

SZPIRO Feliks (1889-), merchant, clerk, bank vice-president, city councillor and juror, Zionist and social activist. He was born on 28th August 1889 in Kielce. His sister was Czesława, married surname Orlińska (→ Czesława Orlińska).

He graduated from a gimnazjum in Kielce and, for two years, studied in the Philosophy Faculty at the University of Berne (Switzerland). After returning to Częstochowa (circa 1910), he engaged in trade. During World War 1, he involved himself in charitable activities including, in November 1914, he took part in a rescue for the Emergency Aid Committee.

In 1928, he was mentioned as a merchant and, in the middle of the 1930s, as an office worker. At the beginning of the 1930s, he served as vice-president of the Częstochowa Co-operative Banks, its headquarters being at I Aleja 7.

Supported by the Jewish circle of the City Council, in 1927, he was selected as a city juror, a function he performed over two terms – 1927-1930 and 1934-1939. Among other duties, he was responsible for departments in the Częstochowa municipal authority – municipal statistics and enterprises. In 1934, representing the United Jewish Business Bloc, he was elected to the City Council. He served on the Clerical Committee.

In 1928, as part of the Częstochowa School Board, he was a member of the School Council. He was one of the active Zionists, serving as vice-president of the Częstochowa branch of the Zionist Organisation.

He was also a co-operative activist. In 1919, he was the principal founder of the Częstochowa Commercial Workers' Co-operative. He was also a merchant. He was a board member of the Industrialists and Merchants Association, serving as vice-president in 1937.

He was active in support of the Jewish community. In 1928-1938, he was president of the Association of Secondary Schools in Częstochowa. In the second half of the 1930s, he also belonged to the construction committee of the Building Committee of Jewish Community Schools in Częstochowa. He was active in the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population (TOZ) including, in 1927, delivering a lecture entitled "The Social Tasks of TOZ". In 1929, he was one of the founders of the Society of Friends of Jewish Theatre.

Szpiro was severely critical of Dr. Stanisław Nowak, a Częstochowa city councillor, "He did not have a very volatile mind, a very heavy and comfortable

person, who displayed neither business acumen nor dexterity and the ability to manage the municipal enterprises which he managed [...], he was the only Jewish representative within the municipal authority [...], devoid of any feeling which could be call local patriotism”.

In Częstochowa, Szpiro lived at ul. Kościuszki 25 and, later, at al. Wolności 28.

He had a wife and two children.

Corpus studiosorum S-Ś, p. 840 (re: his sister). – Mizgalski, *Życie polityczne Żydów*, p. 134; Paszkowski, *Budynek Żydowskiego Gimnazjum*, pp. 162, 163, 164, 165, 166; Sobalski, *Związki zawodowe i stowarzyszenia*, p. 136; Szwed, *Radni m. Częstochowy*, pp. 52, 55. – *Żydzi częstochowianie* (brak paginacji). – Nowak, *Samorząd m. Częstochowy*, pp. 223, 229, 237, 271, 275, 277, 278, 304. – *Rocznik polskiego przemysłu i handlu 1936*, No. 26; 1938, No. 29. – “Express Częstochowski” 1928, No. 261, p. 4; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1914, No. 311, p. 2, 1927, No. 277, p. 5; “Nasz Głos Powszechny” 1936, No. 3, p. 4, No. 8, p. 4; “Nowy Express Częstochowski” 1927, No. 126, p. 3; “Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie” 1932, No. 135, p. 4. – APCz, MagCz 5503, pp. 315, 5316, 5573, 5582, k. 9.

Juliusz Sętowski