

Reb Szmul Goldsztajn *hy”d*



He was born in Mława (Warsaw Province) in 1883¹ and came to Częstochowa in 1902, when he married the granddaughter of Reb Nut’l Pankowski, who was among the city’s prominent residents and the owner of an iron foundry on ulica Krótka.

The young Goldsztajn, who was endowed with great organisational talent, immediately became involved in the factory’s affairs and greatly expanded it.

Following the grandfather’s death, the foundry passed to the ownership of Reb Szmul Goldsztajn and his brother-in-law Reb Dawid Berlinerblau. They merged with the “Wulkan” ironworks and operated jointly under the name “Metalurgia”, which became very famous, even outside Poland, for the quality of its products.

Despite being very busy with the factory’s affairs, Goldsztajn did not confine himself just to this, but was first and foremost involved in every useful public works.

For many years, starting in 1914, he was the leader of the Częstochowa *Kehilla* and, later, also a Patron of the Jewish Hospital, a City Council member on behalf of “Ha’Mizrachi”, Chairman of the Central Cooperative Bank [and] a member of the Hebrew high school’s administration. Being from a Chassidic family, he continued to pray at the *shtieblech* of the Aleksander and Stryków *Chassidim*.

There were no public institutions at all in our city which did not enjoy his material aid and his good advice in all current affairs.

He visited the Land [of Israel] for the first time in 1913, and a second time in 1920, as part of a delegation that comprised, besides himself, Messrs M.L. Mindycz and M. Sudowicz, in order to purchase land on behalf of “Ha’Mizrachi”.

With the onset of the Second World War, he secluded himself at home and avoided cooperating with those who naively thought that, through the “*Judenräte*”, they would be able to improve the situation of the Jews. On the contrary, he once voiced his opinion, before his confidantes, that had he been still young, he would have joined the partisans to fight the accursed Nazis.

(In one of the extermination operations that were carried out in Częstochowa, he was killed together with the residents of his city, to which he had dedicated all his might and energy).

¹ [TN: In the JRI Poland database, he appears as having been born on Jan. 1, 1879.]