

WARSZAWSKI Anszel (actually Mordechaj Oszer Anszil) (1878-1937), industrialist, social activist, community senior. He was born on 22nd September 1878 in Bełchatów, the son of Lajzer and Luiza Łaja née Mugdau. He came to Częstochowa in 1895 (?) and, only then, was his birth certificate issued. Two years later, he married the daughter of the wealthy Chassid, Chaskiel Fiszel, which provided him with material stability and an appropriate social position.

He was the owner of a knitwear factory at I Aleja 6 – he also owned a haberdashery shop located there. He was a member of the Weksler synagogue which was also at the same address.

Although he was a young Chassid, he was distinguished for,
“his communal sensitivity and his high degree of culture, like a true Jewish *maskil*¹. He took part in all areas of local social and cultural life. He helped to build and create many local, very important institutions and, at the same time, was one of the first donors.”

Being a confirmed Zionist since his youth, he was one of the founders of the local “Mizrachi” Zionist Orthodox organisation. As early as the 1920s, he represented that organisation as a member of the Jewish Community Council, serving also as its vice-president from 1932.

He was a long-time member of the supervisory council of the City of Częstochowa Loan Society and a member of the supervisory council of the Industrialists and Merchants Bank in Częstochowa. He was co-owner of the property at ul. Piłsudskiego 31 and was a board member of the Association of Property Owners in Częstochowa. He was a member of the *Chewra Kadisza* burial society, even serving as its *gabbay* and its leader for several years – “which pleased everyone”.

He died on 29th April 1937 in Częstochowa.

His wife was Hendla Fajgla née Fiszel (1878-?). They had three children:

- Luzer (30th June 1898 – perished in 1943?),
- Arona (14th June 1902 – 18th December 1935) and
- Bajla (2nd June 1903 - July 1929).

Sefer Czenstochow, vol. 2, col. 689. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1929, No. 28, p. 1; 1931, No. 34, p. 6; 1935, No. 51, p. 1; 1937, No. 19, pp. 1, 6.

¹ [TN: a person well-versed in Hebrew or Yiddish literature.]

Wiesław Paszkowski