They had six children:

- Rajzla (8th April 1896 Częstochowa – 1st August 1943 Auschwitz), married surname Krauze, who lived in Będzin,
- Frajdla (26th December 1897 Częstochowa-),
- Rywa (14th June 1899 Częstochowa-),
- Moszek (25th January 1903 Częstochowa-),
- Juda (17th July 1904 Częstochowa-),
- Markus (20th March 1906 Częstochowa-).

Czech, *Kalendarium przemysłu*, p. 64. – "Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie" 1934, No. 18, p. 6. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 312; *Przewodnik po wystawie 1909*, p. 87; *Rocznik częstochowski. Kalendarz 1903*, p. XX; *Spis abonentów sieci telefonicznych 1939*, p. 53; *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczytności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 5. – Materials (including extracts from civil registers) in ODDC collections.

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski