

ŻERYKER (ZERYKIER) Wilhelm Wolf (1877-1943), industrialist, Jewish Community Council activist, Zionist. He was born on 3rd September 1877 in Będzin, the son of Izrael Jakub and Fryderyka née Richterman. His sister, Maria (13th August 1880 Będzin – 26th June 1943 Częstochowa), perished during the liquidation of the “Small Ghetto”. She was the wife of Elias Eli Chaim Poźniak (1876 Mira – 5th October 1943 Częstochowa or Treblinka), a merchant and industrialist, the son of Icek and Tauba.

Żeryker, together with his brother-in-law, traded in hemp (at ul. Ogrodowa 13). In 1913, they bought the “Barbara” Glassworks at ul. Ciemna 114 (Chłopickiego) which, in the 1930s, was located at ul. Berka Joselewicza 6 - pharmaceutical and perfumery glassware were produced there.

In 1931-1933, he was a member of the Jewish Community Council, serving on its Horticultural Farm and Crafts School committees. Initially, he was a member of the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Częstochowa. He sent his son, Jakub, to the local Jewish Gimnazjum even though, in 1924, together with Osjas Wien, he was an initiator of the opening of the competition school - the private gimnazjum of → Dr. Filip Axer. For this, on 13th June 1926, he was punished by being removed from the list of Association members.

In 1931, the Jewish Colonisation Society (ICA) in Warsaw nominated him as a member of the Supervisory Board of headquarters of the ICA and entrusted him with the supervision of the local training courses for boys and girls at the local Crafts School.

In December 1933 replacing → Teofil Fogelbaum, he was appointed to the Assistant Council to the Provisional Mayor of Częstochowa. From 1934, Żeryker served as treasurer of the Interest-Free Loan Fund for Jews. At the beginning of 1935, he became a member of the Appeals Committee of the Kielce Finance Office. Over many years, he served as vice-president of the Small Merchants Association and a member of the *Agudas Achim* fraternity, whose offices were located at I Aleja 9.

On 1st October 1939, he was selected to serve on the Council of Elders (*Judenrat*) in Częstochowa. He worked there in 1940 and, perhaps, for some time in 1941. Although he was no longer a member of the *Judenrat*, he still remained within its circle. This probably served to ensure that he and his wife

avoided being deported from the Częstochowa ghetto to the extermination camp in the autumn of 1942.

On 20th March 1943, in the mass execution at the Częstochowa Jewish Cemetery, he perished along with the last members of the *Judenrat*.

His wife was Ewa Chana Chawa née Szapiro (circa 1888 Brześć nad Bugiem – 6th? January 1943 Treblinka), the daughter of Abram Their son was the engineer Jakub Żerykier who, in November 1933, married Zofia née Grejniec, the daughter of → Michał Mojżesz Grejniec.

Brener, *Widersztand*, p. 13; Mizgalska-Osowiecka, *Żydzi w samorządzie*, p. 198; *Żydzi częstochowianie* (brak paginacji); *Księga adresowa 1928*, p. 211. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1926, No. 26, p. 3; 1931, No. 26, p. 5; 1932, No. 42, p. 4; 1933, No. 48, p. 1, No. 50, p. 6; “Słowo Częstochowskie” 1934, No. 241, p. 5. – APCz, MagCz 5573.

Wiesław Paszkowski