

PIOTR S. DRZEWIECKI – THE MEMORY OF THE OUTSTANDING CREATOR OF ENGINEERING CELEBRATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE RESPECT

PIOTR S. DRZEWIECKI – PAMIĘĆ WYBITNEGO TWÓRCY TECHNIKI GODNIE UCZCZONA

The list of the achievements of the prominent creator of technique, engineer Piotr Drzewiecki, the first President of Warsaw in the independent Poland, is impressive. He left a rich legacy in almost all domains which he had to deal with. The unveiling of his monument at the Piotr Drzewiecki Square in Mirowski Park in Warsaw on 2 March, 2023, was the occasion to recollect his numerous merits.

The initiative of honouring engineer Piotr Drzewiecki came from the Federation of Engineering Associations of the Chief Technical Organization (NOT) which nominated the Social Committee for Commemoration of the President of Warsaw, Piotr Drzewiecki and organized – among its members – the fundraising for the mentioned purpose. The capital city of Warsaw helped to implement this aim.

– We have waited for a long time for this happy moment, never losing the hope that it will happen one day – Ewa Mańkiewicz-Cudny, the President of the Federation of the Engineering Associations NOT and the Chairwoman of the Social Committee for Commemoration of the President said during this exceptional ceremony. – We have tried for many years that the progenitor of the association movement and patron of our organization could have his monument in the capital city which he managed in a very modern way in the years 1918–1921. He was earlier the major of Warsaw and the member of the City Council. It is impossible, in a short speech, to list all his merits. Prof. Marian Marek Drozdowski



The Chairwoman of the Social Committee for the commemoration of the President, Ewa Mańkiewicz-Cudny, the President of the Federation of Engineering Associations of Polish Chief Technical Organization (NOT)

and Prof. Lech Królikowski dedicated many biographic publications to His person. I thank our, Gentlemen, that you are with us today and will be able to share with the details from the life of Piotr Drzewiecki who was a man of many talents and achievements and played many social and professional functions with the success – The President Ewa Mankiewicz-Cudny reminded.

The comprehensively educated graduate of Mechanical Faculty of the Imperial Petersburg University of Technology and Institute of Civil Engineers (1886) was initially associated with the industry. He conducted successfully the companies, having the international range. As being the appreciated engineer and



Tomasz Bratek, Vice-President of the capital city of Warsaw read out the congratulation letter of the President, Rafał Trzaskowski, directed to the participants of the ceremony

industrial activist, he was the co-founder of the Association of Technicians in Warsaw and since 1899 – its long-time president.

After the outbreak of the World War I, he became the member of the Central Civil Committee and participated actively in organization of economic and social institutions. He was, *inter alia*, the president of Polish Electrical Engineering Society, Polish Union of Metal Industry, activist of the Central Union of Polish Industry, Mining, Commerce and Finances. During the years 1906 – 1918, he was the head of Society of Scientific Courses which contributed to reactivation of Warsaw University, Warsaw University of Technology and University of Life Sciences (SGGW).

His great merits for the capital city were recollected in the speech of Tomasz Bratek, Vice-president of Warsaw who read out the congratulation letter of the President Rafał Trzaskowski, as being directed to the participants of the mentioned ceremony. – *For us, Warsawians, the first president of the capital city in the independent Poland is the unrivalled symbol of the host of the city; moreover, he performed his function in the moment, being extremely difficult for our country. We must remember that it was also the time of Polish-Bolshevik war, when the Soviet hordes*

reached as far as near Warsaw. It gives a special rise of reflections today when the Russian army attacks Ukrainian cities – Tomasz Bratek summed up.

The enormous role played by Engineer Piotr Drzewiecki in respect of work in favour of Polish standardization was mentioned by **Teresa Sosnowska** – the deputy president of Polish Committee for Standardization. She reminded that in 1923, Technical Committee for standardization of industrial products and their delivery was set up with the initiative of Piotr Drzewiecki. In 1924, there was established Polish Committee for Standardization and Piotr Drzewiecki was just its first president. He created the mentioned institution from the very beginning and managed it effectively. He developed the strategy of its functioning and took care of the state of finances of this institution.

– *It is not difficult to imagine how the standardization (normalization) was important in the country which for more than 120 years was divided between three foreign powers. During the mentioned period of time, different measure, different currencies, different technical ideas and technological solutions*



were employed. At such historical moment, the unification and normalization played a very important role in the economic and technical development of Poland. We owe it all to the president Piotr Drzewiecki – Teresa Sosnowska added.

Unveiling of the monument was a very moving moment for the Piotr Drzewiecki descendants, who participated in the ceremony. In behalf of the nearest family, the great-granddaughter **Elżbieta Wodzyńska** expressed her thanks to the members of the Social Committee for the Commemoration of the President of Warsaw, Piotr S. Drzewiecki for the undertaken initiative. – *We are extremely grateful to all persons who have contributed to creation of this monument, being excellently performed by artist **Andrzej Franaszek**. This work will bring closer the silhouette of my great-grandfather to the inhabitants of Warsaw; the man with enormous merits for Warsaw and Poland, and very sensitive and family-oriented man for the family. It is sad that he passed away in such a tragic way. Being arrested by Germans in 1942, he was imprisoned in Pawiak prison, died from pneumonia in 1943 in Moabit prison*

in Berlin. Owing to the monument in Warsaw, he will live in our grateful memory forever.

Janusz M. Kowalski, as representing FSNT-NOT and presiding to the ceremony, read out the congratulation letter from Adam Struzik, the Marshall of the Mazovian voivodeship who stressed the great meaning of the professional and social activity of the first president of Warsaw for Mazovian region and for Poland.

This outstanding creator of engineering sector left – for the descendants – not only many significant achievements as the engineer, president and economic activist but also Decalogue of extremely valuable guidelines with the aim, *inter alia*, to proceed ethically, behave with dignity, loyally and protect justness and assess phenomena and people without prejudice, with friendly attitude and be always ready to act and cooperate”.

Jolanta Czudak-Tomaka

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