

WAJNTRAUB (WEINTRAUB) Samuel Szmul (1861–1938), lawyer, legal advisor, social and charity activist. He was born on 1st January 1861 Piotrków Trybunalski, the son of Salomon Szlama and Chana née Szwarcensztajn.

In 1882, Wajntraub graduated from a gimnazjum in Piotrków and, in 1887, he graduated from the Law Faculty of the Russian University of Warsaw. After a short court apprenticeship, he practised in Noworadomsko (Radomsko). In 1897, he moved to Częstochowa, living in the Rudnicki building on I Aleja.

He worked as an assistant sworn attorney, to Gustaw Lewy, at the District Court in Piotrków.

From 1905, he ran a legal practice in Częstochowa (consecutively at II Aleja 24, II Aleja 41, from the 1920s ul. J. H. Dąbrowskiego 21 and, from 1934, on the same street at No. 15). Until 1912, he was a legal advisor to the Warsaw-Vienna Railway and, from 1910 to 1914, to the Herby-Kielce Railway also.

In 1914, following the entry of the Germans into Częstochowa, Wajntraub refused to participate in the then judiciary set up by the occupation.

He became a legal advisor to the Arbitration Commission, set up by the City Council, in order to regulate relations between employers and employees. In 1915, he was appointed (to replace → Jan Glikson) as a member of the Civil Commission of the City Council. At the start of 1917, he resumed his legal practice as a sworn attorney of the Imperial German Regional Court in Częstochowa.

Wajntraub was active socially. He was a member of the “Dobroczytność” Charitable Society for Jews and the Charitable Society for Christians. In 1906, as a member of the Polish Schools Committee, he took part in the work of establishing the No.1 Polish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa.

In 1920, during the war with the Bolsheviks, he donated funds in defence of the state. He belonged to the Częstochowa branch of the Polish Red Cross. From the second half of the 1920s, he ran a legal practice together with → Roman Lewkowicz and → Paweł Meitlis.

In a memoir which appeared in 1929 in the “Express Częstochowski” (marking the 40th anniversary of his legal work), it was emphasised that:

“He is one of the most valued and respected figures in the city, a man with a golden heart and of impeccable integrity in his public and private life, displaying Benedictine diligence and possessing a treasury of professional knowledge which he willingly shares with younger colleagues”.

He was considered an outstanding expert in the jurisprudence of the former Russian Senate.

According to → Szymon Pohorilla, in the 1930s, Wajntraub “lamented the crisis, not only material, but also moral, that the legal system was going through”. In 1937, he ceased practising law.

He was musically gifted. As a violinist (having had lessons with Górski and Barcewicz), many times he performed at charity concerts – sometimes with friends.

He died in Częstochowa on 29th April 1938 and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery. (The grave has not been preserved.)

His wife was Helena née Frenkel (1872 Warszawa-), with whom he had two daughters:

- Zofia (1896 Noworadomsk [Radomsko] –), a social and charity activist, and
- Emilia (1897 Częstochowa–) who, in 1916, graduated from the Wacława Golczewska-Chrzanowska Girls Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. She married Wacław Kazimierz Goldbaum.

Słownik adwokatów, vol. II, pp. 3-4 (Adam Redzik), p. 521. – *Polska. Księga adresowa dla przemysłu, handlu i rolnictwa*, p. 280. – Kociotek, Zaleska, *Gimnazjum i Liceum im. J. Słowackiego*, p. 120. – *Przewodnik po Częstochowie 1909*, p. 143. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p. 194; *Rocznik częstochowski. Kalendarz 1903*, pp. 7, 11; *Pamiętna książka petrokowskiej gubernii na god 1904*, Piotrków 1904, p. 293; *PCK. Sprawozdanie 1933*, p. 25; *Spis abonentów telefonicznych 1935*, p. 53. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1934, No. 40, p. 6, 1938, No. 18, p. 6; “Dziennik Częstochowski” 1906, No. 161, p. 2; “Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości” 1933, No. 16, p. 381; “Express Częstochowski” 1928, No. 195, p. 5, 1929, No. 11, p. 2, No. 17, p. 5, No. 18, p. 2; “Goniec Częstochowski” 1915, No. 30, p. 2, 1917, No. 27, p. 5, 1919, No. 122, p. 6 (re: daughter Zofia), 1920, No. 185, p. 3, 1938, No. 100, p. 5; “Palestra” 1938, No. 5, p. 499–500 (posthumous memoirs); “Tydzień” (Piotrków) 1897, No. 28, p. 1. – USC Częstochowa, death record No. 102/1938. – Materials (extracts from civil registers) in the ODDC collections.

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski