

**SZTENCEL** (SZTENZEL) Maurycy Mosiek (1852–1930), painter artist. He was born on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1852 in Częstochowa, the son of Szmul and Laja née Boruch.

He attended the Men's Classical Progimnazjum in Częstochowa, where his talents were recognised by teachers Bronisław Grabowski and Adrian Głębocki, a painter and graphic artist, who taught drawing at the school. Encouraged by them, after graduating from the progimnazjum in 1872, he enrolled in the Drawing School in Warsaw, where he was a student of Aleksander Kamiński and Aleksander Lesser.

He made great progress and, as a student of the Drawing School, in 1873, he was awarded a silver medal in a competition in St. Petersburg. It was then, for the first time, that his works were presented at the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Although he had no financial resources, in 1875, he left to study in Munich. There, he studied at the academy of fine arts, initially in the nature studies class with Ferdinand Barth.

In the first year, he twice won this department's bronze medal for his works and, again, a silver medal in St. Petersburg. He later moved to a branch of the *Malerschule*, which was higher in the academic hierarchy – painting under Aleksander Wagner and, later, in the compositional school of Andreas Müller.

After returning to Warsaw in 1885, he mostly painted portraits, including still lifes. His works were shown at the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts. There, he presented a number of Munich studies, as well as the painting *Jankiel przy cymbałach*.

In 1909-1916, he was an illustrator for the Warsaw weekly "Świat". As a painter, he was a representative of 19<sup>th</sup> century realistic painting, which grew out of the Munich school tradition. In oil and pastel technique, he created portraits of representatives of the Warsaw bourgeoisie, still lifes (flowers) and genre scenes (the painting *Courtship*). He painted subjects inspired by Italy and scenes from Shakespeare's plays. From 1929, he lived a shelter for Jewish intelligentsia in Warsaw.

He died on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1930 in Warsaw and was buried in the Jewish cemetery on ul. Okopowa. The grave has not survived. In a posthumous memoir in the "Express Częstochowski", there is information that "he was a religious Jew, an ardent Polish patriot, who adhered to the ideals of the years 1861–1863".

In 1882, he married Dorota Bronisława née Bursztyńska (30<sup>th</sup> April 1857 Częstochowa-), the daughter of → Salezy Bursztyński and Rozalia née Winer.

*Sienkiewiczacy*, s. 35; *Wielka encyklopedia malarstwa polskiego*. – “Express Częstochowski” 1930, No. 87, p. 3 (mention); “Wiek” 1876 No. 184 (21<sup>st</sup> August), p. 3; “Tydzień” (Piotrków) 1876, No. 5 (26<sup>th</sup> February), p. 2. – *Sprawozdanie Towarzystwa Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 5; *Sprawozdanie TZSP*, Warszawa 1930, p. 16.

**Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski**