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The Development of Vocational Education in Poland in the 20th Century on the Example of the City of Radom

Rozwój szkolnictwa zawodowego w Polsce w XX wieku na przykładzie miasta Radom

Słowa kluczowe: szkolnictwo zawodowe, Radom, XX wiek, edukacja techniczna, reforma edukacji, przemysł lokalny, historia oświaty, Polska.

Streszczenie: Artykuł przedstawia rozwój szkolnictwa zawodowego w Polsce w XX wieku, koncentrując się na Radomiu jako modelowym przykładzie przemian edukacyjnych w średnim mieście przemysłowym. Autor analizuje ewolucję kształcenia zawodowego w kontekście historycznym i gospodarczym, poczynając od początków II Rzeczypospolitej, poprzez okres okupacji hitlerowskiej, czasy PRL, aż po zmiany ustrojowe po 1989 roku. Szczególna uwaga została poświęcona związkom szkolnictwa z przemysłem, reformom edukacyjnym oraz lokalnej infrastrukturze oświatowej. W artykule ukazano także znaczenie polityk centralnych i lokalnych w kształtowaniu modelu kształcenia zawodowego w Radomiu. Praca oparta została na dokumentach archiwalnych, danych statystycznych i źródłach lokalnych.

Key words: vocational education, Radom, 20th century, technical education, education reform, local industry, history of education, Poland.

Abstract: The article presents the development of vocational education in Poland throughout the 20th century, focusing on Radom as a model case of educational transformation in a mid-sized industrial city. The author analyzes the evolution of vocational training in historical and economic contexts, beginning with the Second Polish Republic, through the Nazi occupation and the People's Republic of Poland, and ending with the systemic transition after 1989. Special attention is given to the relationship between vocational education and industry, education reforms, and the development of local educational infrastructure. The study highlights the impact of both central and local policies on shaping the vocational education model in Radom. The article is based on archival documents, statistical data, and local historical sources.

First discussions about the shape of vocational education in Poland were undertaken already in October 1917 by a team called specifically for this purpose, working in *Departament Wyznań Religijnych i Oświecenia Publicznego Rady Regencyjnej* (the Department of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment of the Regency

Council). The team was transformed into *Sekcja Szkolnictwa Zawodowego* (the Vocational Education Section) in April, and *Departament Szkolnictwa Zawodowego* (the Department of Vocational Education) was established in 1921.

One industrial crafts boys' school and one household girls' school were to be formed in every county. Unfortunately, Poland inherited a very small number of vocational schools from the partitions period (Miąso, 1966). 30 industrial crafts schools, including 6 state schools, functioned on the lands that used to belong to the Congress Poland and on the eastern terrains. There were 24 in the Lesser Poland, including 18 state ones, and 3 state institutions in the Greater Poland and Pomerania.

There were six groups of vocational schools after 1918: technical, industrial crafts, apprenticeship, trade, agricultural, female, industrial, and economic. Technical schools were to prepare professional human resources for the following tasks: overseeing production and machine operation, and ancillary work in engineering offices. There were two types of schools: higher and basic. The graduates of 6-grade comprehensive middle schools were admitted to the higher education schools, and graduates of 7-grade elementary schools or the four-grade middle schools were admitted to the basic level schools.

Industrial crafts schools educated future craftsmen and industrial workers. One usually attended this type of school for three years. Four grades of primary school were the curricular basis. Students received, besides school diplomas, apprentice titles as well, obviously after passing a designated exam before a school commission formed for this specific reason.

Most schools could function only owing to the full financial support of city authorities, as well as civic organisations, craft unions, religious congregations, and educational organisations. Mercantile education was the best developed part of vocational training. Its roots reach back to the 19th century. The fast development of these schools is mostly the making of civic organisations and private individuals. Agricultural education was the weakest link in the system (Wieczorek, 1973).

The second half of the 1920s was a period of a rapid economic development of Poland, which saw the development of our education system. Almost the whole generation could be covered with general education from 1926 to 1928. Vocational schools played an increasingly important role. This process gave priority to the attainment of specialist qualifications by young students. Older persons with purely practical qualifications had limited opportunities for gaining theoretical foundations in this system. Thus, the vocational and comprehensive schools were becoming similar. The state rationed and regulated relations in the job market by issuing school diplomas allowing for undertaking of certain work and confirming qualifications.

Vocational schools in the Second Polish Republic had their own character. Rich social spheres regarded them as a worse kind of education. Society treated these

facilities as second-rate institutions, because youth who was not very good at learning in middle schools and who did not have any other prospects, mostly due to financial reasons, largely joined vocational schools. There were exceptions of course. Besides, to effectively learn a profession, one had to demonstrate at least a minimal talent for sciences.

Only the act of March 11th, 1932 comprehensively regulated the whole school system. Vocational training was then divided into schools providing additional education, basic education and vocational training schools. The institutions providing additional training were meant for young people who worked and studied. Basic education was divided into three levels: lower, middle and high school.

The outbreak of the in September 1939 prevented a new school year from starting. Most school buildings were occupied by the armed forces, yet most vocational schools opened in the first half of October 1939 (Walczak, 1933). They functioned wherever possible, that is, where teachers and free rooms were available.

The main legal act pertaining to vocational training on the lands of the General Government was the decree from April 1941, issued by Hans Frank. The new regulations divided the whole vocational education into three kinds:

- obligatory schools providing additional education. They were intended for working young people who graduated from a seven-grade primary school. Three-year education was to end with an apprenticeship exam;
- basic vocational schools for youth not working anywhere. They were supposed to replace the former vocational middle schools, but the learning period was shortened to three years and theoretical subjects were reduced to a minimum;
- higher vocational schools. They admitted young people over 18 on the basis of a very difficult exam – it required knowledge on the level of a pre-war comprehensive middle school curriculum. One went to a trade school for two years, so for a shorter time than to Polish vocational high schools.

Besides the types of schools listed above, a variety of courses were established on the basis of permits recognised by the occupying government. Since the war economy of the Third Reich needed qualified workmen, a kind of paradox arose. Vocational education in the lands of the General Government drew considerably more people than before the war. Another important factor influencing the development of vocational education was the lack of comprehensive schools. Vocational schools also equipped their students with identity cards, which, at least in the first years of occupation, protected from round-ups and being taken to forced labour in Germany. Besides, many facilities realised illegal, secret programs of the pre-war vocational, and some even comprehensive schools.

A radical change of the occupier's attitude to vocational education happened after the defeat of the German army near Stalingrad. The Germans did not have time any more for a comprehensive teaching of professionals, so a decision to shorten the period of learning in vocational school to two years was made. Boys aged

up to 16 and girls up to 17 were taken to the Reich from 1943. Only students of crafts, professional, trade, and agricultural schools were exempted. The occupying government decided that Polish youth, after graduating from primary schools, would not be admitted to vocational schools, but would be learning vocationally and practically. They would be divested of the freedom to choose their profession and would be directed by the Employment Office only according to the interest of the German economy.

The whole education system returned to the state from 1932 directly after the end of the war efforts. Transforming private vocational schools (there were 588 of them in Poland) into state ones *en masse* was characteristic of these years. Rebuilding vocational training had to be aligned with the directions of Polish economic life. The ruined country needed workforce the most. The scarcity of specialists in different sections of Polish economy triggered the organisation of *Ogólnopolski Zjazd Szkolnictwa Przemysłowego w Bytomiu* (the Nationwide Convention of Industrial Education in Bytom) in January 1948. The lines of the industrial education development under designated departments depending on their staffing and production needs were established there. Vocational education was managed by two departments: *Departament III Ministerstwa Oświaty* (the 3rd Department of the Ministry of Education) and *Departament Kadr Ministerstwa Przemysłu i Handlu* (the Staffing Department of the Industry and Trade Ministry). However, it didn't help the correct functioning of vocational training. To improve the whole system, a centralised administration unit, *Centralny Urząd Szkolenia Zawodowego* [the Central Vocational Training Office] (further, 'the CUSZ'), was formed in July 1949.

The CUSZ concentrated on planning the development of vocational education in direct connection with the national economic plans for the specific branches of the national economy. As a result of the work of the CUSZ and its agencies on voivodship level, i.e. *Dyrekcja Okręgowa Szkolenia Zawodowego* (the District Boards of Vocational Training), a reform of vocational education was conducted in 1951. It was then organised as follows:

- 4- to 11-month professional training school for 16–19 years old youth,
- 2- or 3-year basic vocational schools educating qualified workmen,
- 4-year technical school for youth and workers,
- Master workmen schools for qualified workmen.

However, this system was not perfect, either. The *Centralny Urząd Szkolenia Zawodowego* and its voivodship agencies were liquidated in 1956 already, and the whole vocational education was subordinated to the Ministry of Education. The CUSZ's activity had the following flaws: it overlooked the facilitation of transfer between vocational and technical schools, the period of school learning was too short, a vocational education providing additional training and connected with work was absent, the staff education level was low, and an aggravated decentralisation of the vocational education was present. New laws were needed to solve the existing problems and stabilise the situation.

The years 1956–1961 were characterised by minor reforms. Vocational training, i.e. student internships, developed then. Foundations were laid for transferable and standard curricula. The legal situation of young people who wanted to both work and study was regulated. These reforms brought measurable benefits, namely, an alignment of vocational education directions with the current needs of the national economy. Some new types of schools, such as vocational school providing additional education or colleges, were introduced.

Ustawa o rozwoju systemu oświaty i wychowania (The Development of Education and Upbringing Act) was issued on July 15th, 1961. It encompassed all levels and types of schools and other educational-care facilities. Vocational education was divided into two main types:

- 2–3-year basic vocational schools, independent and workplace, and 2-year SPR (*Szkoły Przysposobienia Rolniczego*, Agricultural Training Schools) schools preparing for agricultural work
- 4- or 5-year technical schools and vocational high schools, 2–3 year technical schools and high schools for graduates of basic vocational schools and SPR.

Middle level vocational schools could function independently or as workplace schools. 2-year colleges training in different professions were formed for graduates of secondary comprehensive schools. The reform was implemented till 1966–1968. Vocational schooling was then the main educational direction on a post-primary school level. Almost 5 million graduated from vocational schools until 1971.

The status of vocational education seemed stabilised. There were efforts for school and workshop buildings and machine parks to be state-of-the-art. The goals of the education, the forms and methods of teaching were deemed important. Audiovisual media were used in the process. Attractively equipped subject classrooms were established. A sweeping social aid initiative (free education at all levels, scholarship initiative, boarding schools, etc.) was undoubtedly a factor furthering the popularity of vocational schools among young people.

In turn, the 1970s were a period of discussion on the schooling model, including vocational school system nationwide. A *Komitet Ekspertów* (Expert Committee) was established in January 1971. Its task was to create a report on the state of schooling and education in the whole country. This report was issued in 1973. The Ministry of Education published an Action Programme for 1972–1975 at the same time. Both the report and the programme mention the multidirectionality and versatility of education at the basic, middle and post-high school levels in connection with the vocational education. Critical voices regarded the vocational education as an inflexible and expensive form of schooling. These efforts were supposed to pave the way for conducting the planned education reform (Górecka 2005).

A resolution "On the Subject of the National Education System" was presented in the parliament on October 13th, 1973. It pertained to the universal obligation of pre-school, middle school, vocational schools learned in after 10 years of primary

school, professional specialisation, and higher education. However, the planned reform was not implemented. There were attempts to realise this resolution, but the political and economic situation of the country was not advantageous. A Prime Minister's ruling on improving the organisation, supervision, and management of vocational schools was issued in January 1977. A year later, *Instytut Kształcenia Zawodowego* (the Vocational Training Institute) specified the model of a vocational school graduate. These actions were to bring measurable effects. During the 1970s crisis, propositions to liquidate certain vocational schools and shorten the learning cycle were put forward. Different measures to elevate and strengthen the prestige of vocational education were therefore sought.

The systemic transformation initiated in Poland in 1989, the introduction of laws and regulations governing the market economy, had a great impact on the vocational education. It was influenced by changes in the social-economic policy of the country, all the more so because Poland was the first country in the former bloc of centrally planned economic system which began the process of creating a new political and social system. The economic development programmes constructed from 1989 were to bring Poland nearer to the level of the highly developed Western Europe in the shortest time possible.

The vocational education system was determined by the Education System Act of September 7th, 1991. In principle, the model upheld the existing school types: basic education school, trade high schools, technical and post-high school institutions. However, it introduced important changes to vocational training by establishing state schools, private schools, and private schools with the privileges of state schools.

The Education System Act of September 7th, 1991 was amended a few times. The Changes to Activities of Certain Cities and Municipal Public Services Act of November 24th, 1995 created legal conditions for overtaking vocational schools by boroughs. Some tasks stemming from the powers stipulated by the Council of Ministers' regulation of September 18th, 1992 could be passed to voivodes. The Council of Ministers entrusted the latter with administering agricultural and medical schools through the regulations of February 25th, 1995 and May 30th, 1995.

A classification of vocational professions, the so-called "multifaceted" professions, was established in 1993. The new models starkly differed from the earlier fragmentation and division into narrow professions and specialisations. New subjects were introduced, popularising broadly understood economic knowledge, forming entrepreneurship attitudes and the ability to perform well in the job market.

The realisation of practical education is another story. The country's difficult economic situation caused reluctance of workplaces to engage in the practical education of students. The often outdated and underinvested school workshop facilities forced the MEN (*Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej*, Ministry of National Education) to search for means to supporting and maintaining the continuity

of the teaching process and modernisation of its equipment as part of practical professional training. To this end, among other actions, new facilities for practical education called *Centrum Kształcenia Praktycznego* (Centres for Practical Education) were formed, financed from the state budget and well-equipped with technical means. The budget contribution to financing vocational schools increased in connection with the liquidation of workplace schools and the lack of subsidies for schools run by employers.

Radom as a centre of industry and vocational training in the 20th century

The beginnings of the 20th century

In the last decades before the First World War, Radom was the centre of the Radom Governorate, formed on the basis of the Tsar's decree of December 31st, 1866, and of one of the seven counties making up the governorate. The Radom Governorate encompassed 11,323 square kilometres (Łuszkiewicz, 1995, p. 35). General authority in the city was exercised by a governor (a Russian general usually performed this role), who directed all the work of the *Rząd Gubernialny Radomski* (Radom Governorate Government). Without a doubt, the city was an economic and cultural centre domineering in the region. Institutions whose competences reached far beyond the governorate's administrative borders were located in Radom then as well. For example, *Zarząd Rolnictwa i Dóbr Państwowych Guberni Radomskiej, Kieleckiej, Lubelskiej i Siedleckiej* (the Administration of Agriculture and Public Estates of the Radom, Kielce, Lublin and Siedlce Governorates), administering public estates in such an extensive terrain, is worth mentioning here (Prawdzik, 1996, pp. 77–81). *Dyrekcja Drogi Żelaznej Dęblińsko-Dąbrowskiej* (the Board of the Dęblin-Dąbrowa Railway) had its office in Radom for a dozen or so years as well, and 26. *Mohylewski Pułk Piechoty* (the 26th Mogilev Infantry Regiment) had its permanent headquarters there from the 1870s. Such a state of affairs continued virtually unchanged up to the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 (Duszyk, Piątkowski, 2008, p. 64).

Radom was undergoing the most dynamic demographic, infrastructural and economic boom in its history till then. The catalyst was the railway line from Iwangrod (Deblin) [Iwangród (Dęblin)] to Dąbrowa Gornicza [Dąbrowa Górnicza], led through Radom in 1885. Owing to the risky location of the railway station outside the city centre, the suburbs of *Mariackie* and *Nowy Świat* became parts of Radom already in 1899. The area of the gord upon the Mleczna river rose then to 700 ha.

The high administrative rank of Radom and a widely understood development of the centre were irrevocably linked to the constant rise in the number of its inhabitants. All in all, 15 300 persons lived in Radom and villages integrated into the city in 1864. This number rose to 20 461 in 1892 and to 30 672 in 1901. The city was a multinational and therefore a religiously diverse centre typical for central

Poland. Roman Catholic Poles were the majority, of course, the second largest denominational group were Jews, followed by Orthodox and Evangelical Christians, who were the least numerous (Kisiel, 1985, pp. 112–118).

In every historical source on the second half of the 19th century, Radom is called “an industrial city”, “a tanners’ city”, a distinct proof of a very good reputation of its economy. Tanning, represented by several dozen plants situated mostly in the Zamłynie (Zamłynie) district, brought most fame to the city. The greatest tanning houses were the following families: Fröhlich, Karsch, Wickenhagen, Krajewscy, Iwanowscy, and Domanscy (Domańscy). The tanning in Radom accounted for 15 percent of the general output of this economic branch in the Kingdom of Poland. It was this very industry which started the industrial revolution in Radom. The commissioning of a 4 h.p. steam engine, the first in town, in the Karsch plant is considered its symbolic beginning.

However, the largest industrial plant of the city was a bent wood furniture factory, founded in 1895 by Johann Kohn, employing as many as 800 people. “*Marywil*” factory, producing floor tiles and fireproof materials, was opened in 1896. Glassworks, brickworks, iron smelteries (the largest belonged then to the Kindt family), breweries (owned by Maurycy Saski) and mills (belonging to Jan Pentz and Bekermann) functioned then in Radom as well. The worldwide reputation of the Perkowski family’s fruit processing plant, exporting even to Egypt, is also worth mentioning. Obviously, craftsmanship was an important branch of Radom’s economic life at the time as well (Duszyk, 2009, p. 40). Around 250 craft-service plants, especially tailor, shoemaker, carpenter workshops, etc., functioned in Radom at the end of the 19th century (Latawiec, 2023, pp. 258–267).

That state of affairs continued without variations more or less until June 1914. The only political disruption in the discussed period was the 1905–1907 revolution. Russians, influenced by the striking Radom youth, gave way and allowed for founding private middle schools with Polish as the language of instruction then as well. It became an important impulse for the further development of the Radom education system. The First World War outbreak itself did not change much in Radom’s situation, because the military actions most important to the war’s course happened far from there. Russians, defeated in the battle of Gorlice, were forced to definitively leave the gord upon the Mleczna river. In the new political reality, the city ended up under Austrian administration. In light of the fact that the occupiers liquidated the division into governorates, maintaining only the county structure, Radom retained the rank of the “capital” of the county which lay now within the borders of the Military General Government of Lublin. The headquarters of the board of the Northern Military Railway were located there in 1916. An important event of that period were the city council elections in December 1916. For the first time in Radom’s history, a political organ really representing the city’s inhabitants was selected. In the same year, the gord’s area was enlarged with the terrain of the following villages: Glinice, Młodzianów, Obozisko, Oswiecim (Oświecim), Ustronie

and others, reaching an area of 2183 ha. The city had almost 60,000 residents from 1914 to 1918.

Radom's industry was still developing. Owing to Belgian capital, a power plant was opened in 1901, together with an electrotechnical plant. The city borders were no longer important to the localisation of industrial plants. What mattered now was the accessibility of the railway and how easy it was to build a spur line. Industry in that period began to take the forefront position in the socio-economic structure of the city, and the number of people employed in industry was larger than in other sectors. Already then, Radom's industry produced goods not only for local but also foreign markets. Hard and soft skin, terracotta, fireclay refractories, sanitary faience, bent wood furniture, cast and metal products were exported to the Russian market (from July 1915). 18,5000 industrial workers were employed in the Radom governorate in 1910. It ranked third among the ten existing governorates. Due to the Russian markets being cut off and the predatory Austrian policy, Radom's industrial development declined from 1915 to 1918. Some plants exporting only to Russia (for example *Huta Lustrzana* [Mirror Smeltery]) completely went out of business.

1918–1939

After the First World War, a new administrative division of the country was instituted. The voivodship office was established in Kielce, while Radom became only a county city, one of 16 in the Kielce voivodship (Tusiński, 1996, p. 15). The saving grace for the city was its beneficial geographical location, an established transport network, and a quite good infrastructure. The new tasks of the local government left quite a broad independence in the urban administration. It also became the headquarters of a few offices with a very wide territorial reach. *Okręgowa Dyrekcja Lasów Państwowych* (the County Directorate of the State Forests), *Dyrekcja Okręgowa Kolei Państwowych* (the County Directorate of State Railway), and *Okręgowy Urząd Górniczy* (the County Mining Office) are, for example, worth mentioning here.

A very dynamic rise in the number of its inhabitants was a sign of good prospects of the city's development. 61,599 people lived in Radom in 1921, as many as 77,902 in 1933, and in 1938 – 90,059 (Duszyk, Piątkowski, 2008, p. 78).

The proletarian Radom had an elected socialist city government throughout the interwar period. It was not without importance to the further development of the local industry. Understanding workers' needs in connection with their livelihood, the city authorities ensured improvements to their standard of living. With the funds from an American loan from Ulen & Co., water mains, sewer system and gas works were built in the city from 1926 to 1927. This infrastructure, modern for those times, created conditions for localising new industrial plants in Radom.

Private investments dominated Radom's industry until 1922. Therefore, the erection of the first, really large state industrial plant – *Zakłady WYROBÓW Tytoniowych* (Tobacco Products Plant) – was a breakthrough, changing the shape of the city. New

investments soon followed. A year later, one of the first munitions factories, called *Państwowa Fabryka Broni* (the State Arms Factory) after the start of production, began to be built on the *Mariackie* grange. The Vis pistol production brought most fame to the factory and the city. The Radom factory's productivity reached, from 1935 to 1939, 4,000 rifles a month, which constituted as much as 50 per cent of the whole country's production (Nalberski, 2007, pp. 57–66). The factory's construction was directly connected with the localisation rule of the so-called "security triangle", i.e. the situation of the arms industry in the centre of the then Poland. To implement the same concept, a gas mask factory was erected in Radom. A few other major plants [*Przetwórnia Olejów Roślinnych SA (Porsa)* [Vegetable Oil Processing Plant SA] – later Paint and Polish Factory (*Fabryka Farb i Lakierów*), *Fabryka Fornirów Leslaui* (Leslau's Wood Veneer Factory) – later Radomskie Zakłady Drzewne (Radom Wood Plant), and *Fabryka WYROBÓW Emaliowanych* (Glaze Products Factory)] were opened in the beginning of the 1920s.

The second period of Radom industry's development at the time was in the late 1930s, when Radom was in the Central Industrial District (*Centralny Okręg Przemysłowy*, COP). A preferential industrial policy was implemented in the District. A factory producing telephones by Ericsson, a Swedish company, and Bata, a Czech shoe factory (operating only from 1939) were built. Among smaller COP investments, the following are worth mentioning: the 1936 transfer of *Fabryka Obuwia Mechanicznego i Umundurowania – Wikiński* (Wikiński Mechanical Footwear and Uniforms Factory) from Warsaw and Kromołowski saddlery products factory, erected in 1938 (Gauze, 2005, pp. 77–85).

Besides these new investments, the COP's erection also determined the modernisation and development of existing workplaces. The urbanisation role of Radom's industry is also worth remembering. Whole residential areas, stadiums and sport clubs, clubhouses, schools, bakeries, shops, etc. emerged around the industrial plants. The proletarian Planty district was a model project, for example. Radom inhabitants called, with a certain distance, this neighbourhood's inhabitants "factory people", envying their stable jobs and very good living conditions (Piątkowski, 2007, p. 35). Radom vocational education – *Państwowa Średnia Szkoła Techniczna* (the State Secondary Technical School) and Radomskie Towarzystwo Kursów Technicznych (the Radom Society of Technical Courses) – began to develop then as well.

The war and occupation period

A period of a 5-year-long occupation began for Radom in September 1939. The General Governorate for the Occupied Polish Region was established on the central Polish lands, and Radom received a very high rank in its structures, becoming a city excluded on the basis of urban district rights, and at the same time the "capital" of one of the four districts. According to German data, 100,000 people lived in Radom in 1940, including 74,250 Poles, 25,000 Jews, 500 ethnic Germans (the so-

called *Volksdeutsche*) and 250 others. According to data from 1942, 106,955 people resided in the city in 1942. Poles from Volhynia, escaping the Ukrainian nationalists' actions, began arriving in Radom in 1943. The main form of governance by the Hitlerians was pervasive terror (Duszyk, Piątkowski, 2008, p. 94).

During the Second World War, the German occupiers limited or liquidated production in many plants not operating for military purposes. They also did that due to the lack of raw materials. 8,486 people were employed in industry in 1940. The rate of employment diminished by 30 per cent compared to 1939. There were almost none industrial workers at the end of the occupation, because the Germans dismantled and took machines away and devastated industrial installations and machines. The workers of Radom's factories went west, following the German army, trying to recognise and recover the equipment stolen by the occupier (Witkowski, 1985, p. 12).

The governor's regulation on the education in the General Governorate of October 31st, 1939 delineated the rules of school functioning in the General Governorate. It liquidated the Polish secondary comprehensive education and removed such subjects as: Polish, history, geography, and other humanities from general and primary schools. The obligation of supporting all schools rested on boroughs' associations (Massalski, 1975, p. 23).

10 vocational schools which survived at large until the end of the occupation emerged in Radom from 1940 to 1942. Despite very hard conditions in the buildings, attendance was high. This resulted from the simple fact that there were no other schools, besides, vocational school more or less protected the youth from being transported to Germany to perform forced labour and was a great cover-up for underground comprehensive education. The occupiers not only tolerated this type of school in Radom, but even supported it. That is why, paradoxically, the number of vocational schools in Radom, compared with the pre-war period, rose considerably. The schools which educated staff for military production were especially protected.

The following are vocational schools which Radom's youth could legally attend: *Państwowa Szkoła Przemysłowa* (State Industrial School), *Państwowa Szkoła Garbarska* (State Tannery School), *Szkoła Zawodowa Firmy „Bata”* ("Bata" Company Vocational School), *Państwowa Szkoła Metalowa* (State Metalworking School), *Państwowa Szkoła Rzemiosł* (State Crafts School), *Państwowa Szkoła Handlowa* (State Trade School), *Państwowa Szkoła Krawiecka* (State Tailoring School), *Państwowa Szkoła Gospodarcza i Pielęgniarstwa* (State Economics and Nursing School), *Państwowa Żeńska Szkoła Zawodowa* (State Vocational Girls' School), *Prywatne Kursy Kroju i Szycia Stanisławy Czarneckiej* (Stanisława Czarnecka's Private Courses of Tailoring and Sowing). 33 vocational schools functioned in the whole Radom district, including 10 in Radom itself. Vocational schools for German youth were founded separately. A few German agricultural schools operated in the district, as well as two vocational schools for German youth in Radom.

1945–2000

After the Second World War, the old administrative division, in which Radom maintained the status of an urban district in the Kielce voivodship, reappeared in the central Poland. The dynamic economic and spatial development resulted in the city becoming, in the mid-1960s, the 17th urban centre in the country when it comes to the number of inhabitants. It overtook not only the voivodship centre, Kielce, but also many other Polish cities in this demographic statistic. Unfortunately, according to the then law, only the branches of voivodship structures could function in Radom, which considerably blocked the city's development (Duszyk & Piątkowski, 2008, p. 99)

Radom inhabitants' aspirations to a higher position in the administrative structure of Poland were satisfied on June 1st, 1975, when, in place of 17 former voivodships, 49 new units of this level were introduced. The newly emergent Radom voivodship occupied an area of 7,294 square kilometers. The creation of the Radom voivodship had a very positive influence on the city's development. Unfortunately, this status was not upheld on January 1st, 1999, under the new administrative reform. As a consequence, Radom was again degraded to the rank of an urban county, this time in the Mazovian voivodship. The city became then the "capital" of the Radom country district as well.

The single most important urbanisation factor in the post-war period was including the neighbouring villages and settlements into the city. Thus, in 1954 as many as several dozen new localities were added to Radom. As a result, the city's area was tripled. Another phase of such expansion took place in 1984, when the city's area reached 112 square kilometres (Duszyk & Piątkowski, 2008, p.101).

The population of Radom was rising very fast as well. Only 69,455 people lived in the city in 1946, due to the destructive actions of the occupier. There were 80,298 inhabitants in 1950, 143,814 in 1965. 175,274 persons lived in the city in 1975, 191,100 in 1980, and 221,700 in 1988. Unfortunately, this development was halted in the 1990s. Although 232,756 inhabitants lived in Radom in 1995, there were only 231,341 in 2000. The population of Radom has been countinously falling.

Radom's industry, rebuilt in a flash, had no small influence on the development of post-war Radom. Its industrial base was completely reconstructed until the end of 1949. *Fabryka Broni* (Arms Factory), called *Zakłady Metalowe im. gen. Waltera* (General Walter Metal Works) from 1947, remained the city's showcase. Military ranges (including AK-47 rifles), as well as a wide range of civilian products, were manufactured there. Out of the latter, sowing machines, licensed by the Singer company, and Łuczniczka typewriters gained the greatest renown. *Radomskie Zakłady Przemysłu Skórzanego „Radoskór”* ('Radoskór' Radom Leather Industry Works), one of the largest Polish producers of footwear and leather products, were established in 1959. *Zakłady Przemysłu Tytoniowego* (Tobacco Industry Works) started operating in 1964. *Radomska Wytwórnia Telefonów* (RWT) [Radom Telephone Factory] also fared perfectly well in international markets. Besides the aforementioned plants,

Radomskie Zakłady Materiałów Ogniotrwałych [Radom Fireproof Material Works], *Zakłady Naprawcze Taboru Kolejowego* [Rail Rolling Stock Repair Workshops], *Fabryka WYROBÓW Emaliowanych* [Enamel Products Factory], and many smaller companies operated in the city. Enterprises and industrial plants were almost completely nationalised. Radom's industry developed best in the first two decades of the People's Republic of Poland (Duszyk, Piątkowski, 2008, p. 104).

In connection with an enormous demand of industry for qualified workforce, there was a rapid expansion of vocational education. A dozen or so technical schools (connected with construction, road, finances, gastronomy, mechanics, agricultural mechanisation, clothing, and other fields), and their associated basic vocational schools, were established in Radom from 1945 to 1956 alone. *Państwowa Szkoła Przemysłowa* [State Industrial School] (the former *Szkoła Techniczna* – Technical School) started operating in 1945, as one of the first. A chemical-tanning school, transformed into *Technikum Garbarskie* (the Technical School of Tannery) and renamed *Technikum Przemysłu Skórzanego* (Leather Industry Technical School) later, began functioning in the same year. *Szkoła Handlowa Stowarzyszenia Kupców Polskich* (Trade School of the Polish Traders Association), which operated in its former building at 61 Romualda Traugutta Street, was also reactivated very fast. After nationalisation, it was transformed into *Technikum Administracyjne* (Administration Technical School), later into *Technikum Ekonomiczne* (Economics Technical School), and finally into *Liceum Ekonomiczne* (Economics Secondary School). *Technikum* and *Zasadnicza Szkoła Gastronomiczna* (Gastronomy Basic School and Gastronomy Technical School) separated from this institution. As suburban areas were integrated into the city, two agricultural schools ended up in its borders. New vocational schools sprang up numerously in connection with the needs of the local factories. *Technikum Odzieżowe* (Clothing Technical School) and *Zasadnicza Szkoła Odzieżowa* (Basic Clothing School) were opened in the adapted locations of the *Towarzystwo Kredytowe Ziemskie* (Gentry Credit Society), occupied by the *Instytut Naukowo-Społeczny* (Scientific-Social Institute) until 1947.

A two-year *Szkoła Felczerska* (Feldsher School), administered by the Ministry of Health, emerged in the 1950s in the location of the old *Ubezpieczalnia Społeczna* (Social Insurance Agency). The Feldsher School operated only for two years. *Liceum Medyczne Pielęgniarstwa* (Medical Nursing Secondary School) replaced it in 1959. *Liceum Wychowawczyń Przedszkoli* (Pre-School Educators High School) was established temporarily, functioning until 1956.

A statutory duty of organising workplace schools was imposed on all employers in the whole country in 1958. Accordingly, larger industrial plants organised their own vocational schools, whereas those which did not have such possibilities opened departments for their workers by the already existing vocational schools.

In 1964, the youth in vocational schools constituted 80 per cent of youth learning in all Radom secondary schools (Witkowski, 1985, p. 92). Already over eighty educational institutions of this type functioned in Radom in 1970s.

Educating staff vocationally during the People's Republic of Poland was conducted in the gord upon the Mleczna river in the following types of schools:

1. Technical schools, connected with: leather industry, mechanics, clothing, cars, production (food industry), economics, and energy.
2. Basic vocational schools, connected with: leather industry, mechanics, clothing, cars, production (food industry), economics, and energy.
3. Basic workplace schools: General Walter Metal Works, Tobacco Industry Works, 'Radoskór' Radom Leather Industry Works, *Radomskie Zakłady Przetwórstwa Owocowo-Warzywnego* (Radom Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant), *Odlewnie Radomskie* (Radom Foundries).
4. Evening schools for industrial companies' workers organised by almost every vocational middle school in Radom.
5. Extramural schools.

Vocational education developed especially intensively from 1958 to 1968. The city's authorities did not forget about creating opportunities to gain professions for the mentally and physically disabled youth, for whom two special vocational schools were organised in 1968. 146 students learned there. A state educational facility (the only one in the Kielce voivodship), preparing deaf children for work in different occupations, was established in 1967.

Some schools of the time in Radom not only educated technical human resources for the city and the region, but also had a national reach. The leather industry school and power engineering school were renowned in the whole country. Meeting such demand, the city prepared as many as eight halls of residence for the out-of-town youth. A sweeping student grant campaign and the fact that education was free at all levels of schooling improved the learning conditions considerably.

Post-*matura* schools, mostly attended by Radom's high school graduates, played an important role in the vocational education structure. Three such schools: *Państwowa Szkoła Energetyczna* (the State School of Energy), *Państwowa Szkoła Telekomunikacyjna* (the State School of Telecommunications), and *Państwowa Szkoła Ekonomiczna* (the State School of Economics) functioned in Radom. A consultation point of *Technikum Kolejowe* (Technical Railway School) in Warsaw was established in Radom for railway employees. The fast development of vocational education in the People's Republic of Poland is best illustrated by the table below:

Table 1. Vocational education development in Radom from 1952 to 1975 (Janicki, 1985, p. 394)

School year	1952/53	1960/61	1970/71	1975/76
All vocational schools	11	31	45	81
Number of students	5,429	6,381	10,632	16,658

In no way did the vocational education's development in Radom slow down from 1976 to 1985. Newly erected buildings for *Zespół Szkół Zawodowych „Zrembu”* (the Vocational Schools Complex of the ZREMB company) on Kraszewskiego Street, for *Zespół Szkół Elektronicznych* (Electronics School Complex) on Sadkowska Street, and for the workshops of *Zasadnicza Szkoła Zawodowa nr 2* (Basic Vocational School No. 2) on Szkolna Street were commissioned then.

All in all, 81 vocational schools, including 59 for non-working youth, were active in Radom only in the 1975/76 school year. Among the 81 schools, there were 30 basic vocational schools, including 27 for those who did not work. There were also 51 vocational schools of the middle level (technical and secondary vocational schools) and post-secondary schools, including 32 for those not working. 686 full-time teachers worked then in Radom in vocational education (Ośko, 1988, p. 185).

In the following years, the number of vocational schools in the city declined due to the baby slump. 13,289 students learned in 72 institutions of the kind described in Radom in 1985. Part-time farming youth dominated in these types of schools – it constituted 80% of the students. Its overwhelming part came from outside Radom. The halls of residence existing then did not, unfortunately, meet all the needs. No new hall of residence appeared in Radom from 1975 to 1985. The vocational education crisis in the 80s happened because large industrial plants stopped running their own workplace educational institutions and transferred them to the Ministry of Education (Ośko, 1988, p. 187).

10 secondary vocational schools functioned in Radom at the brink of the 21st century. However, the number of students was much lower than in the period before the socio-political transformation of 1989. In the last decade of the 20th century, young people picked comprehensive secondary schools more willingly. In comparison, as many as 800 persons were not admitted to secondary vocational schools in 1965 due to the shortage of places.

Only in 1964 did vocational education of the industry training profile teach 1,173 graduates in all types of schooling, for not working and working persons and in extramural education. Among these, 815 were on the basic education level and 358 on the technical school level (Witkowski, 1985, p. 95).

Zakład Doskonalenia Rzemiosła (Crafts Improvement Insitution) conducted staff training for service purposes. It educated 117 students in 1964 in the following professions: carpentry, furriery, tailoring, and glassmaking.

The shortages of managerial staff with higher technical qualifications were compensated for to a high degree by *Wieczorowa Szkoła Inżynierska* (Evening Engineering School), organised in Radom in 1950. It was transformed into *Wyższa Szkoła Inżynierska* (Higher Engineering School). Its status was raised in 1996 and it was renamed *Politechnika Radomska* (Technical University of Radom).

The vocational education institutions in Radom in the 20th century

Vocational schools in Radom changed their names, locations and organisational structures very often. Frequently, several schools had the same roots or were located in the same buildings, some were merged, some transformed or liquidated. For this reason, for the sake of clarity, the history of Radom vocational education will be discussed in alphabetical order. Vocational middle schools, existing on the educational map of Radom in the end of the 1990s, will be taken into account. The history of the Technical University of Radom, *Szkoła Medyczna* (the Medical School), *Szkoła Podchorążych Rezerwy Lotnictwa* (the Cadet School of Airforce Reserve), and a short profile of schools preparing for the teaching profession will be outlined.

"Another new school – *Szkoła Rzemieślnicza Miejska* (the Urban Craft School) – appeared in Radom in 1902", wrote Jan Luboński in 1907. "The school's arrangement is excellent in every aspect, with all possible improvements. To begin with, only one theoretical class and two workshop rooms, for carpentry and locksmithing, were created." (Luboński, 1907, p. 66). The school first provided highly qualified staff for the modern factories which emerged in the initial post-war years not only in Radom itself, but also in Skarżysko, Starachowice, and later Stalowa Wola and Kraśnik.

Due to space shortages, the organisation of this first Radom vocational school became a quite protracted process. That is why the local educational authorities took an initiative of organising Sunday and evening courses on technical drawing and tracing as well as physics, chemistry, and technology. The training had started already in 1898, financed by *Komitet Opieki i Trzeźwości Narodowej* (the National Care for Sobriety Committee). According to the rules, literate masters and journeymen, as well as apprentices who were over 15 years old, were admitted.

The participants were given free educational aids. 64 persons, including 17 locksmiths, 13 carpenters, 11 stonemasons, 6 shoemakers, 4 tinmen, 3 bookbinders, 5 printers, and 5 people of other professions took part in the course in its first year. In the following years, the course was repeated, but the interest dwindled. In 1903, there were only 47 participants (Radomska Dyrekcja Szkolna, Archiwum Państwowe w Radomiu).

After many trials and tribulations, the school was finally opened. The beginnings were very difficult. It was based in a rented building, where the vocational course had been arranged, that is, Foerstet's house on Dzierzkowska Street. The Tsar authorities entrusted the direction of the school to Michał Tałdykin. The erection of a new, appropriate school building, with both teaching rooms and workshops, was finished only in 1908. It was located at 66 Wysoka Street (currently 66 25 Czerwca Street) [Maj, 1985, p. 147].

On average, around 80 students recruited from worker and peasant youth in the city and its surroundings learned in three grades of the craft school every year. Around 150 students, who joined the Radom craft and industry staff, finished the

school until 1914. Other vocational schools in Radom emerged as late as in the inter-war period.

In connection with such a fast development of Radom industry, building the base for the vocational education in the city became the need of the hour. Its popularity stemmed from the existence of a large job market, open to youth professionally prepared to perform specific tasks. A Radom Sunday-craft school, which had opened the evening tracing and drawing school in the end of the 19th century, still functioned. During almost 90 years of this institution's existence, around 5 thousand apprentices gained additional qualifications, including 2 thousand who completed a full course of study. Elementary schools for adult workers also played some role in disseminating basic knowledge in the Radom crafts community (Banaszek, 1980, pp. 20–21). Small institutions of this type appeared by some industrial plants, like glass works or railway workshops, as well. A clear breakthrough in this field is connected with the activity of the Radom president Konstanty Zaremba. Owing to his efforts, an urban trade school emerged in 1901, and an urban craft school, educating in two professions: carpentry-furniture making and locksmithery-smithery, began functioning in 1902, also thanks to the president's personal endeavours. A modern curriculum linking theory with practical classes in workshops was applied then (Witkowski, 1970, p. 71).

The Stanisław Władysław Reymont School Complex of Agrotechnology and Food Economy¹

A school with over 90 years of tradition. It was formed by merging *Zespół Szkół Mechanizacji Rolnictwa* (the Agriculture Mechanisation School Complex) in Wacyn and *Zespół Szkół Ogrodniczych* (the Gardening School Complex) in Wośniki. Both schools ended up within the city's borders only in 1954. However, their history is much longer. Because they were merged only in the beginning of the 21st century, their 20th century history will be presented in two separate sections.

„The Wacyn school”

We can read the following turgid words in “Przegląd Sejmikowy” (*‘Sejmik Review’*), the press organ of the Radom *Sejmik* (local assembly), from 1921: “...The agricultural school in Wacyn will be, for many years, a monument to work and understanding of the great truth that only education leads to a better future”. The idea of creating an agricultural school near Radom was born among local rural activists. *Związek Kółek Rolniczych Radomskiego Towarzystwa Rolniczego* (the Farmers' Cooperative Association of the Radom Agricultural Society) took the initiative to organise an agricultural school on a state-owned farm in Wacyn in October 1919. The Radom

¹ *Technikum Mechanizacji Rolnictwa* (The Technical School of Agriculture Mechanisation) [Wacyn] was combined with *Technikum Ogrodnicze* (The Technical Gardening School) [Wośniki] to create *Zespół Szkół Rolniczych* (The Agricultural Schools Complex) in Wośniki following the Radom authorities' decision in September 2001. It received Stanisław Władysław Reymont's patronage only in 2007. Currently, it is called *Zespół Szkół Agrotechnicznych i Gospodarki Żywnościowej* (the School Complex of Agrotechnology and Food Economy).

Sejmik bore the costs of the school's erection and continuing maintenance according to the project the *Sejmik* accepted in November. *Komisja Budowy Szkoły Rolniczej* (the Agricultural School Erection Committee) was established for this purpose. It decided to raise a new building and adapt the farm buildings for training needs.²

Unfortunately, "dark clouds" hung over the Republic and Polish society concentrated fully on the matters in the east. The Polish-Soviet War of 1920 was at the forefront at that moment. Only after its end in 1921 was it possible to continue realising the interrupted projects. The foundations were laid only in the autumn. However, the demand for this type of institution was so high that, without waiting for the construction to be finished, it was decided to start the first agricultural course in farm buildings, provisionally adapted for this purpose. The full course ran for five months. Thirteen boys from Radom, Końskie, and Grójec counties started learning in Wacyn on November 7th, 1921. Teodor Stegman, previously the leader of *Okręgowy Związek Kółek Rolniczych* (the County Association of Farmers' Cooperatives) in Radom, became the first principal of the school. Three instructors, teaching agriculture, breeding and gardening, were the first employees.

That first course ended on April 7th, 1922. The provisional learning conditions resulted in the decision to concentrate on finishing the school building and to prepare the whole farm as a didactical workshop for future students. The school staff also changed then. An ex-landowner educated to become a farmer, Władysław Dawidowski, became the new headmaster. New teachers were employed (four permanent and a few temporary ones). The recruitment for an eleven-month-long course to start in January 1923 in the new school building began then as well.

"This is your school, built by you and for you, with your money and through your toil, may it serve you in the best way possible, may it educate Your sons, so that they valiantly manage Your fields, clinging strongly to their fathers' soil". With these words, the Radom staroste Zygmunt Skrzyszewski addressed the representatives of the rural areas round Radom, assembled in front of the new school building on January 10th, 1923. The new building included a hall of residence, canteen, and administrative rooms as well as classrooms³.

² The Polish parliament passed a law on agricultural schools on July 9th, 1920, and the Ministry of Agriculture provided for implementation of a curriculum for popular agricultural schools on July 27th, 1920.

³ That Radom initiative was not an isolated phenomenon on the national scale. Already 78 schools of this type (56 male and 22 female) functioned in Poland in 1923, and 15 more were being built. As many as six new schools were created in the Kielce voivodeship alone in 1922. Besides Wacyn, these were located in Chwałowice, Mokoszyń, Podzamcze Chęcińskie, Rożnica, and Zwoleń. In addition, a girls' agricultural-gardening school was organised in Przybyszew beyond Pilica. It needs to be remembered that this type of facilities was completely pioneering at that time and first of all intended to change the mentality of Polish villagers, convinced that farming does not require any education. It was a very difficult process. As late as in the 1930s, out of every 100,000 young farmers overtaking farms, only 3,000 graduated from an agricultural school. That is why it should not surprise us that the number of students of the Radom school from 1921 to 1929 never exceeded 19 (Franecki, 1991, p. 8).

The school farm was the basic practical training ground. Because of that, the Radom *Sejmik* bequeathed 37 ha of land to the school through a notarial deed. The school received another 17 ha from the *Sejmik* in 1928. The combined 51 ha area was never enlarged.

The second course, this time 11-month-long, started on January 15th, 1923. It was completed by 11 students. It was the smallest number of graduates in the whole history of the school.

The classes were taught on the basis of the same curriculum, in effect until the Second World War. There were 1,320 study hours during eleven months. 758 hours were dedicated to profession-related subjects: agriculture, breeding, veterinary medicine, gardening and beekeeping, village construction rules, the rules of economic and social village functioning. The remaining 562 were devoted to general subjects: religious education, Polish, arithmetic, geography, history, knowledge about Poland, natural science, and hygiene.

Requirements for applicants were not excessive. It was enough to be 16 years old, literate, as well as be able to do the four mathematical operations. Only after a few years, while Polish education was developing, did the expectations rise. Sometimes even young farmers who had passed *matura* became students there. Active student participation in village socio-economic organisations was also important for the then education authorities.

The school's new headmaster was appointed in January 1924. Tadeusz Starzyński, the principal of the agricultural school in Kijany near Lublin, assumed that function after Władysław Dawidowski. He was an outstanding figure, a graduate of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, an involved citizen, and a publicist. He published, inter alia, in "Agronomia Społeczna" (Social Agronomy), "Szkoła Rolnicza" (Agricultural School). Moreover, he was the executive editor of "Szkolnictwo i Oświata Rolnicza" (Agricultural Education)⁴. He instilled his publicist passion in the school's students and teachers, who started a bi-weekly „Głos Wacyńskiej Szkoły Rolniczej” (The Voice of the Agricultural School in Wacyń) as an addition to „Przegląd Sejmikowy” (*Sejmik* Review) under his direction.

Owing to the new director's efforts, the school became an important transregional centre fast. It started to arrange 3-day-long courses for teachers of village primary schools, who could later establish and develop socio-educational organisations in the countryside themselves. The school began organising increasingly more sessions, courses and trips about economic, social and cultural subjects, but always linked with Polish rural matters. Connections with former students were maintained, their farms were visited. The school's management strove for the graduates' holdings to be exemplary. The school had such a good reputation that representatives of

⁴ „Szkolnictwo i Oświata Rolnicza” (Agricultural Education) was the press organ of *Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Szkół Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego* (the Association of Agricultural Schools' Teachers) in Poland.

the Second Republic elites came to visit. Thus, the ordinand of the Sandomierz diocese, bishop Marian Ryx visited the school in July 1924. Wincenty Witos, the Polish peasants' leader and repeatedly the prime minister of Poland, came to meet the school community on December 3rd, 1925. Felicjan Sławoj-Składkowski, the minister of internal affairs, visited the school in January 1927.

The Wacyn school kept being modernised. As early as in 1924, the didactical buildings were equipped with water mains, a sewer system, and electric lighting. A phone was installed. In 1928, its whole area was reclaimed with drains, while the meadows and pastures with open ditches. School carpentry workshops were built in 1930. A house for teachers was commissioned in 1932. A beekeeping department was organised in 1933 (it would become one of the most important teaching departments in the school in time, with over 130 bee swarms at its disposal).

Tadeusz Starzyński was transferred to an equal post in the Eastern Borderlands in 1929. His place was taken by Kazimierz Odyńiecki, a graduate of WSGW (*Wyższa Szkoła Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego*, the Higher Education Institution of Agricultural Holding) in Cieszyn. A considerable rise in the number of students can be attributed to this principal. In effect, 115 started the tenth school course on January 15th, 1931.

Directing the school was entrusted to Aleksander Niedbalski in January 1933. He came to Wacyn from an agricultural school in Stara Wies (Stara Wieś) in the Siedle voivodship, complete with a large amount of knowledge and experience as an excellent teacher, publicist and fighter for free Poland. He began his work by choosing the best staff meticulously. Paweł Dumania, a graduate of WSGW in Cieszyn, was the agriculture teacher, Stanisław Daniluk, a graduate of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, taught breeding, and Bolesław Kisieliński was the beekeeping instructor, known in the whole country.

The effects were quick to come. The school's agricultural holding reached the largest crops per hectare rate in the country. The cowshed in Wacyn was best in Poland in 1936 when it comes to the highest average amount of milk from Polish white-and-black cows. The cow "Małpa" (Monkey) broke the national record in terms of the individual amount of milk (10,011 liters milk a year). Apiary, warren, fruit and vegetable gardens, characterized by high productivity, flourished as well by the school.

Delegations from all over the country came to visit this exemplary institution. Members of the editorial board of "Przegląd Krajoznawczy" (The Countryside Review) wrote in the visitors' book in January 1934: "Visiting the agricultural school in Wacyn, we saw with true pleasure that it is the best arranged agricultural school in the whole Republic". Other entries in this book are distinct proof that it was not an isolated opinion.

Professor Wojciech Świątosławski, the Minister of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, visited the institution on July 15th, 1936. A group of

deputies and senators of the Republic's Parliament, headed by Aleksander Prystor, the marshal of the Senate and former prime minister, came on July 2th, 1938. The Polish Radio broadcasts mentioned the facility many times. Mostly, a series of short talks by principal Niedbalski were presented. There was even a radio broadcast, recorded directly in the school during practical and general classes, on June 25th, 1939. Therefore, no wonder there were young Poles living permanently in Romania, Yugoslavia, and mostly in France among the school's students in the last years before the war.

Despite its fame, the school's status was very modest. The official name was *Ludowa Szkoła Rolnicza Męska w Wacynie* (the People's Male Agricultural School in Wacyn). The Radom *Sejmik* bestowed a symbolic patronage of Marshal Jozef Pilsudski (Józef Piłsudski) on the school on March 18th, 1933. In turn, the school's name changed to *Publiczna Szkoła Przysposobienia Rolniczego im. Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego* (the Marshal Jozef Pilsudski Agricultural Preparation State School) on January 1st, 1937.

The school's structure did not change, though. The teaching cycle continued for 11 months, and the school year started on January 15th and finished on December 15th. Therefore, when the Hitlerian Germany attacked Poland, the institution was the only one near Radom where there was no summer break in that period.

The school was evacuated, and all the teachers received official letters of dismissal from the occupying government. All utility buildings besides the cowshed were burned down. In turn, the school building was devastated by German soldiers. In 1940, the Hitlerian school authorities opened a girls' farm school for German girls in Wacyn. However, this institution was soon closed due to the lack of candidates. Wehrmacht organised a military veterinarian centre in the school buildings from 1941 to 1945.

The losses suffered by the school during the occupation were very grievous. Principal Aleksander Niedbalski was murdered in the mass extermination camp in Auschwitz, and many students died during the military operations.

After the war, the new communist government of Poland decided to re-build and re-activate the school. The management found five teaching staff quite fast and began the recruitment of young people. The school was then re-named *Powiatowa Szkoła Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego im. Aleksandra Niedbalskiego* (the Aleksander Niedbalski County Agricultural Holding School). The headmaster Zygmunt Całka commenced the re-building work. However, it soon turned out that the new authorities had a different vision of the rural youth's education than in the interwar period. The first postwar course was finished after four months already, the staff was dismissed and the school's name changed once more to *Powiatowe Męskie Gimnazjum Rolnicze* (the County Agricultural Male Middle School) in Wacyn (the patron's name was purposefully omitted). Franciszek Grzegolec, with a master's degree in natural sciences, an intern

in Wacyn before the war, assumed the directorial position. The school's estate was still in a very poor condition. The classrooms lacked basic equipment.

The four-grade Agricultural Middle School started operating on January 1st, 1946. Classes were taught in a summary mode, with two years of material learned in a year. A normal learning rhythm was gradually adopted only in the following years. The authorities changed the name to a 4-year *Liceum Rolnicze* (Agricultural Secondary School) in 1948, transformed into *Liceum Rachunkowości Rolnej* (Agricultural Accounting Secondary School) on September 1st, 1949. Thirteen girls were admitted to the first grade for the first time ever. This was not the end of changes in the educational structure. The first candidates were admitted to an agricultural mechanics class in 1950. In the next year, the name was changed to *Liceum Mechaniki Rolnej* (Agricultural Mechanics Secondary School), renamed *Technikum Mechanizacji Rolnictwa* (Agricultural Mechanisation Technical School) in 1952, and then *Zespół Szkół Mechanizacji Rolnictwa* (Agricultural Mechanisation School Complex).

The school finally began to develop. Mechanical school workshops were completed in 1953, students moved into a new hall of residence in 1954. That year can be considered a breakthrough. The re-building of school structures was finished and vocational training in a field previously unknown in Poland, agricultural mechanisation, began.

Edward Kaleński replaced Franciszek Grzegolec as headmaster in 1955. Tadeusz Pszczółkowski became a new principal in 1956. He managed the school for the longest time in its history – as many as 17 years. His activity can only be compared to that of Aleksander Niedbalski. Owing to Pszczółkowski, the Wacyn school became the best organised agricultural school in Poland once more. The commissioning of a new school building and its official renaming as *Państwowe Technikum Mechanizacji Rolnictwa im. Ziemi Kieleckiej* (the Kielce Region State Technical School of Agricultural Mechanisation) in Radom-Wacyn were celebrated on September 3rd, 1962. The former school building was transformed into the second hall of residence. At the same time, the youth was given a new stadium under the patronage of Stanisława Walasiewiczówna. The commissioning of that facility was attended by the patron, the 1932 Olympic golden medalist permanently living in the USA, who flew to Wacyn specifically for the occasion. The beautiful garden with rare specimens of trees and bushes was rebuilt as well.

The number of students rose exponentially. Besides the 5-year technical school, a 3-year technical school for basic vocational schools' graduates was opened. In turn, the following started functioning in the 1970s: *Zasadnicza Szkoła Mechanizacji Rolnictwa* (the Basic Vocational School of Agricultural Mechanisation) and *Studium Pomaturalne* (Post-Matura College), replaced with *Policealne Studium Melioracji i Urządzeń Wodnych* (the Post-Matura College of Melioration and Water Devices)

and, in parallel, Policealne Studium Geodezyjne (the Post-Matura College of Geodesy) in the 1980s.

Headmaster Pszczółkowski passed the function of managing the school to Aleksander Grabek on August 31st, 1973. The former principal moved on to assume the post of school inspector-educationalist with the Department of Agricultural Education in Kielce. The new headmaster moved on to work in the department of teaching vocational subjects at the National Staff Centre with the Ministry of Agriculture. The directorial post was empty for a dozen or so months, with Tadeusz Sawicki as the acting headmaster. The authorities appointed Stanisław Kowalczyk principal only on May 16th, 1978. Before, he was the school inspector-educationalist with the Department of Agricultural Education in Radom.

At the turn of the 1970s and 80s, the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the school's establishment was an important event. A graduate reunion took place on October 9th and 10th and on this occasion, Aleksander Niedbalski became the school's symbolic patron once again. The learning base developed greatly then. A yard for driving lessons was arranged, two great machine halls were erected, and modern school workshops began to be built. Summer internships with large agricultural holdings in GDR were very popular among the students as well.

Educational authorities replaced Stanisław Kowalczyk, who retired, with Krzysztof Kuchcik, a graduate of *Wyższa Szkoła Inżynierska* (the Engineering University), on January 31st, 1968. He managed the school until April 30th, 1990. Later, the directorial duties were assumed by Bogdan Piętak.

The interest in the school dwindled in the last decade of the 20th century. There were increasingly more signals that the school had slim chances of survival in the face of social, political and systemic changes. It had served the Polish countryside and agriculture through four epochs. It survived the interwar period, Hitlerian occupation, and the People's Republic of Poland. However, it could not withstand the political systemic transformation of the 1990s.

„Wośniki school”

The school was formed in 1945 as *Państwowe Liceum Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego* (the State Secondary School of Agricultural Holding)⁵. The physical foundation for this new facility was the estate seized from Maciej Pruszek by the state pursuant to the decree on agricultural reform. The area intended then for the school holding amounted to 120 hectares. A beautiful small palace, dedicated to lecture halls, dining room, school office and the principal's apartment provided by the school, was located there. A kitchen and a hall of residence were organised in the building as well. Outbuildings, arranged to the right and left of the building, were intended for the school. Apartments for teachers were in the annexes, and living spaces for

⁵ A history of the institution in Wośniki is based on the school's monograph: *Zespół Szkół Ogrodniczych im. prof. Józefa Brzezińskiego Radom–Wośniki w latach 1945–1995*, Radom 1995, pp. 7–19.

workmen managing the holding in semi-detached houses with four dwellings and wooden barracks. The school holding was equipped with a cowshed, stable, pigsty and a barn for fertiliser and corn storage, a shed for agricultural machines, two silos for livestock silage, a small glasshouse and the so-called wall glasshouse, where vine was cultivated.

In addition, one of the biggest Polish wild cherry orchards of 28 hectares and a plum orchard of 1.5 hectares were there. Six fish ponds of 4 hectares were also included in the holding. Two large glasshouses with metal frames were taken from the Gawroński estate in Jeżowa Wola for the school. Helena Kwiatkowska, the gardening teacher in the school, and the gardener Józef Chrzanowski oversaw the glasshouses' assembly in the area of the facility.

The State Secondary School of Agricultural Holding was a two-year school, teaching a three year school curriculum. Youth that had graduated from pre-war middle schools or agricultural schools were admitted. Students were first recruited in the end of June 1945.

General Zygmunt Szyszko-Bohusz and the Kielce voivode Eugeniusz Iwańczyk-Wislicz inaugurated the school year on July 15th. Tadeusz Zadura became the first principal and was replaced by Franciszek Legacki as early as September 1st, 1945. 25 students were part of the first post-war class.

It is difficult to imagine it today, but a constant element of the first days of learning of the Woźniki youth was then fear for their own life and health. We can read the following in the school chronicle from that period: "There was an intrusion at night on January 18th, 1946. A few armed men in fur and leather brought us all from upstairs to the director's apartment; they enquired about some sugar, supposedly held by the school in large quantities. Of course, they did not achieve anything because there was no sugar. They wandered around the halls and plundered everywhere" (from the school archives). In another fragment we can read the following: "January 26th – an attack on the school. They came at night, called the guard and the tallyman, who opened the building with the livestock for them and they brought six cows, including four best ones and two heifers, two chestnut horses with harnesses, two pigs and a cart out of the cowshed. When they brought all this onto the road, we heard shooting. As it turned out later, the fleeing men stumbled upon a military patrol, but were not stopped as they were stronger" (from the school archives).

Those times were untypical and very difficult. The students had to, besides learning, work hard in the holding and, moreover, defend the school's property while risking their lives. The local populace were stealing from the school's garden at night. Russian soldiers, returning from the front, thoroughly burgled the school in June 1946. Due to the high stress connected with continuous attacks, the teachers tried to make students' lives more pleasant by organising a school library and numerous

trips to Warsaw and Silesia for them. Visits of students from other schools, dramas and sports competitions were also arranged.

Attacks continued to threaten the students in 1947. The most dangerous one took place on June 26th of that year, when one of the students avoided death by a hair's breadth. Only after that assault was principal Legacki allowed to organise a school self-defence squad and was given several submachine and machine guns. The attacks stopped after that and the school could finally start functioning normally.

The members of staff changed often in these first post-war years. Czesław Tomaszewski replaced the previous headmaster in October 1947, and after him the post was taken by, in the following order, Waław Matalowski (1950–1951) and Stanisław Zaremba (1951–1952).

It was time for more organisational changes. The Secondary School of Agricultural Holding was renamed *Liceum Rachunkowości Rolnej* (the Agricultural Accounting Secondary School) in 1949. Since then, the teachers and the youth began to maintain contacts with the village community, organising courses for farmers. During the first three years, 138 graduates received the title of an agricultural accounting technician. A matriculation certificate issued by the secondary school qualified a graduate to be admitted to all higher education institutions in the country.

In 1952–1956, the development of agricultural education stalled compared to the 1945–1949 period. The liquidation of the school was the result. The school halls were given over to the Agricultural Mechanisation Technical School, and the holding to the General Walter Metal Works in Radom. The Metal Works built a glasshouse, a pigsty and a residential building during the interruption in the school's functioning. The Wacyn school arranged two classrooms in the school halls.

Following the declaration of a new rural policy by the state authorities on February 1st, 1957, the minister of agriculture created *Roczna Szkoła Ogrodnicza* (the Year-Long Gardening School) in Wońniki. The school's property was restored in July. New equipment and a residential hall were received from *Ośrodek Szkolenia Traktorzysty* (the Centre of Tractor Driver Training) in Morawica and Ursus. The property given to the school was completely devastated, the field was full of weeds, and most of the buildings needed an overhaul. Bolesław Suhecki became the first principal of the reactivated school. The Year-Long Gardening School was renamed *Dwuletnia Szkoła Ogrodnicza* (the Two-Year Gardening School) in 1959, which, in turn, received the name "*Zasadnicza Szkoła Ogrodnicza*" (Basic Gardening School) in 1964.

Stanisław Chrzanowski became the new principal in 1959. Owing to his efforts, new orchards: wild cherry, plum and apple, were located on the neglected fields near the wild cherry orchard. Beside traditional vegetables, those rarely seen began to be cultivated. Vegetable cultivation in low tunnels began as well. Flowers were

planted around the school, a botanical garden and a rockery were created. Antoni Czyżykowski was the principal from 1968 to 1969.

In the following years, the facility began to expand exponentially. It became a consulting point, leading in the region, for local gardening and agriculture producers. A new residential hall was also built. At the initiative of the next headmaster, Adam Płusa (1969–1975), a project of a complex investment was introduced to the central plan in 1970. A school building with a gymnasium, residential hall with a canteen and kitchen, two blocks of flats for thirty families, boilerhouse, four new glasshouses of 1300 square meters altogether, a didactical building for vocational training, a "Belgian" garden frame, building for tools, machines and tractors, cowshed, gas station and carwash, Imhoff tanks with trickling filters, roads in the holding and near the school, fences around school squares, a vegetable garden of 22 hectares and water-sewage installation were included in the construction plan.

The Kielce voivode created *Trzyletnie Technikum Ogrodnicze* (a Three-Year Gardening Technical School) on June 19th, 1974. Owing to the new investments, the learning conditions improved considerably. The students began learning in a new school building, housing as many as six classroom-workshops.

The principal changed in 1975. Under the direction of Włodzimierz Karolak, the teachers and the youth were involved in creating school playgrounds, tracks, tennis courts, safety town, and green areas. Four new connected glass houses were commissioned in 1977.

In connection with the continuous expansion of the school base, its organisational structure became more complicated as well. *Zasadnicza Szkoła Rolnicza* (the Basic Agricultural School), *Zasadnicza Szkoła Terenów Zielonych* (the Basic Green Area School) and *Policealne Studium Ogrodnicze* (the Post-Secondary Gardening School) were added to the facility. The diversity of educational profiles resulted in transformation into *Zespół Szkół Ogrodniczych* (the Gardening School Complex) on September 1st, 1978. The school, as a complex, included the neighbouring boroughs in its activity. Basic agricultural schools were organised in those districts: in Jedlinsk (Jedlińsk), Jastrzebia (Jastrzębia), Bukowno (Bukówno), Wolanow (Wolanów) and Wysmierzyce (Wyśmierzyce). In turn, a three-year *Wieczorowe Technikum Rolnicze* (Evening Agricultural Technical School) and a four-year *Liceum Rolnicze* (Agricultural Secondary School), beside *Zasadnicza Szkoła Rolnicza* (Basic Agricultural School), were created in Przytyk. The three-year *Wieczorowe Technikum Rolnicze* (the Evening Agricultural School) emerged in the Jastrzębia borough as well. In its heyday, 840 students in 35 departments learned in the Gardening School Complex in Radom-Wosniki (Wośniki).

Since 1978, the school was preparing for the ceremony of receiving a patron and a banner. Finally, an exceptional man, the father of Polish gardening, professor Jozef Brzezinski (Józef Brzeziński), was chosen. The Wosniki school has born his name from June 11th, 1979. After the celebrations, a commemorative plaque was unveiled

on the school's fronton and a hall was opened to the memory of the school's patron. For the first time, the Gardening School Complex' graduates became sworn gardeners. The ceremony was very glamorous, because the youth was sworn with the original sceptre of *Krakowski Cech Ogrodników* (the Cracow Gardeners Guild).

The school's expansion also required the vocational learning facilities to be rolled out. That was achieved through establishing cooperation with numerous public gardening centres and scientific institutes. On the basis of agreements, the youth took internships at *Instytut Sadownictwa* (Gardening Institute) in Dworek near Koszalin and in *Państwowe Gospodarstwa Ogrodnicze* (State Gardening Holdings) in Mysiadło (Mysiadło), Ryczywół (Ryczywół) and Owinska (Owińska). The student were trained in GDR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary as well.

Due to a large number of departments, learning in the school was organised in two shifts. The facility's functioning was supported by supervising companies: *Wytwórnia Prefabrykatów Budownictwa Telekomunikacyjnego* (the Factory of Telecommunication Construction Prefabricated Elements) and *Spółdzielnia Ogrodnicza* (the Gardening Collective) in Radom. In turn, the school systematically cooperated with *Wojewódzki Ośrodek Postępu Rolniczego* (the Voivodship Centre of Agricultural Development) to introduce and propagate agricultural development. The facility made its premises available to help organise *Olimpiada Wiedzy Rolniczej* (the Agricultural Knowledge Contest).

The principal changed in 1986. Wiesława Dziura, a teacher and vice-principal of the Gardening School Complex for many years, replaced Włodzimierz Karolak.

A new two-storey building with three new classrooms and rest and refreshment rooms for vocationally training youth was commissioned in 1987. Owing to this, education could be provided in one shift from that moment.

In the 80s, the Gardening School Complex gradually shrank as admissions to branch schools dwindled. The last branch in Jedlińsk was liquidated in 1989. In the following years, the school's structure underwent further degradation due to the systemic transformation. ZSO was replaced with TR Jadwiga Bachanek became the new school principal in 1991.

Currently, the school is fighting off attempts at its full liquidation, undertaken time and time again by Radom's municipal authorities.

Casimir III the Great Construction School Complex

The period of the First World War (1914–1918) was a time of total destruction, degradation and depredation for the whole Polish economy. The economic reconstruction of the country, reviving after 123 years of captivity, was immensely complicated, because we had functioned in three very different systems, German, Russian and Austrian.

Constructing a new system of vocational training from scratch became the need of the hour. Radom was supposed to play a special role in this case. *Dyrekcja Lasów Państwowych* (the General Directorate of the State Forests) and *Dyrekcja Okręgowa Kolei Państwowych* (the Regional Directorate of State Railways) had their offices in Radom in the new administrative division of the revived Republic.

One of the more important Polish railway junctions functioned nearby, in Skarzysko-Kamienna (Skarżysko-Kamienna), with massive railway workshops, servicing and repairing steam engines and rolling stock. However, our region lacked qualified middle level technical cadres.

A private technical middle school was formed in October 1919 at the initiative of the Polish State Railways' workers in Skarzysko (Skarżysko). It was nationalised according to an agreement between *Ministerstwo Kolei* (the Ministry of Railways) and *Ministerstwo Wyznań i Oświecenia Publicznego* (the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment), assuming the name *Państwowa Średnia Szkoła Techniczna Kolejowa* (the State Technical Middle School of Railways) in Skarżysko. Engineer Tadeusz Krzyżanowski (Krzyżanowski) became the facility's principal (*50 lat Szkoły Technicznej w Radomiu*, 1969, p. 9).

One could ask what the connection between the Radom building school and a school educating mechanics to repair rolling stock is. However, this introduction is necessary because the facility in question gave rise to the Radom *Szkoła Techniczna* (the Technical School), which was in turn the parent school of most Radom technical middle schools.

The institution's curriculum initially included three years of learning and a year of work in railway workshops. In the beginning, only one educational field, mechanical engineering, existed. In time, because of the railway transport's needs, several transport-related subjects were added.

Since the school was located in one, then two lecture halls of a primary school's building and all the possibilities of its further development in Skarżysko had been exhausted, it was transferred to the director's office building pursuant to a decision of *Departament Szkolnictwa Zawodowego Ministerstwa Wyznań i Oświecenia Publicznego* (the Vocational Training Department of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment) in cooperation with *Dyrekcja Okręgowa PKP* (the Regional Directorate of State Railways) in Radom. *Państwowa Średnia Szkoła Techniczna Kolejowa* (the State Technical Middle School of Railways) existed from that moment, that is, from September 1921.

Its curriculum was reformed. The Construction Department was opened beside the Mechanical Engineering Department then as well. Engineer Saganowski became the principal, and engineer Stanisław Drewski took over these responsibilities on November 1st, 1921.

The first problem faced by the new principal was the issue of the school's location. The building of *Miejska Szkoła Rzemioł im. Jana Kilińskiego* (Jan Kilinski Municipal School of Crafts) on Wysoka Street (later 1 Maja Street, currently 25 Czerwca Street) was perfect for this purpose. Due to space shortages, the authorities tried to procure classrooms in a building on Skaryszewska Street (currently 8 Słowackiego Street). It was a residential building, adjusted to the needs of a military hospital by the Austrian and German army during the First World War. A primary school was located there in 1919. The Technical School received one, then two lecture halls in there. The first twelve graduates left the facility in June 1922 after learning in such conditions, in two buildings.

Engineer Leon Mroczkowski was appointed principal of the Technical School in the 1922/23 school year. New admissions grew exponentially. As many as 150 students attended classes that year. The Technical School in Radom was given the whole main building and an outbuilding on Skaryszewska Street in the 1923/24 school year. The main building had seven lecture halls, a registrar's office, the headmaster's office, a staff room, a doctor's office and an office for the department and workshop heads.

The Mechanical Engineering Department was transformed into Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and Construction Department into Road and Construction Department. Engineer Stanisław Drewski became the Mechanical-Electrical Department's head, and engineer Stanisław Zielenkiewicz led the Civil Engineering Department. Engineer Tadeusz Wichert, a Prague technical university graduate, became the head of workshops.

The key problem faced by the facility was the lack of workshop spaces. Finally, it was solved by *Okręgowa Dyrekcja Kolei Państwowych* (the Regional Directorate of State Railways) in Radom by giving old wagon bodies to the school. They were removed from the axles and then put on sleepers in the railway workshops beyond the Skaryszew crossing. Thus, mechanical, locksmith, smith and carpentry "workshops" arose. Today, it is difficult even to imagine such solutions.

In these makeshift spaces, water froze in pipes in winter and greases in machine tools froze in strong frosts, preventing the machines from being started. Those barracks (as that is how they should be correctly called) were supposed to be a provisional solution; they survived, however, until 1930.

The school building also left much to be desired. Designed as a residential house, it did not meet the expectations of educational authorities. There was no space for either a cloakroom or a corridor which would hold the youth during breaks. The classrooms were narrow and long with tiled stoves in the center and desks crowded together as much as possible. Sanitary conditions were even worse (which was true of the whole Radom, a city without a sewage system then). Sanitary facilities for the youth were in the yard.

Engineers Bolesław Egiejman, Walerian Fanti and Alfons Pino began working in the 1923/24 school year. Jan Kotliński served as an instructor of smithy classes. Piotr Ciach (physical education classes), engineer Józef Gliszczyński (water pumps and engines, combustion engines), engineer Michał Pokrzywnicki (materials durability and mathematics), Wacław Romanowicz (hand drawing, the principles of economics and accounting) worked as extra teachers. Engineers Edward Felberbaum-Felinski (Felberbaum-Feliński) and Lucjan Lypaczewski (Łypaczewski) began teaching in the next year. In turn, doctor Tadeusz Widmański (Widmański) became the school doctor.

Beside the employees mentioned above, who taught full-time, there were also those hired for only a few hours a week. They were the workers of the railways and the magistrate's building department and, later, of the urban water mains, gasworks, *Państwowa Fabryka Broni* (State Arms Factory), and other institutions. For example, Henryk Szuliga, the principal of a chemical and tanning school, taught chemistry in the 1920s, replaced by Juliusz Vorbrodt, PhD, from 1931.

In these very difficult conditions, principal Leon Mroczkowski began to try and arrange the construction of a lecture building and workshops. However, it was fruitless. Due to the economic decline of the country, the school's expansion had to be forgotten about for some time. Another, much more effective idea appeared then. An organisational session of *Radomskie Towarzystwo Kursów Technicznych* (the Radom Society of Technical Courses) was held on November 25th, 1927. The Society's statute, created by engineer Karol Szaniawski from the Arms Factory and engineer Bolesław Egiejman from the Technical School, was approved by the Kielce voivode in September 1928. *Kuratorium Okręgu Szkolnego Krakowskiego* (the Cracow School District's Educational Authority) approved the organisation of private courses under the name "Radomskie Towarzystwo Kursów Technicznych" – (RTKT). They were to be managed by Tadeusz Wichert.

The Supervisory Board, as the body directing the work of the course management, dedicated itself to construction of the new school building. The society leased areas from the former Mariackie holding, located on today's Tadeusz Kościuszko Street. They were the property of the Arms Factory then.

There was a tender for the construction of the workshop building designed by engineer A. Bojemski, a Warsaw University of Technology professor, on April 26th, 1929. The building was commissioned on October 11th, 1930. A lecture building was raised using "the Intercalaria" of *Ministerstwo Przemysłu i Handlu* (the Ministry of Industry and Trade) and *Ministerstwo Skarbu* (the Treasury) – these were the sums intended for additional training of industry and trade workers, so they became fully available to such an exemplary institution as the Radom Society of Technical Courses. A Warsaw firm "Budokan" commissioned the new facility on October 15th, 1932. The groundbreaking plaque, written on parchment, has been bricked in on the second storey ever since.

Państwowa Średnia Szkoła Techniczna (the State Secondary Technical School), beside the RTKT, had its offices in the new building, too. This school paid a token 1 PLN monthly of rent as long as until 1939. Both institutions did not disrupt each other – the school used the building in the morning, the courses were held only in the afternoon and the evening.

Now, the number of students and teachers rose yearly. There were as many as 423 students in 12 grades in 1932. 505 attended 14 very numerous forms, usually with more than 30 students each, in 1934.

The State Technical Middle School of Railways in Radom had existed until 1936, when the school reform introduced some organisational changes. As early as in the next year, admissions to a new type of school began. The last grade of the former system left the walls of the school already during the occupation in 1940. In turn, the RTKT had to suspend its activity because the German authorities did not allow education for adults.

The Radom Arms Factory was the main support of the RTKT in the inter-war period. From 1927 to 1939, the Factory was the chief source of trainees and paid for their education.

The role of the Radom Arms Factory in the development of the Radom vocational education was invaluable in that period. The great economic crisis of 1929–1935 caused the fall of hundreds of Polish factories, and consequently the schools they supported. In this situation, the activity of the Arms Factory was a true salvation for Radom. The factory also saved the Radom Society of Technical Courses.

The RTKT trainees were recruited from among the craft school graduates. Course completion guaranteed improved qualifications and although a course completion certificate did not grant *matura* qualifications, the RTKT graduates were valued workers, sought after in the market, although they did not have technician's qualifications.

The RTKT visibly improved and developed from 1937 to 1939, after the economic crisis passed. A further part of the building was erected and six lecture halls, a cloakroom and ancillary rooms were commissioned; next year, in 1938, the school received a beautiful gymnasium. This base has served the Radom community until today.

Coming back to the operating rules of the school itself, it has to be explained that a systemic education reform began in Poland in 1934. On the surface, the reform was manifested in the introduction of standard uniforms for youth and the assignment of a number to each school. The State Technical Middle School of

Railways in Radom was numbered 88. Beside these appearances, the reform had, of course, a deeper meaning.

As early as the 1934/35 school year, a new specialisation – small caliber weapons production – was introduced to the third mechanical-electrical grade. This was connected with the needs of the arms industry. Simultaneously, eight-year comprehensive middle schools were disappearing, and education in comprehensive schools was divided into the 4-year middle school and the 2-year high school.

The reform was even more visible in vocational schools. The seventh grade graduates of primary school were admitted to four-year middle schools after passing exams. Comprehensive and vocational middle schools existed with specific specialisations, for example, mechanical engineering, construction, tanning, transport, or chemistry. The fourth grade graduates passed journeyman exams in their specialisation and were ready to work in industry. The reform introduced two-year comprehensive secondary schools and three-year vocational high schools after four-year middle schools.

Thus, the students of the former technical school of both specialisations remained in *Państwowe Szkoły Przemysłowe* (the State Industrial Schools) until the schools expired, and students were admitted to the so-called vocational middle schools already in 1935.

The first middle school opened in the State Industrial Schools in Radom was *Gimnazjum Mechaniczne* (the Middle School of Mechanical Engineering) under the direction of engineer Stanisław Drewski, the head of the mechanical engineering department of the former school.

The first recruitment to the new type of secondary school was held in 1938, and engineer Bolesław Egiejman became the headmaster. The first students were admitted to *Liceum Budowlane* (the Construction Secondary School) a year later, and Stanisław Zielenkiewicz became its head. The State Technical Middle School of Railways was officially renamed the State Industrial Schools in Radom in the same year.

The aforementioned Bolesław Egiejman replaced the retiring engineer Leon Mroczkowski as the principal in September 1938.

The State Industrial Schools in Radom did not begin work on September 1st, 1939. Due to the acts of war, some teachers were mobilised, and the horrors of September's events overshadowed the further functioning of the facility. The German troops took Radom as early as on September 8th, and, according to a former plan, they decided to locate a military hospital in the main school building. Obviously, this did not mean a complete liquidation of the institution. The occupant's policy did not include the elimination of Polish vocational training. The Nazis needed well-

educated technical cadres. However, the school was supposed to continue its instruction in the workshop building.

Only in 1940 did the head of education in the Radom district allow for a vocational boys' middle school, the only one in the district. The State Industrial School in Radom, "Stettliche Gewerbeschule in Radom", became that school.

In a sense, the school protected from the duty of forced labour, binding on all Poles from 16 years of age. Simultaneously, at least in the beginning of the occupation, the school's students and employees were shielded from forcible transportation to work in Germany. A boy with a school ID was protected from the consequences of the rules in effect in the General Governorate, decreed by Hans Frank himself. Such student, arrested during a street roundup, had a greater chance of survival.

Some mass relocations of Poles from Greater Poland took place in 1940. The school became then a new workplace for many evacuated teachers. Krawczyk, Seidel, priest Ponicki and others came then to Radom.

Miejska Szkoła Rzemioł (the Municipal Crafts School) was liquidated by the Germans in the same year, and its building on 1 Maja Street was used as a professional school for the children of Germans and *Volksdeutsche*. The State Industrial Schools accepted all vocational teachers and administration workers then, including the head of the closed school's workshops, Michał Pająk, and employees: Gamaj, Fomin, Szturmak, Kałuża, Wanat, Foltyn (Fołtyn).

Unfortunately, work at the school did not protect all students and teachers from arrests. Many teachers and students of higher grades were engaged in conspiracy. The school very often served even as a refuge for conspirators. Many paid the highest price of their lives for this.

The instruction continued the whole day, from 8.00 to 20.00. Only occasionally did it finish earlier due to curfew. Germans also organised roundups in the school building very often. Teachers protected the youth then, risking their own lives. During one of the roundups, a teacher brought the students he was teaching out to the roof. There, lying and keeping completely quiet, they waited the danger out (*50 lat Szkoły Technicznej w Radomiu*, 1969, p. 9).

Despite such a strained atmosphere, classes were taught normally. The day started with the news about who got arrested and where, and finished with anxious thoughts about what the next day would bring. The youth was also very disciplined and tried to learn more than the German curriculum required. A great responsibility rested upon the teachers' shoulders as well. They taught the new Polish generation in the only officially operating secondary school in the Radom district.

The nightmare of German occupation in Radom ended on January 17th, 1945. The country, destroyed by the war, needed whole battalions of highly qualified construction technicians. Immediately, the pre-war profile of vocational education began to be reinstated. The main building could not be given to the school without delay. The war was still on, and a hospital was there. Wounded Soviet soldiers were continuously brought to Radom. The gymnasium fulfilled the function of an operating room. As many as six operating tables were there.

The school authorities were able to begin the adaptation only on March 31st, 1945. It required a huge amount of work and financial resources. Many walls had to be demolished, new ones had to be built, all the installations had to be remade and adjusted to the school's needs, all the rooms and workshops renovated, all bunkers demolished. Air raid shelters needed to be covered and a fire extinguishing water reservoir on the schoolyard filled, the sports ground had to be leveled. The entirety of the works was led by headmaster Bolesław Egiejman.

Owing to this effort, 1200 students in 21 middle school grades and 9 secondary school grades could begin the new year 1945/46 in decent conditions. Additionally, *Radomskie Towarzystwo Kursów Technicznych* (the Radom Society of Technical Courses) opened departments for working people, to which 160 persons were admitted.

In parallel with classes, a broad range of extracurricular activities was reactivated, greatly helping the school realise the no less important educational programme. At least a few initiatives are worth mentioning here. The school brass band of the State Primary School directed by band master Ludwik Knysak was famous and artistically on the same level as the best orchestras in Radom. The school sport club *Technik* (Technician) had no equal among Radom secondary schools, especially in athletics and volleyball. An engine model making club functioned in the facility as well. The afterschool club and four-part male choir, led by Bolesław Egiejman and conductor Władysław Kryniczanin, were engaged in vigorous activities.

In 1945, following the death of engineer Zielenkiewicz, Juliusz Vorbrodt, PhD, became the head of the Construction Department. The gymnasium was enlarged according to the design of engineer Chmielewski in the 1948/49 school year.

In the 1949/50 schoolyear, the school held classes in:

- 18 middle school grades and 6 secondary school grades of the Mechanical Engineering Department in;
- 10 middle school grades and 4 secondary school grades of the Construction Department in;
- 4 middle school grades and 3 secondary school grades of the Road Department.

Together, there were 45 grades with 1700 students, including, for the first time in the school's history, three girls as construction secondary school students. If

we add over 1000 participants in the RTKT courses, we get the full picture of the Radom vocational education's power in the post-war period.

In 1948, a decision to section vocational schools off from the education ministry was made at the central level. *Centralny Urząd Szkolenia Zawodowego* (CUSZ) [The Central Vocational Training Bureau] was established. The CUSZ decided to shorten the technical school instruction to four years.

In 1950, the Extramural Department with *Państwowe Szkoły Przemysłowe* (the State Industrial Schools) in Radom started functioning, replacing the one existing previously in Skarżysko. Antoni Taczanowski was entrusted with organising and leading this authority including three specialisations: mechanical, construction, and electrical.

On December 31st, 1951, after 14 years of operation, the State Industrial Schools in Radom were assigned to three different ministries. Thus, the Construction Department became *Technikum Budowlane* (the Construction Technical School) of *Ministerstwo Budownictwa Przemysłowego* (the Ministry of Industrial Construction), the Road Department became *Technikum Drogowe* (the Road Technical School) under *Ministerstwo Transportu Drogowego i Lotniczego* (the Ministry of Road and Air Transport), and *Wydział Mechaniczny* (the Mechanical Engineering Department) became *Technikum Mechaniczne* (the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering) under *Ministerstwo Przemysłu Maszynowego* (the Machine Industry Ministry). Alfons Pino, Wiktor Bobrowski and Franciszek Kozłowski became the respective principals of the new facilities.

The school's graduates were proof of its very high standard. The following are the profiles of some of them. K. Kula – the builder of the largest steel structures in Poland; B. Nowicki – a specialist in traffic engineering; W. Zarebski (Zarębski) – university teacher, author of many prize-winning architectonical designs; J.T. Sonta (Sońta) – *nom de guerre* "Oska" ("Ośka") – legendary leader of a Peasant Battalions; J. Majewski – Warsaw president for many years; R. Rodak – distinguished architect and city planner; Z. Moskwa – Communications Minister; B. Białczak (Biańczak) – a creative design engineer, author of multiple books on arms and ammunition production, co-author of two patents, university teacher; T. Zimecki – prose writer, publicist, author of 22 books, many radio plays and reportages; J. Polomski (Połomski) – outstanding and popular singer.

In truth, the account of the autonomous history of the Construction Schools Complex in Radom should begin only at this moment. The Technical Construction School of the Industrial Construction Ministry is the original name of the school. It was a result of the aforementioned reorganisation of the whole vocational education in Poland. Since then, i.e. the 1951/52 schoolyear, the Construction Department of

the State Industrial Schools became a separate facility (*Zespół Szkół Budowlanych w Radomiu 1919–2009*, 2009, p. 47).

The Construction Technical School was transformed into *Zespół Szkół Zawodowych* (Vocational School Complex) in 1961. The name had to be changed as new educational profiles appeared.

The school found itself under the supervision of the Education Ministry in the mid-60s. In 1968, it received a name which survived until the end of the 20th century: the Construction School Complex. In the same year, the facility moved to a modern building on Tadeusza Kościuszki Street.

The school endeavoured to be granted a patron in the same period. "Radom Region Partisans" were chosen. Unfortunately, "the people's government" did not have in mind the soldiers of the Home Army or Peasant Battalions, but of the People's Guard and People's Army. Such a state of affairs could only be changed after 1989. Aleksander Sawicki, an extraordinarily distinguished activist, proposed changing the school's patron, and his endeavours succeeded in 1991. Casimir III the Great became the new school's patron. He was a king extremely important in the history of the gord upon the Mleczna river. The school also earned a new banner, hymn and a graphic sign designed by Aleksander Sawicki. The sign is already well recognisable to the Radom community.

Before the school was housed in the modern building on the Kościuszki Street, it was located in adapted halls of residence of the State Forests employees at 68A 25 Czerwca Street. This facility was obviously maladjusted to the school's needs and required a general restructuring. Provisional workshops were also built in a field nearby. The Technical School of Mechanical Engineering provided the use of some workshops on Narutowicza Street as well. The trials of students and teachers, connected with constant modernisations, ended in 1968. The school moved to Tadeusza Kościuszki Street.

The Construction School received a workshop building from the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering in 1973. It could finally abandon the primitive rooms at 25 Czerwca Street after the completion of adaptation work in 1975.

The school also obtained the hall of residence building at 5 Kościuszki Street in 1972, used by *Technikum Skórzane* (the Leather Technical School) before.

New rooms in the school's branch on Pułaskiego Street were fitted out in 1995 (*Zespół Szkół Budowlanych w Radomiu 1919–2009*, 2009, p. 53).

When it comes to educational profiles, the Construction Technical School consisted of the following departments: industrial, water supply and sewage, electric construction and normalisation, from 1951 to 1959. The industrial construction department was obviously the most popular.

The Construction Ministry reorganised the schools it controlled in the 1957/58 school year⁶. In effect, a five-year technical school with a general construction specialisation recruited until the end of the 60s. The first grade of a five-year technical school with a "green areas" specialisation was formed in 1961, and the youth could learn in technical schools with the "roads and road bridges" specialisation in 1965.

In the three-year Construction Technical Schools, one could specialise in: general construction (1961), sanitary installations (1961), and rural construction (1963).

In *Szkoła Rzemiosł Budowlanych* (The Construction Crafts School), the following professions were taught: mason-plasterer, concreter-steel fixer, plumber-installer, painter and green area gardener. A school for working persons functioned as well throughout the period.

In the 1968/69 school year, Władysław Gomółka's administration decided to liquidate the three-year Construction Crafts Schools and replace them with two-year *Zasadnicze Szkoły Zawodowe* (Basic Vocational Schools) for economic reasons.

The educational profiles in the Basic Vocational Schools remained basically unchanged until the end of the 70s. The only new specialisation, industrial furnace constructor, was added in 1974. In turn, the group of five-year Technical Schools was broadened. A specialisation of construction documentation was created in 1969, and a specialisation of construction prefabrication in 1970.

The two-year *Policealne Studium Budowlane* (Post-Secondary Construction School) was opened in 1969. The two-year *Policealne Studium Geodezyjne* (Post-Secondary School of Geodesy) was founded in 1975.

Additional training schools also found their home in the Construction School Complex at the time. These were workplace schools of *Przedsiębiorstwo Budowy Pieców Przemysłowych* (the Industrial Furnace Construction Company) and *Zakład Doskonalenia Zawodowego* (the Professional Training Facility).

Five classes for the members of the Voluntary Labour Corps, connected with *Przedsiębiorstwo Budownictwa Kolejowego* (the Railway Construction Enterprise) and *Zjednoczenie Gospodarki Komunalnej i Mieszkaniowej* (the Municipal and Housing Administration Corporation), were created in the 1978/79 school year.

In the end of the 70s, the educational authorities reinstated the three-year learning cycle in the Basic Vocational Schools. However, it was in 1987 when really interesting changes in the educational profiles took place. Now, the youth could learn in the following specialisations: fitting-out technologist, construction assembly technologist, wireman and construction machines mechanic. Some old professions remained: mason, carpenter, fitter of inner systems and decorator.

⁶ It consisted in the introduction of a two-level learning cycle. The first stage was the three-year School of Construction Crafts, the second – the five-year and three-year Construction Technical Schools.

In the 90s, the school faced a serious challenge – the need to create new schools meeting the youth's expectations. Thus, an elite *Liceum Sztuk Plastycznych* (the Visual Arts Secondary School) was formed in 1990 at Aleksander Sawicki's initiative. These actions sprang from concern for especially artistically talented Radom youth.

The school began to implement its own pedagogical innovation in 1995. The teaching cycle in the five-year Construction Technical School was divided into two periods. All students followed the comprehensive secondary school's curriculum and achieved a general understanding of construction subjects during the first two years. Next, they could decide whether they wanted to continue learning in the subsequent technical or secondary school grades. The project was the idea of principal Marek Stanik.

A four-year Technical Secondary School with the environment management profile was founded in 1995, too, and *Szkoła Mistrzostwa Sportowego* (the Athletic Championship School) began functioning in 1998, intended for students specialising in Graeco-Roman wrestling. Contacts with Sefflied College in Great Britain helped a lot with reorganising the school.

The following were the school's headmasters from 1951 to 1999: Alfons Pino (1951–1955), Edward Majewski (1955–1957), Józef Baranski (Barański) (1957–1965), Józef Masłanek (Maślanek) (1965–1968), Bolesław Szczykutowicz (1968–1973), Zbigniew Derr (1973–1985), Władysław Kubik (1985–1990), Marek Stanik (1990–1997), Janusz Dzierzanowski (Dzierżanowski) (1997–2000).

Economic School Complex

7-year trade schools existed in Radom as early as in the period of the Kingdom of Poland. However, they can hardly be named vocational schools. That is why the Radom community of traders and entrepreneurs realised a plan of establishing an economic school, which would educate professionals for the developing economy, only in the interwar period. When it comes to naming, economic middle schools were called trade schools in that period, although they taught the youth in a very broad scope, preparing them for work not only in trade.

Local traders, entrepreneurs and bankers strived for the creation of such a facility in Radom the most. The members of *Komisja Szkolna Ziemi Radomskiej* (the School Commission of Radom Region), which held social power over education in Radom from July 1915 to September 1917, understood these needs perfectly. That is why *Wydział Szkół Zawodowych* (the Department of Vocational Schools) operated as a part of the Commission. First, priest Adam Jopkiewicz presided over the department, and Feliks Paschalski became the leader after him. The Department of Vocational Schools of the School Commission of Radom Region intended to open two schools: crafts and trades. Paschalski himself was supposed to be busy with the whole organisation, design and curriculum for "the Trade School" (Szymański, 1993, p. 7).

Formally, the history of the Radom "Trade School" goes back to December 17th, 1917, when *Rada Opiekuńcza Szkoły Realnej Miejskiej* (the Commission of the Municipal Secondary Modern School) received the privilege of forming a four year Trade School. *Departament WRiOP Tymczasowej Rady Stanu* (the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment's Department of the Provisional Council of State) gave the permission. Despite good will, the school was opened only in the 1918/19 school year. Only one class, with 32 students, was formed as a result of recruitment. The lessons were held at an atypical time in the afternoon, 13.50 – 18.25 (Kielska, 2008, p. 11).

The facility was co-financed by Radom traders, members of *Stowarzyszenie Kupców Polskich* (the Polish Traders Society), since the very beginning. They bought industrial certificates of appropriate category in internal revenue offices. Owing to that, a part of these taxes was passed to schools as subvention. The financial means for school maintenance came for school fees as well. The payment was not, however, high.

The Radom department of Polish Traders Society officially became the new concessionaire of the school on September 1st, 1923. The learning course was shortened to three years then, and the facility received a new name: *3-letnia Męska Szkoła Handlowa SKP* (the 3-year Male Trade School of the Polish Traders Society). The youth was admitted to it after 7 years of primary school or after presenting a diploma certifying that they learned for three years of middle school.

The biggest problems of the described facility were incessant financial and space troubles (the school still functioned in a building it did not own). Director Paschalski appealed for Radom traders not to hire anyone without his school's graduation diploma. The goal was to increase the facility's popularity in Radom and surroundings. A new square for a new school building erection was still searched for.

An occasion to purchase its own property at 1/4 Długa Street (currently 61 Traugutta Street) came in 1928. The property consisted of two two-storey buildings and belonged to the Epstein family. The Polish Traders Society, buying the property, counted on a stable income from leasing the buildings. A part of the rooms was taken up by *Gimnazjum Państwowe im. Tytusa Chałubińskiego* (the Tytus Chalubinski State Middle School), the former 8-year *Szkoła Realna* (Secondary Modern School). Unfortunately, the Radom Magistrate, which was supposed to pay this fee, did not fulfil these duties and, again, if it had not been for Radom traders and interest-free loans, given by them supportively, the school would probably not have survived.

The Polish Traders Society in Radom was given permission to run a girl's trade school in the form of departments parallel to the hitherto boys' school from the Cracow School District's Educational Authority in August 1930. One had to present a graduation diploma of a 7-year primary school to begin the learning. As an exception, girls from the two first grades of *Szkoła Handlowo-Przemysłowa im.*

Marii Rodziewiczówny (the Maria Rodziewiczowna Trade-Industrial School) being liquidated at the time were admitted. The learning cycle in the boys' and girls' school was 4 years then. The co-author of the described facility's monograph, Elżbieta Kielska, stresses that both trade schools, male and female, were separate institutions until the 1937/38 school year. There was an attempt to create a coeducational school in 1935. However, both this and other initiatives of this type were always met with a refusal of the educational authorities (Kielska, 2008, p. 14).

The school banner, funded by Radom traders, was blessed in the Holy Trinity Church in 1930 during the 10-year anniversary of the school (it was postponed by three years due to enormous financial troubles of the facility in 1927).

The Polish Traders Society's board leased a square by the school buildings for children to play there from dr priest Kosiński a year later at the request of headmaster Paschalski. Didactical base of the school increased considerably when a doyen of Polish trade, Stanisław Wierzbicki, celebrated his 40-year anniversary of professional work and founded *Biblioteka im. Stanisława i Jadwigi Wierzbickich* (the Stanisław and Jadwiga Wierzbiccy Library) by the Trade School. There were 500 volumes for teachers and 700 volumes for students in the school library in the 1936/37 school year. The Polish Traders Society subscribed to professional journals "Tygodnik Handlowy" (Trade Weekly) and „Poradnik Przedsiębiorcy" (Entrepreneur's Guidebook) for the school.

The great economic crisis 1929–1935 was the most difficult for the school. The pauperising society could not afford the fees. In turn, the traders supporting the school had increasing difficulties to make ends meet as well. The school began to return to budget balance only in the 1936/37 and 1937/38 school years.

The Jędrzejewicz (Jędrzejewicz) reform's regulations were introduced gradually. A full six years intended for this purpose. That is why the 4-year Polish Traders Society's Trade School transformed according to the new programme only on September 1st, 1938. The following types of school, envisaged by the act, were founded: *Prywatne Gimnazjum Handlowe* (the Private Trade Middle School) [4-year] and *Liceum Handlowe* (the Trade Secondary School) [2-year] of the Polish Traders Society. Ironically, the facility received state school rights on September 1st, 1939. Due to this, the objectives of the whole reform could be implemented only after the war.

On the day of the Second World War outbreak, exams for the first grade of the two-year Trade Secondary School were held according to plan in the Radom Trade School. Before the learning began for good, Germans invaded the city on September 8th. The acts of war interrupted the school's functioning for a few months.

Director Feliks Paschalski was arrested as a hostage as early as in the first month of war. The same happened to teachers: Czesław Paschalski, Bronisław Suligowski, Stefan Werenik and Eugeniusz Raczkowski. The school administration employees managed to brick school documentation in the cellar (Własiuk, 2008, p. 37).

Permission was given to open a 4-year Middle School and a 2-year Trade Secondary School at the beginning of 1940.

The school functioned in very difficult conditions, lacked basic teaching resources, the lack of fuel caused breaks in learning during frosty winters. In the beginning, pre-war curriculums were taught. However, the occupational authorities withdrew all authorisations as early as in June 1940. The Trade Secondary School was liquidated, and the 4-year Middle School was transformed into a 2-year State Trade School. It was supposed to prepare the youth for work only on the lowest positions in the trading force. Therefore, professional subjects were maximally limited, and the comprehensive ones completely removed. Officially, the following was taught: trade organisation and technology, knowledge on products, trade accounting and bookkeeping, shorthand and typewriting, Polish trade correspondence. Like in other Polish vocational schools, the language of instruction was Polish. Only after some time was German to be introduced. Despite official prohibitions, an underground education curriculum was realised at the risk of life.

After release from prison, headmaster Feliks Paschalski was allowed to establish a transitional grade (*Aufbauklasse*) to be attended after finishing the two-year Trade School. Realisation of illegal full education similar to the one in the pre-war 4-year Trade School was made possible in the following way: the youth remained in the same grade for one more year and second grade curriculum was realised with them, and four grade material was taught in the transitional grade. One only had to mind German inspections.

Repressions against Polish teachers began as early as in the first months of the war. The Radom Trade School's teachers were not spared. Priest Bolesław Strzelecki was arrested as early as in January 1941 for helping prisoners of war. He died during the first four months from his arrest, after he was transported to Auschwitz, due to a severe beating. The Nazis also murdered other teachers: Władysław Paluszynski (Paluszyński), Henryk Rajmund Suliga, Henryk Miller. Students and graduates of the school suffered from repressions as well.

Despite horrible repressions and harassment from the German occupier, the school continued functioning until the last days of occupation, i.e. January 1945. A 4-year Middle School and a 2-year Secondary School of the Polish Traders Association under the direction of Feliks Paschalski were established in the buildings at 61 Romualda Traugutta Street.

The state, rebuilding after war damages, organising administration and economic life, needed qualified economic workers for all branches of the national economy. Only the Trade School could perform such a task in Radom.

The conditions were very difficult. There was a lack of literally everything. In 1948, the school suffered a tough blow – the death of the founder and first principal, Feliks Paschalski. There was no school in Radom where he was not, at least for some time, a lecturer. *Dyrekcja Okręgowa Szkolenia Zawodowego* (the District Directory of Vocational Training) in Kielce, the direct authority over the school, nominated a candidate proposed by the teaching staff to be director. Mieczysław Szymański was unanimously chosen. However, he asked to be relieved of this function and to remain as a regular teacher after two years of work. Marian Wilczynski (Wilczyński) (1950–1952), Hipolit Jakimczyk (1952–1953), Stanisław Los (Łoś) (1953–1953), Witold Brzoska (Brzóska) (1953–1962), Stefan Piekos (Piękoś) (1962–1966), Władysław Fugiel (1966–1967), Barbara Peryga (1967–1972), Wiktor Proniewicz (1972–1986), Danuta Kwiatek (1986–1990), Jadwiga Wojtasik (1990–1995), Ryszard Wojtowicz (1995–2006) were subsequent headmasters.

In the beginning, students were admitted to the 4-year middle school, changed into a 3-year one in the 1946/47 school year, without an exam. Later, youth after 7 grades of primary school was admitted only after passing an exam. Graduating from middle school gave the right to work in those times. Less talented or poorer youth, who wanted to become independent as fast as possible due to difficult financial conditions, made use of that *en masse*.

Graduates of middle school, not only the trade one, but also other types of vocational and comprehensive middle schools were admitted to a 2-year secondary school after passing an exam.

A one-year secondary school for working people was temporarily organised in the 1945/1946 school year. Graduating from it entitled to higher education. It was created to facilitate faster attainment of maturity certificate for youth who graduated from the 4-year *Gimnazjum Kupieckie* (Trading Middle School) or an equivalent. This school lasted only one year and 39 students graduated from it.

As it was written before, it was a private (community) school, and the Polish Traders Society was its concessionaire. The concessionaire's name was changed to *Powiatowe Zrzeszenie Prywatnego Handlu i Usług* (the County Private Society of Trade and Services) in 1948. It requested nationalisation of the facility to the Ministry of Education as early as in 1949. The County Society gave the whole school's property over to the state, leaving only a small room in the front building for an office for itself.

The school was nationalised in October 1949 and had born the name of *Państwowe Gimnazjum i Liceum Handlowe w Radomiu* (the State Trade Middle and Secondary School in Radom). It was renamed *Państwowe Zakłady Kształcenia Administracyjno-*

-*Gospodarczego w Radomiu* (the State Administrative-Economic Education Facilities in Radom) [with 3 years of middle school and 2 years of secondary school] in the next year 1950/51. One grade of the one-year *Liceum Administracyjno-Gospodarcze* (Administrative-Economic Secondary School) was then temporarily created for youth without the full secondary school education. 25 students graduated from it (Domański & Sulima, 1993, p. 26).

The Ministry of Finance was granted authority over the school in the 1951/52 school year. Relatedly, it was renamed *Technikum Finansowe Ministerstwa Finansów w Radomiu* (the Financial Technical School of the Ministry of Finance in Radom). Due to the necessity of preparing the youth for work fast, the period of learning was shortened to three years, with the right to higher education for graduates.

More changes appeared soon. The learning period was lengthened by one year in the 1954/55 school year, and by another year in 1959/60 school year. Thereupon, there were no maturity exam in the enumerated years in the school.

The Financial Technological School was renamed *Technikum Ekonomiczne w Radomiu* (the Economic Technical School in Radom) and *Kuratorium Okręgu Szkolnego Kieleckiego* (the Kielce School District Authority) became its authority from the 1956/57 school year after the new change of vocational education organisation.

The Economic Technical School changed its name to *Liceum Ekonomiczne* (the Economic Secondary School) in connection with another school reform which introduced an 8-year primary school. Students learned 4 years in the new type of school.

The curriculum was different in specific grades and depended on specialisations of a given grade. There were the following specialisations: general economy, product knowledge, economy of industrial enterprises, economy of trade enterprises, economy and organisation of motor transport and, among newer specialisations, finance and accounting.

Next organisational changes in the school's functioning happened in 1977. A consolidated school institution called *Zespół Szkół Ekonomicznych w Radomiu* (the Economic School Complex in Radom) was established then. It consisted of: Economic Secondary School, Economic Secondary School attended after two years of Comprehensive Secondary School, Vocational Secondary School, Economic Secondary School attended after three years of the Basic Vocational School and Basic Vocational School teaching salesmen.

A Trade Secondary School, educating commerce technicians sought after in the job market, was additionally founded in the 1991/92 school year.

One also has to remember that the school had its branches in Kozienice and Skaryszew. The school in Kozienice was founded in the 1959/60 school year,

and it became independent as early as in the 1961/62 school year. In turn, the school in Skaryszew arose in the 1961/62 school year, and a new, independent Economic Technical School with the specialisation "Rural commodity circulation" was established in the 1965/66 school year.

In some periods, schools for working people and *Zaoczne Technikum Ekonomiczne* (the Extramural Economic Technical School) functioned by the school.

A completely new chapter in the school's history began in 1989. The Economic School Complex, under the direction of Danuta Kwiatek, whose term was just ending, was transferred to a new building at 22 Stanisława Wernera Street in Radom. Jadwiga Wojtasik became the Complex' principal in 1990. Owing to the new headmaster's efforts, *Urząd Rejonowy* (the District Office) in Radom gave over the management of a property for an indefinite period to the Economic School Complex. This property consisted of a 1 ha 2,435 square meters area and bricked buildings, i.e. 3-storey school building and a gymnasium with a back office.

The 1990s were a period when it was difficult to get into the school, not only due to its reputation, but also due to the popularity of economic education, and most of all due to the job market's demand for well-qualified economists indispensable in the new reality – market economy.

An experimental curriculum based on the system of traders training in Germany was introduced into the new type of school. This experiment resulted in the establishment of a trade training office, where students acquired practical skills indispensable for work in trade, in 1999. Only a few schools in Poland had such a workshop (Kozłowska, 2008, p. 101).

Meeting the needs of the job market, a course for secretaries was organised in the school in the 1992/93 school year. At the request of the Polish Post, in the 1993/94 school year, *Technikum Łączności* (the Communication Technical School), educating technicians of post-telecommunications exploitation, was established, as well as *Policealne Studium Administracyjne* (the Post-Secondary Administration School) and *Liceum Ekonomiczne* (the Economic Secondary School) attended after the Basic Vocational School, with the specialisation of trade enterprises economy and organisation.

The Heroes of Westerplatte Electronic School Complex

The Electronic School Complex is one of the latest educational facilities in Radom. Its roots can be traced to the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering, the first location of the institution, of great merits for Radom education. Tadeusz Ornatowski, MSc Eng., became the headmaster of these schools. Teachers and students came from the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering.

Dynamically developing Radom, with its industrial base, suffered more and more from the lack of middle technical staff and workmen qualified in radio, television and telecommunications technology.

Technikum and Zasadnicza Szkoła Telekomunikacyjna (the Technical and Basic Vocational School of Telecommunications) became a separate organisational unit on September 1st, 1967 (*Zespół Szkół Elektronicznych im. Bohaterów Westerplatte w Radomiu*, 1997, p. 9).

The organisation of the school was then as follows:

- Five-year technical school – first and second grade (the second grade was recruited in 1966 in the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering);
- Basic vocational telecommunications school – two first grades, second and third grade (the second and third grade were transferred from the Basic Vocational School No. 2).

The Technical School of Mechanical Engineering's building was still the location of the school. The youth used laboratories and classrooms there. The staff consisted of only 16 people.

The lack of its own school building, specialist workshops, school workshops, and teaching materials were the worst hindrances in the first year of functioning. Despite such dramatically difficult conditions, the director and teachers realised the curriculum and educated the youth. The technical school's students learning performance was better than that of the basic school's students.

Engineer Tadeusz Gula took over the management of the Schools of Telecommunications after a year of activity, from September 1st, 1968. He was the co-creator of the new school as the vice-principal of the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering. His activities led to the formation of a modern educational facility of a very high standard of teaching.

The school's director informed those assembled at a meeting of *Komisja Przedmiotów Zawodowych* (the Vocational Subjects Committee) on December 12th, 1968 about the necessity of setting up a telecommunications workshop and an electricity measurement laboratory in a new building at 68A 1 Maja Street. As a result, a group of teachers was chosen to install 10 laboratory tables with appropriate equipment after the Christmas holidays (*Zespół Szkół Elektronicznych im. Bohaterów Westerplatte w Radomiu*, 2007, p. 7).

Thus, preparations were made to teach in the school's own building and in workshops it co-owned as early as the new school year. In addition, the establishment of the school's own administration, a front office with Wanda Moskwa and accounting organisation with Barbara Jeżyńska, began in the 1968/1969 school year. The third school year, 1969/70, began in the building at 68a 1 Maja Street. 457 students learned and around 36 teachers worked altogether then. The students attended practical classes in school workshops, in the workshops of the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering, in the ZWAT-T9 and RUT plants.

The above training system was dictated by space, materials and staff shortages. The vice-principal, Andrzej Pierzchała, MSc, was appointed to help manage the school. The following commissions: of Class Teachers, Vocational Subjects, Humanities, Profession Teachers, Laboratories and youth organisations: Student Government, *Liga Obrony Kraju* (the League of National Defence), and *Związek Młodzieży Socjalistycznej* (the Union of Socialist Youth) began operating. Improving education standards, the development of teaching material base, and a change of radio-television to industrial automation specialisation were the most educational important goals.

The first inspection conducted from December 3rd, 1969 to December 5th, 1969 and from December 9th, 1969 to December 11th, 1969 was a very important event. Its goal was to analyse the organisation of the schools' educational work, taking into account the realisation of the reformed vocational school's curriculum. The opinion on the school's activity was positive. The discussion at the post-inspection meeting suggested the youth and teachers worked in very difficult conditions. The lack of teaching materials, insufficiently heated gymnasium, inadequately equipped school workshops – these were everyday hardships.

In the 1970/71 school year, the number of grades in the technical school grew, new teachers came, the equipment of workshops and laboratories improved, classrooms for comprehensive education were modernised, youth organisations functioned properly, school trips were organised, and a common room with clubs and a band operated (*Zespół Szkół Elektronicznych im. Bohaterów Westerplatte w Radomiu*, 1997, p. 7).

The following year, the number of the technical school grades rose to 9 and of the basic school grades to 9, and a Post-Secondary School was established. 21 students graduated from the school, including 19 with a maturity diploma.

In the 1972/73 school year, a three-year technical school for graduates of the basic vocational school was established in addition to the five-year technical school. The number of grades in all the types of schools rose to 24 in 1975 (10 grades of the five-year technical school, 3 grades of the three-year technical school, 9 grades of the basic school of telecommunication, and 2 forms of the post-secondary school).

Simultaneously, a new school building was being erected. Wojciech Madej, M. Eng., became the vice-principal for technical matters. An Organisational Committee for the celebration of naming the school and presenting the banner was established on June 24th, 1976, given that the new school building's construction was highly advanced and the moment of its commission was approaching.

The main goal of the Committee was to prepare the greatest and most important celebration that was to take place on October 10th, 1976. At the same time, lessons began as usual, i.e. on September 1st, 1976. The facility's name changed pursuant to the Ruling No. 1 of the Education Authority in Radom of January 19th, 1976

on establishing the Electronic School Complex. The Ruling was in effect as of September 1st, 1976. The vice-director changed then as well – Andrzej Pierzchała, MSc, left, and Krystyna Bielecka, MSc, was appointed in his place.

The keystone celebrations were held in a concert hall rented for this occasion in the Voivodship Office in Radom. There were commemorative speeches and the banner presentation. Westerplatte Heroes became the patrons of the school. A dozen defenders of the Polish post at Westerplatte in 1939 were special guests.

In the 1977/78 school year, the number of grades and students increased, there were more teaching materials, sports facilities (playing fields and stands) were commissioned, many trees and hedges were planted around the school. The number of student clubs rose. There were thirteen altogether, including: photography, art, chess, technical, sailing, young implementers, socio-political knowledge, music, and mathematics. The school inspection in 1978 concluded with an approval. The educational authorities highly appraised the school's activity in all its aspects.

The school's organisational structure in the 1978/79 school year was as follows: five-year technical school – 10 grades, three-year technical school – 3 grades, basic school – 11 grades, post-secondary school – 3 grades.

As part of modernising the teaching base, the following were announced on November 20th, 1979:

- The construction of new school workshops (supposedly, an investment accompanying the expansion of *Zakłady Elektroniki* [the Electronics Plants] in Szydłowiec [Szydłowiec]);
- The installation of closed-circuit industrial television;
- The modernisation of the physics workshop.

In April 1980, the Staff Board was informed of the new statute of the vocational technical and secondary school announced in *Dziennik Urzędowy* (Official Gazette) No. 2 of the Ministry of Education of January 21st, 1980. Summing up the school's activity in June 1980, it was ascertained that it had: a closed-circuit TV network, a phone network, classrooms with equipment indispensable for teaching exercises, beautiful sports facilities and a well-managed area around. The educational specialisation also changed and health preventive measures were introduced.

The construction of new school workshops was considered the most important task for the school's principal in the new prospective plan for 1980–1985. An utility plan and technical-economic objectives were prepared for the workshops.

Krystyna Bielecka, MSc, left the position of vice-principal on August 31st, 1983, due to health issues. Andrzej Czarnecki, M. Eng., became the new vice-principal as of September 1st, 1983. Marian Turlński, MSc, was appointed vice-principal in February 1984 as well.

The management of the school workshops also changed. Andrzej Żulikowski, M. Eng., replaced Andrzej Czarnecki, M. Eng., for a while. Marian Raczyński, M. Eng.,

became the new head of school workshops from January 1984. 760 students attended the school then.

Principal Tadeusz Gula's decision to retire on August 31st, 1985 was an important event in the school history. The school owed numerous teaching and educational successes to that principal, performing his role for 16 years, to a large degree. The educational authorities appointed Józef Nogaj, PhD Eng., the new director of the facility.

On April 25th, 1986, the Staff Board decided to teach four new subjects in the 1986/87 school year: selected economics issues, the main problems of environmental protection, religious studies, and information technology elements.

Sejmik Postępu Pedagogicznego (the Pedagogical Development Council) took place at the school from October 14th to 15th 1986. Teachers distinguished at work, persons occupying high positions in education and pedagogical inspectors, educationalists, and people of science participated (*Zespół Szkół Elektronicznych im. Bohaterów Westerplatte w Radomiu*, 1997, p. 7).

School computerisation was the most prominent matter of the Electronic School Complex then. Principal Józef Nogaj was its ardent supporter. Subsequent versions of computer education were created at his initiative.

New, so-called introductory curriculums were initiated in the 1992/93 school year. They allowed for a full realisation of comprehensive subjects and an introduction of new professional specialisations: computer systems and general electronics.

Principal Józef Nogaj, PhD Eng, valued by the youth, parents, authorities and teachers, died suddenly on December 31st, 1993. He represented a high personal culture, enormous knowledge and pedagogical experience, put the interest of the school, students, teachers above his personal interest. Janina Woźniak, MSc Eng., began running the school.

She performed the functions of the school's principal as of September 1st, 1994, after winning the competition for the post. She was deeply familiar with the problems of her facility. She energetically strived for the construction of new school workshops, modernised the workshop and specialist rooms, among other projects. She was well-liked and valued by the youth and teachers. Tomasz Gebka (Gębka), M. Eng., became the new vice-principal.

The school still boasts highly qualified teaching staff and a state-of-the-art didactical infrastructure, which has ensured a high standard of teaching and good prospects for the future.

Clothing Stylistation and Services School Complex

The greatest problem of Radom education after the First World War was an almost complete lack of vocational schools for girls. In turn, the number of young people

finishing primary school was rising continuously. Obviously, the scarcity of free rooms fit for school workshops was a problem.

In these conditions, Felicja Niwińska (Niwińska) was allowed to establish a private three-year *Żeńska Szkoła Zawodowa* (the Girls' Vocational School) in the 1925/26 school year. It had the following grades: tailoring, trade, economic, weaving and gardening. Two-shift learning took place in Niwińska's private apartment in a tenement building at 9 Mikołaja Kopernika Street. The school was financed by the fees from four students then (Siara, 1996, p. 6).

Due to difficult space conditions, the Cracow School District's Educational Authority gave the trading and tailoring grades over to *Dyrekcja Szkoły Handlowej Stowarzyszenia Kupców Polskich* (the Administration of the Trade School of the Polish Traders Society). The trading department was given concession for *Szkoła Handlowa Żeńska* (the Girls' Trade School). The tailoring grade, which was not well received, remained in a limbo for the time being. The matters of further existence of this grade, its location and leadership were to be resolved within one year.

The management of the grade, already as separate *Państwowa Szkoła Zawodowa* (the State Vocational School), was passed to the trade school's principal Feliks Paschalski. It was decided that the State Vocational School would use the rooms of the trade school at 4 Długa Street (currently 61 Romualda Traugutta Street) until the building would be freed. This location consisted of three classrooms, a recreation room, a staff room and two foyers, leased to the Treasury by the Polish Traders Society from July 1st, 1930 to June 30th, 1933 for the Girl's State Vocational School.

The equipment, passed to the trade school's vice-director Józef Karpiński by Felicja Niwińska, characterised the conditions and base of the new school the best. The whole school's property, bought from social funds, consisted of one sowing machine, one electrical iron, machines for ironing, a basin, a pot and a bucket. Despite that, the number of candidates for this school was very high. Therefore, the Cracow Educational Authority appointed Emilia Podmagorska (Podmagórska) the school's principal in January 1933. She took care of renting a building and organising the school.

As early as September 1st, 1933, the youth learned in a building leased from *Zjednoczony Bank Ziemi* (the United Land Bank), bought in 1938. The building at 2 Focha Street had to be adjusted to the school's needs. There was a necessity for two school rooms, lecture rooms and a workshop, in addition, a physics room, chemical and materials-related rooms and a lido. 25 students were to work in the workshop at the same time, with 1.5 square meters per student (there also had to be room for the machine and mannequin). In addition, space was needed for 8 tables (6 for the students, 1 for ironing, 1 for tailoring).

The Girl's State Vocational School transformed into the four-year *Państwowe Żeńskie Gimnazjum Krawieckie* (the Girls' State Tailoring Middle School) in the 1935/36

school year. The students were from different backgrounds, but the majority came from peasant and working class families. The teaching standard was very high. *Towarzystwo Kształcenia Zawodowego Kobiet* (the Society of Vocational Education for Women) existed by the school and held courses for adults and a three-year tailoring and leather accessories course. Professional skills was taught during such classes as: designing, fitting, modelling. There were co-operative activities in higher, third grades. An exhibition of the most interesting works of the students, as well as fashion shows taking place at the school garden's square, were usually organised at the end of the school year.

The Nazi occupation slowed down the development of schools and workshops. After the September defeat, the building was taken over by the occupier and used as a club for German soldiers. A part of workshop equipment was located in two places in the city: at 61 Żeromskiego Street and 3 Nowogrodzka Street, where vocational training took place.

Among vocational school during occupation, there was the Vocational Tailoring School at 55 Żeromskiego Street. Emilia Podmagorska (Podmagórska) and Maria Lachowicz, the headmaster of a private tailoring school at 19 1 Maja Street, were the principals of that school. They helped the organisers of underground education greatly. Ignoring the danger, the headmistresses fictitiously put many participants of the clandestine lessons of comprehensive schools on their schools' student lists. They issued school IDs to these students. These documents protected them from street round-ups or being taken away for forced labour to the German Reich. 216 students graduated from the school then.

The learning lasted three years, after which there was a final exam covering the following subjects:

1. Design, model and creating a model in the scope of light female tailoring.
2. History of female fashion (knowledge on clothing).
3. Organisation of an enterprise, tailoring shop, workshop accounting.

A conference delineating the goals of vocational schools, i.e. professional training of a craftsman-practitioner, was held on August 27th, 1940. People attended the vocational school after 7 years of primary education. Candidates for vocational schools had to be over 14 years old. The learning lasted 3 years, followed by an internship, only after which the candidates could attend a tailoring school. The school fee was 180 zł per year. 50% discounts were granted for learning accomplishments, 75% for students in a difficult financial situation.

Students had to learn the following subjects during those three years: religious education, workshop classes, professional knowledge on materials, tailoring and machines, technical drawing, workshop accounting, enterprise expertise (managing correspondence and enterprise, legal knowledge), hygiene, household, gymnastics.

42 students were allowed to take the journeyman exam from June 10th to 13th 1941 on the basis of graduation diplomas of the Girls' State Vocational School in

Radom and passed it. 163 students learned in the tailoring grade and on a year-long course of leather accessories manufacture in the 1941/42 school year.

One had to attend the Vocational Tailoring School for two years from the 1943/44 school year. New curriculum needed to be created. Two second grades of the I level and three grades of the II level, arisen from the first grades from the 1942/43 school year, were planned. 140 candidates, who took entry exams covering the following subjects: Polish, counting and drawing, were interested in the Vocational Tailoring School in that school year. In haberdashery courses, due to a high number of candidates, a division into three groups was planned:

1. Haberdashery with artisanal shoe upper making.
2. Knowledge of fashion and cap-making.
3. Use of tricot.

The four-year Girls' State Tailoring Middle School and *Liceum Przemysłu Odzieżowego* (Clothing Industry Secondary School) of the II level as an extension of vocational school began functioning in 1945, after the liberation of Radom. The following school organisations were formed at the school: the Red Cross, scouts, the Maritime League, a sports club. 233 students graduated from the school in the 1945/1946 school year, including 48 passing the journeyman exam. 362 students learned in the 1946/47 school year:

- 239 students – in *Państwowe Żeńskie Gimnazjum Krawieckie* (the Girls' State Tailoring Middle School);
- 67 students – in *Państwowe Żeńskie Liceum Przemysłu Odzieżowego* (the Girls' State Clothing Industry Secondary School);
- 44 students – in *Państwowe Żeńskie Kursy Galanterii* (the Girls' State Haberdashery Courses);
- 12 students – in *Szkoła Gospodarcza* (the Economic School).

The Tailoring Middle School transformed into the I level Industrial Clothing Secondary School in the 1948/49 school year. The schools were reorganised in 1950. *Państwowe Liceum Gospodarcze* (the State Economic School) was transferred to the building on Traugutta Street, the leather accessories and furriery grades to the *Szkoła Garbarska* (the Tanning School) on Śniadeccy Street. *Technikum Przemysłu Odzieżowego* (the Clothing Industry Technical School) at 2 Marchlewskiego Street was created in 1950 out of two schools existing after the war: *Prywatne Gimnazjum Krawieckie* (the Private Tailoring Middle School) for boys at 30 Słowackiego Street and the Girls' State Clothing Industry Secondary School, founded in 1945. Forming a school with an uniform direction improved the position of *Szkoła Odzieżowa* (the Clothing School) in Radom. The 2-year basic Clothing School was established in the 1950/51 school year, and learning in it was extended to three years in the 1952/53 school year.

Despite many difficulties, the workshops led a lively professional activity. Making costumes for movies "Warsaw Premiere" and "Young Chopin" were important

endeavours. The school workshops were adjusted to produce in a belt-system. Owing to that, the plan was realised. The production quantity was emphasised. A warehouse was indispensable while using the belt-system. A materials, accessories and ready-made products warehouse was created then. The school workshops made clothing for different trading enterprises, i.e. *Centralny Dom Towarowy* (the Central Department Store) in Warsaw, *Powszechny Dom Towarowy* (the Common Department Store) in Radom, *Powszechna Spółdzielnia Spożywców* (the Common Consumer Cooperative) in Radom. The work was facilitated by machines from the Boys' Private Tailoring Middle School and *Prywatne Gimnazjum Zawodowe* (the Private Vocational Middle School) and newly bought machines. They were machines with engines produced by the General Walter Metal Works in Radom.

The youth went for an internship to Łódź for the first time in 1948. Further internships took place in 1950 in *Zakłady Odzieżowe* (the Clothing Company) in Warsaw and *Zakłady Przemysłu Odzieżowego* (the Clothing Industry Company) in Łódź. The school participated in an inter-school exhibition in Kielce in 1951. Production in the belt-system stopped in the 1953/54 school year, because it achieved good profits, but affected training negatively. Every student made each piece from beginning to end in order to grasp basic technological processes in clothes making. To ensure demand and encourage clients to buy clothes produced in the workshops, fashion shows were organised, in the beginning in the school garden, later at exhibition halls. Principal Emilia Podmagorska (Podmagórska) and the workshop management cared for the workshops development. The management strived for good preparation of future workers.

The Clothing Industry Technical School, attended after the Basic Clothing School, was established in the 1958/59 school year. A grade for people working existed by the Basic Clothing School from 1960. Principal Emilia Podmagorska (Podmagórska) died after a long and severe illness in 1960, her responsibilities were overtaken by Anna Gołosz (Gołosz) in the 1960/61 school year. Janina Ciechanowicz, MSc, became the headmistress on September 5th, 1961. The new principal decided to use the school's attics, transforming them into drawing and technology classrooms, in order to improve the space conditions of the school. The 5-year *Technikum Włókiennicze* (Textile Technical School) with a knitting specialisation was established by the Clothing Technical School in September 1968 owing to the headmistress' efforts. The 5-year Textile Technical School with a specialisation concerning knitted fabric packaging and customisation was founded in the 1968/69 school year.

The three-year *Zasadnicza Szkoła Włókiennicza* (Basic Textile School) with a machine-manual knitter specialisation was opened by the Technical School and the Basic Clothing School in the 1970/71 school year. The school developed intensively at the end of the 60s. Due to the youth's broad interest, the school base was insufficient. The principal began striving for the construction of a new didactical building, because the building used by the technical school and the basic school

was not enough for didactical and workshop classes. The only way to improve the conditions was extension.

40% of the construction costs were covered by social funds, 60% from state subsidy. 29 teachers created the first fund, paying 100 zł each. Parents, school organisations and other institutions rushed to the aid. The following are worth mentioning: *Spółdzielcze Przedsiębiorstwo Usług i Handlu GS* (the Cooperative Services and Trade Company GS) in Jedlnia Letnisko, "Nowator" (Innovator), "Rękodzieło" (Handicraft) and "Wspólne Siły" (Common Forces) Cooperatives. The municipal authorities rightly decided to expand these educational facilities in March 1972. Foundation pits began to be dug in July. *Radomskie Przedsiębiorstwo Budowlane* (the Radom Construction Company) became the main contractor. A new three-storey building of the Radom „Clothing School” started being constructed. The building’s usable area was 2106 square metres. The main entrance was supposed to be from Kilińskiego Street.

The main contractor commissioned the building of the Clothing Technical School in Radom, constructed by the time-worn building of that school, two months before the deadline. 11 classrooms, specialist, scientific and medical offices were there. The school workshops were modernised in the old building after renovation. Around 1000 students began the new 1973/74 school year in new, bright, spacious rooms.

On October 19th, 1973, Hanka Sawicka became the patron of the Clothing Technical School in Radom, and the school received a banner, funded by the Parental Committee. Mgr Janina Ciechanowicz retired in 1976. Seeing her off took place in the year of the school’s 50th anniversary.

Zdzisława Ciazela (Ciążela), MSc, became the principal in 1976 and held that position until January 1981. Anna Solska, M. Eng., was appointed headmistress in 1981.

The old building was adopted for school workshops after the commission of the new school building in the 1973/1974 school year. The school workshops kept separate records during their functioning, from 1964. The stock was adjusted to the curriculum, with regard to the product selling. Ready products were sold in the Department Store, the Children’s Home, currently in a shop by the school. The school workshops participated in exhibitions of Vocational Education achievements. The three-year Basic Textile School with a machine-manual knitter specialisation was established in the 1970/71 school year.

The principal worried about and wanted to create appropriate conditions for the youth living far from their family homes. This pursuit succeeded considerably. In the 1973/74 school year, the school received a residence hall very near the new building, in the beginning for 80 people, in 1974 for 150 people, in the late 20th century – for 180 people. The girls, striving for a place in the residential hall, enthusiastically began to order the inside. The building was commissioned on

November 20th, 1973. Leokadia Gronek, MSc, became the residential hall manager (Siara, 1998, p. 17).

Over 4431 students of the technical school and over 5539 of the Basic Clothing School graduated up to 1996. They fueled the staff of the clothing industry in the city and region.

The school's curriculum from 1965 to 1980 was in accordance to the clothing and knitting industry needs in Radom. Cooperation with ZPO "Modar" (the Clothing Industry Company "Modar"), *Spółdzielnia Pracy* (the Working Cooperative), "Wspólne Siły" ("Common Forces"), "Radomis", "Rękodzieło" ("Handicraft"). In these years, the mentioned companies were able to employ all quantities of the school's graduates. The Clothing School Complex' graduates were always workers in high demand in the job market. It was encouraging that both professional skills, and social attitudes were highly appraised by the management of companies where the youth took their first steps.

School Complex of Motor Vehicle Engineering

The beginnings of the School Complex of Motor Vehicle Engineering reach distant past connected with the Municipal Crafts School. Obviously, the story of this school was already discussed at the beginning of the book's second part. Thus, our narrative concerning the Radom "Motor School" shall be begun in 1919, from Jan Kilinski (Kiliński) Municipal Crafts School.

The distinguished teacher Michał Korolec, Eng., was entrusted with organising the school and appointed principal (Foremniak, 2004, p. 13). The facility's administration came under the Municipal Authority, because the borough was the main sharer. The state owned the school building. The school was supposed to consist of 3 grades and a preparatory form. Ultimately, 140 students were to learn there: 70 in the locksmith's shop, 30 in the forge-foundry and 40 in the joinery. Besides, learning craft from masters and craftsmanship courses in the Sunday-evening school were to be organised. A preliminary grade was created with 46 admitted students in February 1919. The youth took practical classes in the joinery, which was recreated after war damages in May 1919. The facility functioned under the name Jan Kilinski Municipal Crafts School.

Celebrations, together with bestowing the patronage of Jan Kilinski to the newly opened school, took place on Sunday 2/02/1919, on the 100th anniversary of the death of the craftsmen's hero.

The first grade with the carpentry and locksmith-mechanical study direction was formed from the preliminary grade in the 1919/1920 school year. The workshops' manager Tadeusz Wichert, Eng., Bolesław Egiejman, Eng., Franciszek Natkanski (Natkański), Wacław Karwowski, Lucjan Paninski (Paniński) were the teachers. In the workshops, Tadeusz Rolnik was the instructor in the locksmith-mechanical form, and Ryszard Ziolkowski (Ziółkowski) – in the carpentry form. Teacher Nowakowski

became the smithery instructor in the 1920/21 school year, after the establishment of a forge. The locksmith-mechanical workshop was equipped with one shaping machine, two lathes, one bench drill, one electric saw, one jolley for sharpening tools and around 40 fitter's vices. The joinery was equipped with one circular saw.

The forge had four furnaces. The Crafts School building was occupied by the army during the Bolshevik war, from July to September 1920. A war hospital for wounded and sick soldiers from the front was organised here. The Craft School's students: Stanisław Bielawski, Marian Grabowski, Eugeniusz Mariański stepped forward to join the gen. Józef Haller's Volunteer Army in July 1920.

The Craft School changed its name to *Miejska Szkoła Rzemieślniczo-Przemysłowa im. Jana Kilińskiego* (the Jan Kilinski Municipal Craft-Industrial School) in the 1926/27 school year. It was owned solely by Radom's magistrate until September 1932. It had two forms: locksmith-mechanical and carpentry. A forge and foundry existed as auxiliary workshops for the locksmith-mechanical form. The following were produced: vices, *kompostery* (devices for printing dates on railway tickets), car and bike keys, threaders, fly presses, hammers, tourist axes, sport-related objects (spheres, grenades, discs), frames, brass signboards, door handles, small tools, etc. Different furniture, office devices, gymnastics and sport equipment (wallbars, benches, sledges, skis, javelins, bows), moulding patterns, teaching resources, etc. were made in the carpentry shop. The foundry, besides commissions for the locksmith-mechanical workshop, accepted outside orders as well (phosphorus-bronze casts for the arms factory in Radom were important) [Foremniak, 2004, p. 16].

Students who had finished 7 grades of primary school and passed the exam were admitted to the school. The learning course was 3-year long. Students took the journeyman exam before a commission organised by the school after graduation. The graduates were employed in weapon factories: the Arms Factory in Radom and the Ammunition Factory in Skarżysko. The school consisted of 7 grades in the 1927/28 school year. A common room, where students could spend their free time reading newspapers and playing domino, chess, checkers, etc., existed by the facility. There were student organisations: sports club, the Air and Chemical Defense League, the Maritime and Colonial League, scouts teams, the Sodality of Our Lady, a shop and a brass band. A music group of *Rada Związków Zawodowych* (the Union Council), directed by Stanisław Trzesniewski (Trześniewski), existed in Radom from 1928. It was a city band, including the Crafts School's students, from 1930 to 1934 („Ziemia Radomska”, 1934).

Miejska Doksztalcząca Szkoła Zawodowa (the Municipal Vocational School of Additional Training) was founded in 1927 – it existed until 1939, using the Jan Kilinski Municipal Craft School's building. Apprentices and interns, generally employed in larger industrial plants, attended this school (they made up 64% of all students). Additional vocational training was compulsory for working youth from

14 to 18 years old. The school course lasted 3 years. Young people who finished 5 grades of primary school were admitted to the first grade. Preliminary grades to complete comprehensive education were opened for those who did not have such diplomas. The students did not pay for the learning, the municipal budget covered the education costs.

The additional vocational training school's attendees came from different backgrounds, but the majority were craftsmen's children. *Towarzystwo Popierania Szkoły Zawodowej Doksztalcającej* (the Support Society for the Vocational School of Additional Training) was established on October 14th, 1936. Józef Grzeczmarowski, Maria Kelles-Krauz, Marian Sołtyk were among the members. The city authorities paid a yearly 15,000 zł fee.

The sanation government dissolved the City Council, in which the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) dominated, in October 1930. It also dismissed president Józef (Józef) Grzeczmarowski. *Zarząd Komisaryczny* (the Commission Authority), headed by a former legionnaire, was established. *Rada Przyboczna* (the Assistant Council), consisting of sanation supporters, was formed in the City Council's place. It ruled until 1934, when PPS won again. The Commission Authority decided to liquidate the Jan Kilinski Municipal Craft-Industrial School in 1931. There was no recruitment to the first grade in September 1931. It was assumed that the school "spawned" staff connecting themselves with the leftist movement. *Ministerstwo Spraw Wojskowych* (the Military Affairs Ministry) was supposed to overtake the school with the goal of training professionals for the Arms Factory built from 1923 to 1926. It was supposed to be a non-commissioned officers school for arms specialists. The school's supervisory board and *Rada Przyboczna Kierownika Tymczasowego Zarządu Miasta* (the Assistant Council of the Head of the Provisional Municipal Authority) denied conducting this project. There were also ideas of using the building for judicial purposes (the District Court was supposed to be located there), and the Craft-Industrial School was to be transferred to the Technical School building at 7 Kościuszki Street. The project fell, because the Technical School, designed for 220 students, taught as many as 500 students then and was overloaded. There were 109 students in the Craft-Industrial School and 150 in the Vocational School of Additional Training.

Towarzystwo Popierania Szkoły Rzemieślniczo-Przemysłowej (the Support Society for the Craft-Industrial School) was formed in 1932 to save the school. The parents and the Social Committee appealed to the Supreme Court against the municipal authorities' decision. The Court soon decided that the school should not be liquidated.

Engineer Stanisław Tyliński became the principal in 1934. He had been teaching vocational subjects in the Crafts School from 1925, and replaced engineer Korolec, who went on to work in the Ministry of Education. Principal Tyliński (Tyliński) performed that function until 1938, when he had to leave due to his overly leftist

views and communism propagation among the youth. There was a conflict between supporters of "the Left" and the "Catholic band" in the school.

The school was renamed „*Prywatne Męskie 3-letnie Gimnazjum Mechaniczne im. Jana Kilińskiego Towarzystwa Popierania Szkoły Rzemieślniczo-Przemysłowej*” (the Jan Kilinski Boys’ Private 3-year Mechanical Engineering Middle School of the Support Society for the Craft-Industrial School) in 1938. Engineer Stanisław Drewski became the headmaster. There were 380 students, future craftsmen, learning 3 types of craftsmanship: locksmithery, turnery and smithery, in the school. They easily found work in the factories of Radom and other cities of the Central Industrial District in the late 30s. An author of an article in an August 1938 journal quoted engineer Jaroszyński (Jaroszyński), the director of electrical engines factory, which was supposed to be built in Zakowice (Żakowice) in Radom, saying that professionals could earn 500 to 900 zł monthly there. The war outbreak rendered this plan null. The Jan Kilinski Craft-Industrial School had exemplary work conditions then. The school workshops had a state-of-the-art machine park, a new forge casting 1000 kg of iron daily was built.

Sought-after tools were produced in the workshops. The school library owned the most abundant professional books collection in the city (e.g. the school bought books worth 2000 zł in the 1938/39 school year). A Sailing Club existed there. Its members made canoes themselves for their own needs. *Hufiec Przysposobienia Wojskowego* (the Military Preparation Troop) functioned dynamically – its participants exercised at camps and in the 72nd Infantry Regiment’s sports hall. The education cost per one student decreased to 340 zł (it was 810 zł in 1931/32). The school was highly respected by the society. There were 408 candidates in the 1938/39 school year, 90 were admitted – that is for how many educational authorities agreed. The new school year started on August 2nd, 1938 – because the youth working as craftsmen had only one month of holidays.

The Second World War outbreak and the occupation interrupted normal functioning of the school. German authorities overtook the building, but allowed for opening workshops in December 1939. The school employees from before September 1939 became manual workers there. The occupying authorities allowed for the establishment of *Trzyletnia Szkoła Rzemieślnicza Przemysłu Metalowego* (the Three-year Crafts School of Metal Industry), which functioned until August 1941. That was when the school was closed, and its property confiscated.

192 students began learning in 1940, and there were additional 195 students from September 1940. 9 grades were opened altogether. The war did not spare either the teachers or the students. In 1941, teachers: the principal – engineer Stanisław Drewski, Aleksander Kołbuk, Mieczysław Strzemienny, Józef (Józef) Tarapata, Czesław Dankowski, priest Stefan Grelewski, were arrested and transported to Auschwitz, from whence they did not return. While the Craft School in the

occupational period existed, the Germans organised a sweep for the students. Its purpose was to capture young people able to work in the Reich.

After the Germans left Radom, *Miejskie Gimnazjum Mechaniczne im. Jana Kilińskiego* (Jan Kilinski Municipal Middle School of Mechanical Engineering) was founded in the 1945 spring. Two first grades were opened – 85 students altogether started learning. The school building was partially destroyed, machines and devices were taken away from the workshops. The school equipment was dispersed. Principal Władysław Piwnicki, head of the workshops Michał Pajak (Pająk) and vocational subjects engineer Antoni Jakaczynski (Jakaczyński) undertook retrieving the equipment and machines from industrial plants. Part of the machine tools was found as far as in Częstochowa. Jan Mroz (Mróz), Marian Grunt, Władysław Roszkowski were other teachers. In that period, the number of students was rising quickly, 169 students learned in 4 grades in 1945/46, 56 were first graduates of the Middle School of Mechanical Engineering after the war in 1947.

In the 1947/48 school year, the Ministry of Education began overseeing the school pedagogically and administratively. The school was named the 3-year State Middle School of Mechanical Engineering. *Centralny Urząd Szkolnictwa Zawodowego* (the Central Office of Vocational Education) overtook the facility due to the education reform of 1948. The secured loans allowed for acquisition of 5 threaders, 1 milling machine, 1 shaper and equipping the workshop with tools and measurement devices.

Another reform, in 1950, transformed vocational middle schools into technical and basic schools. The Jan Kilinski State Middle School of Mechanical Engineering was turned into the Jan Kilinski Technical School of Mechanical Engineering. In addition to the school's economic difficulties, people had problems with adjusting to the new reality shortly after the war. Ideological conflicts took place, mostly brought on by the Union of Polish Youth's activists.

There were incidents in spring 1950, interrupted only by the dismissal of principal Władysław Piwnicki and appointment of Antoni Bocian to headmaster on 1/04/1950. A few teachers and the catechist had to resign from work as well, a few students were also expelled. The school's principal Antoni Bocian, who led *Gimnazjum Teletechniczne* (the Teletechnical Middle School) as well, transferred the latter to the former Craft School's building. The Middle School of Engineering and the Teletechnical Middle School almost ran their course. Students subsequently learned in: the 2-year *Szkoła Ceramiczna* (the Ceramics School), the 2-year *Szkoła Metalowa* (Metal School) and the 2-year *Szkoła Łączności* (the Communication School).

The first students graduated from the school in 1953. They were fully eligible for higher education and finished the school within a shortened period of time. The 4-year Technical School of Mechanical Engineering took the maturation exam in 1954. At the end of the 1953/54 school year, mechanical engineering schools

were liquidated and transferred to the existing Technical School of Mechanical Engineering at 7 Kościuszki Street, pursuant to the Order of the Machine-Building Industry Minister, under whom the school came. Workshop equipment, devices, library, teaching materials were also moved there.

Technikum Drogowe (the Technical School of Road Engineering) under the Ministry of Road and Aerial Transport began functioning in the former Craft Technical School's building in September 1953. The Technical School of Road Engineering had been located in the building at 7 Kościuszki Street. It consisted of 8 grades and 310 students. This school's principal, Wiktor Borowski, M. Eng., resigned from his post. The ministry replaced him with Antoni Bocian, who requested renaming it *Technikum Samochodowe* (the Technical School of Motor Engineering), which would change its specialisation. This was allowed in the 1955/56 school year.

The autonomous history of the Radom "Motor School" actually begins here. The Technical School of Motor Engineering started operating on 1/09/1955. It was a new period of vocational education in a building erected at the initiative of Radom inhabitants on the cusp of the 20th century.

Antoni Bocian, the initiator of such a school's creation, was the principal in that period. Henryk Berwertz, Eng., became vice-principal. School workshops in the motor engineering specialisation started to be organised then as well. The workshops' founder and head from 1955 to 1968, Stanisław Jozefowicz (Józefowicz), Eng., and vocational teacher Zdzisław Przybytniewski were merited for popularising motorisation in the school. Piotr Płatos (Płatos) was the assistant head of the workshops.

The staff was then composed of 34 teachers, including 17 working part-time. In the 1955/56 school year, there were 387 students, 11 grades, including 3 Technical School of Motor Engineering's grades and 8 of the Technical School of Road Engineering. In the 1957/58 school year, there were 4 grades of *Technikum Młodzieżowe* (the Youth Technical School), 3 grades of *Technikum Wieczorowe* (the Evening Technical School), 3 grades of *Zasadnicza Szkoła Zawodowa* (the Basic Vocational School). The first Technical School of Motor Engineering's graduates passed the maturation exam in May 1959. Because it was the only school of this type in the Kielce voivodship, it was decided that the school would be expanded. Part-time teachers of the Technical School of Motor Engineering, the Design Office workers: Tadeusz Szczesniak (Szcześniak) and Czesław Wylewach designed the new buildings. The construction began in 1959, and the youth started learning in the finished school buildings in September 1963. A gymnasium, a didactical building connected with the Craft School building with 9 classrooms, a library with 6,000 volumes, a medical and dentist office, a military preparation office, rooms for the

photography club, a canteen and a common room were commissioned. School workshops were expanded as well, a state-of-the-art vehicle service station was created there.

Uniform clothing was introduced in the school in the 1958/59 school year. The School of Motor Engineering's youth was proud of the experimental Russian language workshop, second in Poland (after the University of Warsaw), commissioned in October 1964. Teacher Szymczyk led demonstrational lessons for visitors there. The parent committee funded the school banner. It was received ceremonially on 18/04/1966 at the school's 60th anniversary.

A voivodship teaching materials exhibition took place at the School Complex of Mechanical Engineering in April 1970 as a celebration of the 25 years of vocational education. A music group, dignifying school assemblies, as well as a school choir directed by teacher Barwicki, functioned in the school.

Principal Bocian retired in June 1972. Another phase of vocational education in the described facility was coming to an end.

Paweł Lichwierowicz, Eng., led the school from September 1st, 1972 to 1987. The school's position improved in the 70s. The school assumed the following name from 1 X 1973 – the School Complex of Motor Engineering. The following types of schools functioned in this Complex:

- the 5-year *Technikum Samochodowe* (Technical School of Motor Engineering) attended after a primary school training the youth to be mechanical technicians in the exploitation and repair of motor vehicles specialisation;
- the 3-year Technical School of Motor Engineering, youth form for graduates of basic vocational school in the field of motor engineering;
- the 3-year Technical School of Motor Engineering, form for working adults, graduates of basic vocational schools with a motor engineering specialisation;
- the 2-year *Policealne Studium Zawodowe* (Post-Secondary Vocational School) teaching in the field of mechanical engineering, training in the profession of mechanical technician of motor vehicles, for graduates of comprehensive secondary schools;
- the 2-year Post-Secondary Vocational School teaching in the scope of economics and motor communication's organisation for comprehensive secondary schools' graduates;
- the *Zasadnicza Szkoła Samochodowa* (Basic School of Motor Engineering), training mechanics and electromechanics of motor vehicles, for graduates of primary schools.

In the early 70s, the school was renovated, a new, large cloakroom was created, a screening room with 40 seats was built and equipped for didactical purposes. A school film club "STOP" functioned there. In 1976, the Schools of Motor Engineering co-organised *Pierwszy Samochodowy Rajd Młodzieży Szkół Ponadpodstawowych* (the First Motor Rally of Postprimary Schools' Youth) through attractive trails of the

Radom region, with the slogan "*Wiosna – 1980*" (Spring – 1980). The rally, organised at the initiative of the School Complex of Motor Engineering's headmaster and *Automobilklub Świętokrzyski* (the Świętokrzyski Automobile Club), took place on 28/10/1976.

A scouts team and the Voluntary Labour Corps functioned in the school as well. They organised holiday camps (one worked for a part of the time spent there), New Years balls, recreational camps, etc. for the school youth. The 70s was a period of further development of the school, the number of grades and students increased. The Post-Secondary Vocational School was founded by the School Complex of Motor Engineering in the 1976/77 school year. In the late 70s, the number of students exceeded 1500, 4500 graduated from the Schools of Motor Engineering until 1980. The youth had workshops and offices equipped in teaching materials at their disposal – workshops of: motor electronics, chassis, motor engines, traffic regulations, physics, chemistry and general technology.

The school has its own diagnostic station fully equipped to analyse the following systems: wheels and steering, brake, suspension, exhaust purity control. There are also devices for checking the lights positioning. Owing to the work of the teaching staff, the youth took part in many national competitions and succeeded on a voivodship and national scale, mostly in *Turniej Wiedzy o Wynalazczości* (the Knowledge of Inventions Tournament) and *Olimpiada Wiedzy o Polsce i Świecie Współczesnym* (the National Competition of Knowledge on Poland and Contemporary World), but also in sport.

The high standard and perfect reputation of the school were awarded in 1980. The School of Motor Engineering received the Medal of the Commission of National Education for the entirety of achievements. On December 13th, 1981, when martial law was introduced in Poland, the school stopped teaching, teachers were on duty day and night at school.

After the death of Paweł Lichwierowicz, Eng., Jerzy Gorgon (Gorgoń), MSc, led the school from February 1987 until he retired in August 1988. He began his professional career at this school in 1968, he held the position of the head of the school workshops. The facility managed by him became one of the best vocational schools in Radom and the voivodship. He roused everybody to action. In order to renovate while teaching, a new building had to be created to increase the number of classrooms. After 3 years from the decision of school expansion issued by the Architecture and Geodesy Department in the City Hall in Radom in December 1991 and the construction being allowed in 1994, a new building was erected. Classes began there in February 1994. The didactical building at Młynarska Street was equipped with state-of-the-art teaching materials and backrooms for teachers.

A Diagnostics Station for checking the technical state of motor vehicles under the patronage of *Instytut Techniki Samochodowej* (The Institute of Automotive

Technology) in Warsaw was established. The station was authorized by DAEWOO – FSO. A general renovation of the building from 1904 could be started then.

The construction works included the change of the wiring, plumbing, plasterwork, roof, wooden parts of windows, remodeling the walls. Buildings of school workshops were renovated as well. 3 computer rooms, mechanics and technology workshop, language workshops were created. A ceremonial conference room, a state-of-the-art computerised library and a reading room, which became a centre of methodical training for librarians from Radom and its region, showcased the school. This was thanks to Iwona Dabek (Dąbek), MSc, managing the library to this day.

Owing to the efforts of headmaster Jerzy Gorgon, sports facilities on Młynarska Street were built: a 25-meter swimming pool with a gymnasium connected to a didactical room above the swimming area. They were supposed to constitute an integral part of the School Complex of Motor Engineering, a sports infrastructure to suit the needs of the 21st century. Unfortunately, *Agencja Rozwoju Miasta Radom 2001* (the 2001 Radom Development Agency) took over the management of the facility pursuant to the municipal authorities' decision.

Principal Jerzy Gorgon was the initiator of establishing collaboration with Sheffield College in England. An exchange of experience, comparative consultation of curriculums, training visits of teachers, summer exchange of youth from both countries began in May 1992.

Wojewódzkie Centrum Egzaminacyjne (the Voivodship Examination Centre) for persons striving for a driving license, established by the Radom voivode, functioned at the school in 1992. Fees for rooms and the field adjusted for exams funded the school's account.

From 1995, first grades left for overnight school trips with classes to Kołobrzeg and Kamień in Mazury.

Tadeusz Lugowski (Ługowski), M. Eng., held the position of the chief principal of the school from September 1st, 1998 until he retired in 2003. During that time, production stands of the school workshops were transformed into production-exercise stands as part of the education reform. The DAEWOO car repair workshop, Motor Vehicle Diagnostic Station, and computer rooms were modernised. A stable internet connection was provided, state-of-the-art teaching materials for teaching comprehensive and vocational subjects were bought thanks to sponsors. The renovation of the school workshops' building was finished and they were fully equipped at the initiative of the workshops' head, Stanisław Kowalczyk, MSc.

The school entered the 21st century without problems, modern and fulfilling the expectations of its pupils.

The Food and Catering Industry School Complex

The school's beginnings reach back to 1947, when two economics grades were organised in the Girls' State Vocational Schools (currently the Clothing Stylisation and Services School Complex). The first graduates left the school as early as 1949. Gastronomy grades were separated from the Clothing School in 1950. Kazimiera Babicka was appointed principal of the new school, and the institution was located at 61 Romualda Traugutta Street.

In the beginning, the school occupied the building together with the Economics School, but it occupied the whole location in the mid-50s according to the educational authorities' decision. Witold Wlazłowicz (Włazłowicz) was the principal of *Technikum Gastronomiczne* (the Technical School of Gastronomy) from 1954 to 1970. Zygmunt Kiereś performed that function from 1970. Following his death in 1977, the headmaster's role was entrusted to Henryk Mąkosa. The name was changed to *Zespół Szkół Przemysłu Spożywczego* (the School Complex of Food Industry) in the autumn of the same year. Unfortunately, the school building did not meet the conditions of health and safety. It had only nine teaching rooms, so there were no chances for school development. The ground floor rooms were dedicated to the school workshop. Despite numerous renovations, the building's condition deteriorated. Repeated audits of the State Sanitary Inspectorate and the State Labour Inspectorate led to an order halting the building's exploitation due to the danger to students' and teachers' lives.

In 1988, the students had to be evacuated to the front building at 61 Traugutta Street, formerly occupied by *Zespół Szkół Ekonomicznych* (the Economics School Complex), which was moved to a building on Wernera Street. In connection with the fact that the Polish Merchants' Society decided to recover their properties in 1991, the facility's further functioning was threatened.

The educational authorities decided to transfer the school to a new building in the Prędocinek district in June 1992. The construction was completed in 1998. An important sign of the authorities' approval for the facility was the allocation of rooms of the former "Konsum" stores to the school as early as 1992. They were intended for practical training workshops.

In the 90s, the school opened for cooperation with other European countries, especially with schools in Germany and Great Britain, as well as Latvia and Denmark. Owing to that, the graduates could count on well-paid jobs abroad. In 1995, the school received accreditation and the right to issue vocational certificates in accordance with the NVQ system. In 1997, the facility established contact with the Netherlands. 1998 was the year when the EU- Leonardo da Vinci curriculum began to be realised. 1999 was when the students started to be vocationally trained in England, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, and Italy. In the same year, the school joined the EU educational programme Socrates.

The following student organisations at the school are worth mentioning: the League of National Defence, the Nature Preservation League, *Ochotniczy Hufiec Pracy* (the Voluntary Work Troop), Polish Red Cross, *Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów i Techników Spożywców przy Naczelnej Organizacji Technicznej* (the Food Engineers and Technicians Society with the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations), *Szkolne Koło Krajoznawczo-Turystyczne PTTK nr 256* (the School Tourist and Sightseeing Society PTTK No. 256), the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society, the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association, and the Film Society. Numerous clubs connected with school subjects also existed.

This type of facility could not have operated without school workshops. The first functioned in the building of the Girls' State Vocational Schools at 35 Żeromskiego Street. A canteen for students and teachers was organised there. Anastazja Konczykowa (Kończykowa), a practical vocational teacher, was the person mainly directing the workshops' activity.

Cooking grades took practical classes and internships in the school workshops. The youth trained to become pantry chefs in different plants producing ready-made food.

After the transfer to the building on Romualda Traugutta Street, the workshops at 55 Żeromskiego Street were still used. Stanisława Senderowska was the head of a new workshop for 25 years after a year of Emilia Senderowska's management.

In the beginning of the workshops' activity, around 100 dinners were prepared daily, 250-270 a day in the following years. There were always two set meals, and the consumer had the right to choose either. A confectionary workshop, very popular among Radom's inhabitants, was also established at the school.

In 1988, in connection with the State Labour Inspectorate's decision to close the workshops, the students of the popular "Gastronomy School" took part in internships with public and private catering establishments, bakeries, patisseries, confectionary facilities, and private companies.

The workshops were located in the residence hall of *Przedsiębiorstwo Budownictwa Ogólnego* (the General Construction Enterprise) at 22 Kolejowa Street. In return for sharing the facility, the school made a commitment to prepare full board for the students and the brave youth of the General Construction Enterprise's Voluntary Labour Corps. The workshops had to hold different types of parties to gather funds for their own functioning. The greatest challenge was the preparation and management of the "Presidential Ball", organised on 22/02/1992 in the Radom *Pałac Ślubów* (Wedding Palace).

The workshop was a self-funding unit. In January 1992, the school received the rooms of the former "Konsum" store for the police at 8 Moniuszki Street. In the same year, a new food technology workshop was opened in the school building at 1 Armii Ludowej Street. The school still exists.

School Complex of Mechanical Engineering

After 1966, the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering concentrated on educating mechanical engineers. Tadeusz Ornatowski, PhD Eng., became the new principal in the 1967/68 school year (90-lecie Szkół Technicznych w Radomiu, 2009, pp. 14–17). A new wing in the building at 7 Tadeusza Kościuszki Street was constructed in 1968. The ceremonial 50th Anniversary of the Technical Schools took place in 1969. The symbolic patronage of Tadeusz Kościuszko was bestowed upon the school then.

In the 70s and 80s, the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering was one of the most dynamically functioning educational institutions, it was well-respected. The External Advisory Board was comprised of, among others, the Metal Works' representatives. The construction of new school workshops was finished in 1974 (the ones used thus far were given to the Construction Technical School).

The Minister of Education himself, Jerzy Kuberski, visited the school in January 1975. The facility was awarded with the Commission of National Education's medal then. While visiting the school, the minister called it a laboratory. He was especially amazed by Wankel engines' models and go-karts constructed by the students. Tadeusz Ornatowski, PhD Eng., organised the whole event.

Extracurricular activity developed intensively in the school. Youth could pursue their passions in, among others, *Szkolny Klub Sportowy „Technik”* (the School Sports Club "Technician"), in music and dance groups, Polish Scouting and Guiding Association's group was active. Its members organised winter and summer camps and took part in such initiatives as "Bieszczady 40" and "Azymut Huta Katowice" (Azimuth – Katowice Steelworks). The student cooperative "Technician", which donated part of its revenue for the construction of *Centrum Zdrowia Dziecka* (the Children's Health Centre), operated dynamically as well. A cooperation with a vocational school in Leuze was established in 1975. Owing to the international exchange, students from Belgium took part in workshop classes and toured Poland during the two week stay.

Izba Pamięci Narodowej (the National Memory Room) was opened at the school at the initiative of the history and propedeutics teacher, Tadeusz Banach, MA, in 1977. Documents pertaining to the crimes committed by the Nazis in Radom, materials connected with the school's history, weapons, decorations, medals and numismatic collections, among others, were gathered there. The school was renamed *Zespół Szkół Mechanicznych im. Tadeusza Kościuszki* (Tadeusz Kosciuszko School Complex of Mechanical Engineering) in the 1977/78 school year.

Tadeusz Ornatowski, PhD Eng, after 18 years of working as principal, retired in 1985. Zdzisław Gawronski (Zdzisław Gawroński), MSc, became the new headmaster of the School Complex of Mechanical Engineering on September 1st, 1985. Formerly, he was a teacher and vice-principal in the Construction School Complex, the headmaster of *VI Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Jana Kochanowskiego* (VI Jan Kochanowski Comprehensive Secondary School), vice-president of Radom and director of *Wydział Kultury i Sztuki Urzędu Wojewódzkiego* (the Culture and Art Department of the Voivodship Office).

Franciszek Glinka, M. Eng, initiated the creation of a minicomputers workshop in 1986, on the basis of the precision mechanics workshop.

In that year, the tradition of celebrating the School Patron's Day – of Tadeusz Kosciuszko – on March 24th began. *Szkolne Koło Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze* (the School Tourist-Sightseeing Club), taken care of by Stanisław Popis, M.Eng., operated very intensively. Owing to the efforts of Jolanta Plesniewicz (Pleśniewicz), MSc, sailing and skiing camps were organised. There were also exchanges with schools abroad, including a school in Magdeburg in GDR and the school in Leuze in Belgium. Students celebrated many successes in the field of sports, mathematics, physics, they were winners of *Olimpiada Wiedzy Technicznej* (the National Contest of Technical Knowledge). The dance and music groups were awarded numerous times.

After Zdzisław Gawronski (Gawroński), MSc, retired in 1992, Franciszek Glinka, M.Eng., performed the function of the principal from 1992 to 1996. The youth was less interested in learning technical professions in the 90s. This was caused by changes in the structure of Radom industry, and even the fall of some large companies. The Ministry of National Education created a new vision of vocational education as well. The school, meeting the youth's needs, decided to open a Comprehensive Secondary School with an administrative-office affairs profile in the 1993/94 school year. The Technical Secondary School, with profiles teaching mechanical engineering, economy and office affairs, was also opened. New subjects were introduced to the curriculums: elements of information technology, basics of market economy.

The Student Government, Student Rights Advocate, *Klub Miłośników Filozofii „Zgraja”* (Club of Philosophy Lovers "The Band"), the theatrical group ART-M operated dynamically in the school. A school newspaper "Zębátka" (The Cogwheel), informing about current events in the school life, was published from February 1993. It also had permanent columns: "Technical this and that", "Humour from our notebooks", "Entertainment for the Mind". The students succeeded in *Turniej Młodych Mistrzów Techniki* (the Tournament of the Young Masters in Technology), the National Contest of Technical Knowledge, *Turniej Wiedzy o Wynalazczości* (the Tournament of Knowledge on Inventiveness), they were awarded in sports contests.

Jolanta Plesniewicz, MSc, became the principal of the School Complex of Mechanical Engineering in 1996. In December of the same year, modernised school workshops

were transformed into a separate educational unit – *Centrum Kształcenia Praktycznego* (The Practical Education Centre). They were supposed to serve the students and attendees of vocational schools and colleges of further education of the then Radom voivodship from that moment.

Małgorzata Michalczyk, M.Eng, performing the function of the School Complex of Mechanical Engineering's principal from 2001 to 2003, led the school into the new millennium. The youth learned in 14 workshops, 24 classrooms, had a common room, the National Memory Room, OSH workshop, and a library at their disposal.

School Complex of Power Engineering

The history of the School Complex of Power Engineering began with the dynamic development of energy industry in Poland in the 50s and 60s (90-lecie Szkół Technicznych w Radomiu, 2009, pp. 17–20). One of the six *Okręgi Energetyczne* (Energy Districts) in the country, called *Zakłady Energetyczne Okręgu Wschodniego* (ZEOW) [the Power Distribution Plants of the Eastern Region], which encompassed the southeastern Poland, was located in Radom. Relatedly, an idea to create a Technical School of Power Engineering, which would be a centre of educating cadres with middle level power engineering qualifications, was born. This project's initiators were: Alfons Czartoszewski, PhD Eng, Wojciech Wielński (Wielński), M. Eng., Edward Kreglicki (Kręgliński), M. Eng., Jan Trybulski, Eng.

The groundbreaking plaque was bricked in on August 27th, 1964. Representatives of the then voivodship and city authorities, including deputy Józef Grzeczmarowski, ZEOW chief director Jan Trybulski, Eng., and ZEOW chief engineer Alfons Czartoszewski, M.Eng., took part in the ceremony. ZEOW became the patron of the construction. The help of Władysław Wielgomas, Eng., who was the liaison between the school and the power distribution plants, was especially important.

Zygmunt Adydan, M.Eng., was appointed principal a year before the planned commissioning of the school's building. The headmaster began working in the ZEOW building and took care of completing the teaching staff for the future school.

The Technical School of Power Engineering of the Mining and Power Engineering Ministry was commissioned in Radom on August 17th, 1966. Workshops, constituting an integral part of the facility, were constructed together with the school buildings complex. Emil Persz, Eng., was the workshops' organiser in the first year of their existence.

The facility was to educate energy engineers, wiremen, electric energy engineers, and, in the future, electronic engineers. In the beginning, the learning took place on two levels: basic and middle vocational one. In the first year of the school's operation, 120 students were admitted to the first grades of the five-year technical school, and 160 to the basic school. 70% of them were from Radom, 20% from the regions of Kielce, Rzeszów, and even Kraków. The classes took place in 25 classrooms, including workshops of: electrical measurements, basics of electrotechnology,

material durability. Students had school workshops, a gymnasium, a library, a screening room, dentist and doctor's offices, an administrative building and two laboratories, organised in 1968: of high current and heat engines, as well as an electrical workshop, at their disposal.

Beside the excellent technical infrastructure, the school offered an abundant range of extracurriculars, including mathematics, physics, electrical engineering, metalworking, photography clubs, and the School Sports Club, to the students. Declamatory group, choir, modern dance group, „Zwarcie” (“Short-circuit”) cabaret and subsequently created music groups, directed by Zbigniew Zatorski, MSc: „Elektrony” (“Electrons”), „Farady” (“Farads”), „Kwanty” (“Quanta”), „Simens” also operated. These classes could function thanks to being equipped with excellent and state-of-the-art technical tools, specialist machines, teletechnical, cinematic, and photographic equipment, music instruments, etc.

A meeting of principals of power engineering schools from all over Poland, which took place in December 1966, was a proof that the facility was considered exemplary. The school hosted a delegation of energy engineers from Czechoslovakia in March 1967. The didactical offer was also broadened in that year, *Wydział dla Pracujących przy Technikum Energetycznym* (the Department for Working Persons by the Technical School of Power Engineering) was opened for ZEOW employees. *Policealne Studium Zawodowe Energetyki* (the Post-Secondary Vocational School of Power Engineering) was created in the 1968/69 school year, and a three-year teen technical school attended after the basic school was founded a year later.

The most important task of the then director was the construction and equipment of the residential hall for the young students from almost the whole Poland. A residential hall was commissioned in 1968 (students lived on the second storey of the school in unused classrooms thus far). The new building was intended for 250 students.

In 1969, the school hosted power engineering schools' teachers of the United Arab Republic. They deepened their professional knowledge and learned Polish under the direction of Alicja Nawrot there. Five types of schools operated then: a five-year technical school attended after primary school, a three-year basic vocational school attended after primary school, a three year technical school attended after the basic school, a three-year technical school-department for working persons, and a two-year post-secondary school.

In 1969, Zygmunt Adydan, M. Eng., was transferred to become the vice-educational officer of School District in Kielce, and Marian Cieślakowski, MSc, became the Technical School of Engineering's principal. A switchgear centre was transferred in whole from Wierzbica in 1970 at the initiative of Antoni Pluciński, M.Eng., the head of Energy Region “Radom-Teren” (Radom-Terrain) and one of the school's teachers. It constituted a practical base of energy engineers' education for many years. The school workshops' teams created an energy engineering training ground

in order to broaden the laboratory base for vocational subjects. In the same year, a workshop of electrotechnology basics was built. Equipment for it was made in school workshops. Secondary-school leavers from three grades took the maturity exam for the first time in 1971. One of them, Andrzej Chochowski, is a professor of higher education today, and Leszek Kurz is the dean of AGH University of Krakow.

The National Memorial Room in the history classroom was an interesting place in the school. The following exhibits were put there: coins, military uniforms from 1915 to 1945, soldiers' equipment and many mementos from concentration camps (Majdanek, Treblinka, Auschwitz). This school museum, created owing to the efforts of Antoni Grochola, MSc, was counted among the most interesting and valuable in the voivodship for many years.

A stadium with four tracks of 300 m, with a double long jump pit, two areas for throwing a disc and javelin was erected on the basis of a well-equipped school playing field, with a great involvement of the youth, in 1986. *Centrum Kształcenia i Doskonalenia Kadr Energetyki* (the Centre for Training Energy Engineers) was created as well. Its tasks included taking care of energy engineering schools in the Eastern District. Eugeniusz Sitek, Eng., former head of the school workshops, performed the role of the Centre's director. *Zakład Transportu Energetyki* (the Energy Transport Company) in Radom gave eight computers to the school in 1987, which allowed for the organisation of a computer room and introduction of information technology as a subject.

Principal Marian Cieślakowski (Cieślakowski), MSc, an outstanding mathematics teacher, awarded with the Gold and Silver Cross of Merit, *Złota Odznaka ZNP* (the Polish Teachers' Union Golden Pin), resort and regional badges, and posthumously the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, died on March 18th, 1989. Mgr Julian Niedzielski became the next headmaster of the School Complex of Energy Engineering. The workshops were modernised in the school, and the workshops railed the school buildings and the square for recreational-sports classes.

Following the death of Julian Niedzielski, MSc, in 1994, Henryk Bernat, Eng., began leading the school. An interesting proposition for the youth was the creation of the Technical Secondary School classes, due to which the number of girls learning in the school increased significantly. The school cooperated with many outside institutions support the education process: the Psychological and Pedagogical Counselling Centre, Monar, the Catholic Anti-Drug Movement KARAN, MOPS (*Miejski Ośrodek Opieki Społecznej*, the Local Social Services Office), *Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci* (the Children's Friends Association), *Wydział Zdrowia i Spraw Społecznych Urzędu Miejskiego* (the City Halls' Health and Social Matters Department), *Mazowieckie Centrum Promocji Zdrowia* (the Mazovian Health Promotion Centre), the Police. The students actively participated in the region's life, supported charity actions. The youth were honorary blood donors, collected money for the Great Orchestra of

Christmas Charity. Integration camps were organised in the grades of the Technical Secondary School as part of the education.

Scouting activity was reactivated in the school in September 2000. Ewa Basinska (Basińska), MSc, became the group's caretaker. 126. *Drużyna Harcerzy Starszych „Płomień”* (the 126th Venture Scouts Team "Flame"), operating since a few years then, and the *Szczep* 134 (a group of several scouts teams) were located in the school. The Student Government, *Koło Żywego Słowa* (the Living Word Group), the Computer Club and the Ecological Club were very active. The students participated in competitions and national contests in: physics, mathematics, technology, ecology, knowledge on Poland and the contemporary world, knowledge on the European Union.

Stanisław Nitek. M. Eng., became the School Complex of Energy Engineering's principal in 1997. The school's equipment changed much. The following workshops were modernised: of information technology, electrical drive and devices, electrotechnology basics, heating devices and power electronics. New specialist workshops were established: of the basics of electrotechnology, electrical machines, electrical devices and, in the school workshops building, the following workshops: of power electronics and electrical devices, structural electrical installations, automatics, basics of electronics, basics of electrotechnology. New specialisations were created in the Technical Secondary School in the 1997/98 school year. The Club of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers began its activity by the School Complex of Energy Engineering in January 2001. In the 2001/2002 school year, 1071 students learned in the complex' different types of schools, and the teaching staff was comprised of 150 persons.

The Jan Kilinski Vocational School Complex

The foundation of *Średnia Szkoła Chemiczno-Garbarska* (the Secondary School of Chemistry and Tanning) is closely linked with Leon Błaszyński, Eng., a teacher in secondary schools in Lodz (Łódź), connected with Radom, active from 1925 to 1926. He was the Secondary School's founder and *de facto* head in the first year of its existence. The thought of establishing this type of school arose, according to the statement of the school's creator, under the influence of a press article reflecting on the necessity of a fast and multilateral development of vocational education in Poland. Engineer Leon Błaszyński (Błaszyński) thought of Radom, a city close to his heart, a large tanning industry centre, which seemed to him a natural area to realise the project of a school of chemistry and tanning.

However, the realisation of this plan turned out to be, under the then conditions, not so simple. Immediately, difficulties accumulated: the matter of the school's location, of the equipment and teaching materials, the staff, the creation of conditions acceptable to+ the educational authorities. Both considerable funds and comprehensive help of the interested economic and educational spheres were indispensable to this end. Unfortunately, both these important elements could not

be provided at that moment. Therefore, the first attempt at organising a vocational school in 1926 did not come to fruition (Paliczuk & Niedośpiał, 1997, p. 23).

Only in early 1927, owing to the sympathetic stance of the members of the well-known tanning joint-stock company "Nowość" (Novelty), was the matter of the school's localisation resolved positively. The company's board agreed to lease to the school old, partially destroyed buildings, formerly barracks, on a property called "Klemczyzna", provided that the structures would be renovated and secured permanently. The lease was free and lasted 10 years. This vast area, located on the distant outskirts of the city, needed to be at least partially put in order.

Out of three brick structures, only one, the main and the largest, was suitable for a school building, but it also was completely devastated. To make it useable and, what is more, to adjust it to the school needs, it had to be thoroughly renovated. This task was accomplished to a considerable degree as early as before September 1st, 1927. An Educational Committee, established to analyse the conditions in the future school building, deemed them acceptable, recommending only the introduction of necessary sanitary and health amenities.

A set of indispensable school equipment: desks, tables, boards?, chemicals, laboratory glassware, etc. was bought on credit. As things stood, the educational authorities' permission to open the school and supplement the staff was not difficult to obtain. The Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment granted the concession to open and run a school under the name "Leon Blaszyński Secondary School of Chemistry and Tanning in Radom" to Leon Blaszyński, Eng. Almost simultaneously, the Cracow School District's Educational Authority allowed the running of *Gimnazjum Męskie* (the Boys' Middle School). It was the third consecutive training facility situated in the new school building, beside additional training courses and the Tanning School. Overall, a kind of school complex was established. Juliusz Vorobrodt, PhD, a renowned chemist and teacher, was engaged as the principal of all these institutions.

The schools opened on September 10th, 1927. Two of them, the middle schools, operated only for a short period of time – almost a year, and only the Secondary School of Chemistry and Tanning has survived until today.

Obviously, the foundation of the Secondary School of Chemistry and Tanning could not have decided its permanence and development prospects. Serious difficulties, especially financial, appeared from the very beginning. The school was private and could be supported only by the profit from student fees. There were 208 students in the middle school and tanning school, the fees were high (50 PLN a month). Despite that, the cash proceeds could not meet the financial needs of the schools.

Juliusz Vorobrodt retired as the principal after two months, some teachers left. The youth saw this situation, felt bitter, disappointed and anxious about their fate. Leon Blaszyński, Eng., did not give up under those difficult conditions. He

managed financial matters and investments himself, he performed the function of the administrator and principal and substituted the lacking teachers. He engaged Wacław Sokół-Kutyłowski (Sokół-Kutyłowski), Eng., as the new headmaster after a few months. Simultaneously, he made efforts to secure financial help from the Ministry – without a tangible effect for the time being.

In the early 1928, Leon Blaszyński (Blaszyński), Eng., initiated the establishment of *Towarzystwo Popierania Wiedzy Chemiczno-Garbarskiej* (the Society for Supporting Chemical and Tanning Knowledge). One of its goals was patronage over the school. This initiative was met with some reluctance and resistance of a part of Radom tanners. However, a Founding Committee comprised of representatives of the teaching staff and of the chemical and tanning industries was established after a number of meetings and debates. The Society was legalised by the voivodship authorities after the creation of its Statutes and formation of the Board. According to the Statutes, one of the Society's tasks was to run the School and the chemical-tanning course, and its first move was to overtake the School of Chemistry and Tanning.

The Ministry of Education allowed the Society to take over the school in July 1928. Blaszyński, Eng., soon left Radom, still interested, however, in the fate of the school as a member of the Society. The Society became the school's new owner, and the facility itself changed its name and nature to an extent. It existed throughout almost the whole interwar period as *Średnia Szkoła Chemiczno-Garbarska Towarzystwa Popierania Wiedzy Chemiczno-Garbarskiej w Radomiu* (the Secondary School of Chemistry and Tanning of the Society for Supporting Chemical and Tanning Knowledge in Radom). Only in the 1938/39 school year was it transformed into a middle school.

The Ministry of Education granted the Society a subsidy of 163,000 PLN to buy the area with buildings used by the school, leased thus far, from the Joint-Stock Company "Novelty". The main building, especially the laboratories, was thoroughly rebuilt. More school equipment was purchased. The terrain was finally levelled in accordance with the needs of the school life. At last, new workshops began to be erected in 1936. It was foreseen that they would be completed in the 1940/41 school year.

An important part of the Society's activity was the school's promotion in industrial circles, especially *Polski Związek Przemysłowców Garbarzy* (the Polish Association of Tanning Industrialists) and *Związek Chemików Polskich* (the Polish Chemists' Association), whose outstanding representatives became the Society's members.

The first two years of the school's existence consisted mostly of a desperate fight for survival. The school was developing, poor, functioning under primitive conditions in the beginning. Designed as at least a 3-year secondary school attended after 5–6 middle school grades, it did not withstand a longer trial. Two courses: preparatory for less advanced students and the primary one were offered in the 1927/28 school

year. Next year, first and second courses started. The Society declined further cooperation with the principal Wacław Sokol-Kutylowski, Eng., in 1929 and engaged Juliusz Vorbrodz, PhD, as the headmaster again. He performed this function up to the beginning of the 1932/33 school year.

The school's organisation and character crystallised in these years. It became a 4-year school, attended after a 7-year primary school, in the 1930/31 school year. Principal Vorbrodz left the school in the early 1932/33 school year. Henryk Suliga, a chemistry teacher and a social-educational activist, became the headmaster as a result of a competition announced by the Society. From then, especially from the 1934/35 school year, the school developed speedily in all areas of life and its role and importance rose to a national level.

Special care was taken to extend and equip the chemistry laboratory, which gave stable working conditions to 60 students. Besides, it played the role of an important service centre, performing different analyses for companies, economic and state institutions (around 30 a year).

The commissioning of a school workshop was an important event in the school's development. It was necessary due to the facility's nature and educational tasks, but also economic goals. All sections of the tanning-fur production were concentrated in a small area in 5 separate rooms. These were: wet, tanning, drying and finishing sections. They were equipped with: 5 vats, 3 revolving barrels (drums), a press for squeezing water out of leather, 3 electric motors, a shaper, a manual tenter, a disk shaping machine, a glazing machine, a spraying apparatus, 2 barrels for cleaning furs, a crank stock for suede tanning, and other small tanning tools.

The space conditions were extremely difficult. The equipment was primitive – it helped neither the production nor the students' training, but it was already a real tanning workshop. What is more, despite such unfavourable conditions, it met the basic requirements of a tanning school, showing a stable development tendency, both in the production and training.

In the 1932/33 school year, 917 leathers were processed, and the number reached as many as 5260 leathers from the school and outside clients in the 1936/37 school year. As a result, the financial gains increased from PLN 2,000 to 3,000 a year.

In accordance with the training nature of the workshops, the production varied both when it came to the raw material provided and its processing. However, it encompassed mostly shoe leathers (chromium tanning), leather accessories, fur leathers, and doeskins. Space and tool shortages did not allow for plant production to develop, but there was a breakthrough also in this field: the workshop managed to manufacture 5 runs of saddler leather, 2 runs of *faleder* (a type of grey leather), 3 runs of pig skins for saddles, and 3 runs of sole leathers.

Regardless of the production effects, the workshop played a major educational role: it connected theoretical knowledge of the students with direct, practical processes

of tanning production, taught the tanning profession, production methods, rational work organisation – the latter especially through familiarising them with the workshop office activity: technical, administrative and commercial.

The school's tasks understood so widely made it necessary to build new workshops adjusted to the training and production requirements. The works began as early as 1936, but, due to the still limited financial means, the construction was slow, so that new school workshops were only in raw state in 1939. One had to wait some more for them to be finished.

The school's development, fast at that time, and its amazing prospects opening were halted by the Nazi attack on Poland. The tragic September days dispersed people, the school building was devastated, the library, teaching materials and some documents destroyed, and the new workshop building seriously damaged.

The situation began to gradually change as early as October. The school employees were slowly returning. On November 4th, 1939, principal Suliga informed the school staff that the Radom lord mayor (*Oberbürgermeister*) allowed classes to start. The learning was supposed to adhere to the curriculum in effect thus far, without history, knowledge of Poland, and geography. Student fees and proceeds from the workshop production were to be the school's financial basis.

The army was still stationed in the school building, allotting only the 1st storey of its left wing, i.e. the laboratories, for learning purposes. This meant that teaching had to be delivered in two shifts, at least partially. The old production workshops and the preserved halls of the new workshop building, with rooms for raw materials, tanning agents, chemicals, and a provisional fur workshop, saved the day. In relation to the subjects removed from the curriculum, the freed hours were allotted for workshop classes and vocational training.

The situation was gradually stabilising. The workshop was increasing production, classes took place normally; theoretical subjects, once a part of teaching materials and devices were found, were also taught quite efficiently. New teachers from comprehensive secondary schools were engaged in place of teachers who had not returned.

Unfortunately, Polish was removed from the curriculum and only vocational subjects were retained as early as May 1940. The German authorities transformed the facility into a type of a three-year crafts school called *Państwowa Garbarska Szkoła Rzemieślnicza i Fachowa w Radomiu* (the State Tanning Vocational School of Craftsmanship in Radom) on April 1st, 1941. The school workshop was to work for the German economy from that moment. Upper grades were allowed to finish the former type of school only as an exception – there were 21 graduates in the

1940/41 school year. At that time, the facility suffered a painful loss: the arrest and death of the headmaster Henryk Suliga in Auschwitz. According to the wish of the whole teaching staff, Marian Darocha, Eng., the closest associate of Henryk Suliga, became the new principal.

The school returned to its former building in the 1941/42 school year. The space conditions improved considerably – allowing more freedom in developing conspirational activity at the same time. There were many active resistance movement activists among the workers, others, not involved, facilitated their work and helped. The tannery storerooms and laboratories allowed for storing equipment and materials. The distribution of press and radio intercept developed quickly.

However, the Nazi terror also exacerbated. A wave of arrests and executions swept over Radom. It did not miss the school either. The classes were adjourned in 1943/44, and the whole area was occupied by gendarmerie, the SS troops and the so-called "health" column, assigned to remove the traces of crimes in Firlej.

Therefore, that year was not a normal period of instruction – month-long breaks occurred. However, the school was not liquidated, thus, the employees and students were protected from being deported to Germany. In September 1944, the school area, abandoned by the army and SS troops, was free again. The new school year began with a considerably smaller number of students – only 85. The learning was not conducted normally, neither the tense atmosphere and awaiting liberation, nor the systematic assignment of students to trench digging aided the process. It was not the point anyway. The important thing was to protect the people, students and employees, until the very end, and secure the property until freedom came.

Directly following the liberation of Radom on January 16th, 1945, classes and practical vocational learning began. It happened quite fast as the war damage to the building-material infrastructure was tolerable. The school building still required a renovation and reconstruction. On December 20th, 1945, the Society for Supporting Tanning and Chemical Knowledge transferred the ownership of the entire facility to the State Treasury, and the school building became the property of *Ministerstwo Przemysłu i Handlu* (the Ministry of Industry and Trade).

In 1945, the school building began to be renovated and reconstructed owing to the efforts of the school's principal, Marian Darocha. The renovation was finished in the 1947/48 school year.

The school had a library, a common room, chemistry and microbiology workshops, and a chemistry laboratory. Due to financial troubles, it only had a bare minimum of tools and teaching materials. It was difficult to provide equipment and agents for the laboratory.

In the 1949/50 school year, the school came under *Ministerstwo Przemysłu Lekkiego i Dyrekcja Okręgowa Szkolenia Zawodowego* (the Ministry of Light Industry and the District Board of Vocational Training). Despite financial struggles, it had 7 classrooms, a common room, a library, a laboratory, a staff room, and rooms for the administration. However, the laboratory required a complete refurbishment. There was no apparatus for analysing the physicochemical qualities of leather, water distillation, etc. People complained about the lack of subject-based classrooms. A materials science workshop was created in the early 50s. The library was given another room, equipment for a drawing workshop was gathered.

The school's extension was designed according to a functional specification approved by *Centralny Urząd Szkolenia Zawodowego* (the Central Office of Vocational Training) on May 15th, 1950. *Komisja Oceny Projektów Inwestycyjnych przy Ministerstwie Przemysłu Lekkiego* (the Committee of Investment Projects Assessment with the Ministry of Light Industry) of *Centralny Zarząd Szkolenia Zawodowego* (the Central Office of Vocational Training) held a meeting on October 13th, 1953. The Office's representatives and principal Witold Wlazłowicz as the school's representative took part. The construction of a gymnasium, a residential hall, and the reconstruction of plumbing and gas fittings were allowed then.

These resolutions were realised by 1953. A detached gymnasium building with only a ground floor and a cellar, of 30x11x55 meters, and a residential hall at 5 Śniadeccy Street were erected.

The building at 17 Słowackiego Street, which became an integral part of the school property, and the location of *Technikum i Zasadnicza Szkoła Przemysłu Skórzanego* (the Technical and Basic School of Leather Industry) from 1950 to the 1952/53 school year, also has to be mentioned.

The new facility was situated in a two-storey corner building. Altogether, there were 14 classrooms, a gymnasium on the ground floor, a room for administration, a library, and a common room. Gradually, the classrooms were equipped with the most indispensable objects, such as: desks, chairs, cupboards, and teaching materials made chiefly by the teaching staff and students.

The space conditions improved considerably after 10 families had moved out of the building and a grocery store had been liquidated. But the dynamically developing school needed space. The building's location could not guarantee that. There were kindred facilities with better space conditions in Radom. Finally, it was decided that the Tanning Technical School at 5 Śniadeccy Street and the Technical and Basic Vocational School at 17 Słowackiego Street would be merged. After it happened on October 1st, 1953, the following was determined: theoretical classes were to be taught at 17 Słowackiego Street; workshops and other types of classes, i.e. technology, chemistry, were to be held in the building at 5 Śniadeccy Street. The production plant, Tannery No. 8, was to be located in the latter. Activities connected to the residential halls were to take place in the building at 5 Śniadeccy Street

as well. It was the only possible solution in the then space conditions, although it suffered several organisational and educational difficulties. There was a 2.5 kilometres distance between the buildings. Headmaster Stefan Kielich understood it perfectly and proposed a specific project of expansion of the school building and workshops funded by the School itself as early as the 1954/55 school year.

The conditions under which the school functioned did not change from 1954 to 1958. The second storey was adapted and extended as much as possible. Problems with organisation in the beginning of the 1958/58 school year were very prominent. The lack of appropriate classrooms and workshop rooms of the Basic School was especially severe.

A turning point in the school's history was a conference which took place on June 27th, 1958 at 5 Śniadeccy Street, organised by the Ministry of Education, *Ministerstwo Przemysłu Lekkiego* (the Ministry of Light Industry), and *Centralny Zarząd Przemysłu Skórzanego w Łodzi* (the Central Board of Leather Industry in Łódź). It was then decided that the school be expanded. The building at 17 Słowackiego Street was given over to the Educational Authority of the School District in Kielce in the 1959/60 school year.

In the 60s, the building at 5 Śniadeccy Street was expanded by lengthening it westward and adding a side wing from the south. Then, the inside of the middle (oldest) part of the school building began to be reconstructed. As a result, an architecturally new inner and outer structure of the building was created. The area surrounding the school was put in order. 3 asphalt playing fields were made. The school had 74 rooms altogether.

The space and material situation of the school stabilised at the turn of the 60s and 70s. Principal Stefan Kielich retired deservedly in 1972, and his post was assumed by Stanisław Suchecki, MSc. He directed this facility until 1992. The works connected with organising and equipping 10 workshops for vocational and comprehensive subjects were especially intensive from 1972 to 1975. The subject-based workshops were appropriately equipped with state-of-the-art measurement-control apparatus, audiovisual media, models, and a full set of teaching materials. The following workshops distinguished themselves: chemistry, technology, materials science, mathematics, and foreign languages. A state-of-the-art extracurricular workshop was created in 1978. In the following year, two workshops for modelling shoes, one comprehensive and one technological, were modernised.

The years 1983–1987, before the school's 60th anniversary, were characterised with a further dynamic development of this facility, both in the economic and the educational fields. One of the most modern foreign languages workshops was commissioned in 1986, as was a computer room the next year. The school building and the outer facade were renovated, and the inside modernised. The replacement of the outdated machine park in the processing workshops (tannery) and production plants was an indubitable achievement. It was possible owing to the great help

of the "Radoskór" Radom Leather Industry Works, *Radomskie Przedsiębiorstwo Obrotu Surowcami Włókienniczymi i Skórzanymi* (the Radom Company of Textile and Leather Raw Materials Trade), and other leather plants in Poland.

The youth and school employees initiated many interesting endeavours in the vocational and educational sphere in that period. They took part in the exhibition "Szkolnictwo zawodowe w 40-leciu PRL" ("Vocational education after 40 years of the People's Republic of Poland") in Warsaw. *Spółdzielnia Uczniowska "Jedność"* (the Student Cooperative „Unity”) participated in *Krajowe Seminarium Spółdzielczości Uczniowskiej* (the National Seminar of Student Cooperative Movement). They inaugurated *I Turniej Kulturalny Szkół* (the 1st Cultural School Tournament). They took part in sports competitions and national contests, achieved very good results, etc. These and earlier activities resulted in the acceptance of the school into *Klub Przewodzących Szkół* (the Club of Leading School) in 1988.

In the years that followed (1988–1991), the workshops and classroom-workshops were further modernised, the school building, workshops, and the residential hall were thoroughly overhauled. The employees and students actively contributed to scientific, sports and cultural achievements. In late June 1992, a disaster befell the school: there was a fire in the school building. The common room, recording studio, chemical workshop with its storerooms and a room with scales, physics workshops and joineries were destroyed. Barbara Stano, MSc, became the principal under such conditions. Rebuilding the rooms ruined by the fire and providing full, state-of-the-art equipment for them were the most important tasks. They were realised in 1992 and early 1993.

The last decade of the 20th century was characterised by a further dynamic development of the school. New teaching rooms were commissioned: dedicated to foreign languages, computers, materials science, ready-to-wear clothing, and furriery. Four rooms for the purse making part of the school workshops and a gym were ready. The gymnasiums were thoroughly renovated.

Economic activities play an important role in the educational process, but teaching the youth is the most significant function of the school. Thus, the educational achievements of this facility, especially in the last decade, cannot be omitted. The following are among the most important: participation in creating the curriculums of vocational subjects, in scientific symposiums, leather fairs, writing articles for professional journals, research diploma projects, close cooperation with the *Polska Izba Garbarska* (the Polish Chamber of Tannery), the Technical University and leather industry plants.

Major Henryk Dobrzański "Hubal" Vocational School Complex

The present Vocational School Complex is considered to be the direct heir to the first crafts school existing from 1902 to 1904 in Radom. Many of today's Radom

schools have a claim over that institution. Thus, so as not to repeat the school's history, we shall present the following short timetable ordering the narrative:

1904 – Municipal School of Crafts.

28/03/1946 – *Publiczna Średnia Szkoła Zawodowa* (the Public Vocational Secondary School) [*Publiczna Doksztalcząca Szkoła Zawodowa*] [the Public Vocational School of Additional Training].

1952–1953 – *Zasadnicza Szkoła Metalowo-Elektryczna* (the Basic School of Metallurgy and Electrical Engineering).

1953–1954 – *Zasadnicza Szkoła Metalowa* (the Basic School of Metallurgy).

1954–1955 – the Basic Vocational School (this school was merged with *Zasadnicza Szkoła Odlewnicza* – the Basic School of Material Casting).

1955–1956 – the Basic School of Metallurgy (after the merger of the Basic Vocational School with the Basic School of Metallurgy at 2 Szkolna Street).

1959–1960 – the Basic Vocational School No. 2 (after the creation of a Form for working persons in Białobrzegi [Białobrzegi]).

1976–1979 – the Basic Vocational School No. 2 (after the merger with the Basic Vocational School No. 1).

1978 –1979 – the Vocational School Complex (after the creation of the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering).

01/09/1984 – Major Henryk Dobrzański (Dobrzański) "Hubal" Vocational School Complex.

The autonomous history of the facility actually began after the Germans had left Radom. The institution was transferred to the Elementary School at 62/64 Żeromskiego Street, and the space at 60 1 Maja Street was allotted to it on April 22th, 1945. It was called Jan Kilinski Municipal Middle School of Mechanical Engineering and operated as the State Vocational School of Additional Training in the first school year after the war. 2000 students learned in metallurgy, tailoring, shoe-making, and multi-profession forms in the spring of 1945. Only students training at private plants and smaller workshops attended (*100-lecie Zespołu Szkół Zawodowych im. majora Henryka Dobrzańskiego „Hubala” w Radomiu*, 2004, p. 8).

Principal Jan Pater put forward a request to fund a banner for the school on September 28th, 1945. It was ceremonially blessed on April 28th, 1946, and bestowed on the school youth. In line with tradition, the banner is currently in the Memorial Room of the Major Henryk Dobrzański "Hubal" Vocational School Complex. Pursuant to a Ministry of Education's ordinance, the facility received the name: the Public Vocational Secondary School. The school was given the whole building at 60 1 Maja Street. A brass band, a scouts team, and a Polish Red Cross club were organised. A Welfare Council operated. Deputy Józef Grzeczmarowski

became its president. For the first time, in the 1949–1950 school year, new male-female grades were created: of vocational electrical engineering and technological electrical engineering. The newly established electrical workshop, located in a room where mechanical workshops used to be situated, were the practical base for these grades. The following bands operated: artistic, dancing, and choral. A common room was opened. In these years, the school had a residential hall – a wooden building with only a ground floor at 64 1 Maja Street, with two bedrooms for 50 girls.

The facility was named the Basic School of Metallurgy and Power Engineering in September 1952. Jan Pater became its principal, and Teofil Szopa – the vice-principal. The school taught then in the following specialisations: metal and power engineering (toolmaker, network and sub-installation fitter, electrical machines fitter), clothes making (light and heavy tailoring), and comprehensive. *Warsztaty Naprawcze Wagonów* (the Carriage Repair Workshops), and the Metal Works from 1953, supervised the school.

In the new 1953/54 school year, the school changed its name once more: to Basic Vocational School. The reason behind this decision was that teaching in a T-9 telecommunications form, besides the metallurgy and electrical engineering forms, began. The practical vocational training took place in a roundhouse by *Zakłady Naprawcze Taboru Kolejowego* (the Repair Facilities of Rolling Stock). Teofil Szopa, a physics teacher, performed the function of the principal. Edward Świątek became the workshops' head.

In August 1955, the Basic Vocational School and the Basic School of Metallurgy (at 2 Szkolna Street, now 2 Grzeczmarowskiego Avenue) were merged and a new name was bestowed: the Basic School of Metallurgy. Tadeusz Wójcik became its principal. 527 students began learning at 60 1 Maja Street, and the practical vocational took place at 2 Szkolna Street, at the Repair Facilities of Rolling Stock, and at the Metal Works. In that year, the school was provided with a new residential hall at 5 Kościuszki Street.

The school was renamed in the autumn of 1959. Pursuant to a decision of the Kielce School District Educational Authority, a vocational school for people working in Białobrzegi was created and named: *Zasadnicza Szkoła Zawodowa nr 2 w Radomiu – Wydział dla Pracujących w Białobrzegach* (the Basic Vocational School No. 2 in Radom – Division for Working Persons in Białobrzegi). The Basic Vocational School No. 2. took care of its financing. Tadeusz Wójcik was this facility's principal. The organisational division undertaken in the early 1966/67 school year was an important event. The vocational schools were separated into the Basic Vocational School No. 2 as a day school for youth that did not work and the Basic Vocational School No. 1 for working young people. Simultaneously, the Basic Vocational School No. 2 began operating at 10 Żeromskiego Street. Its name was changed to Basic Vocational School No. 4 in the 1968/69 school year. The Basic Vocational

School No. 2 and the Basic Vocational School No. 1 were to use the location of 60 1 Maja Street together. The building was very old, three-storey, without central heating, with extremely small rooms and dark and narrow corridors. A small yard, where youth spent the breaks in fine weather, was next to the school. There were also difficult conditions in the school workshops, classes were held from 7.00 to 21.00. However, the teaching profile was broadened and included the following specialisations: precision mechanic, millwright, toolmaker, turner, milling machine operator, as well as waiter, furrier, baker, tailor, and pork butcher. The workshops of the Basic Vocational School No. 2 conducted production in parallel with training. There was a conviction that less talented youth, behind in learning and wanting to obtain a specific profession quickly, was interested in the school. The students deemed learning in the workshops more important than learning in school, but the teachers did their best to encourage the youth to participate in different clubs. In the 1970/71 school year, the Basic Vocational School of Additional Training No. 1 and the Basic Vocational School No. 2 were located in the building on 1 Maja Street. The classes took place in the afternoon, the youth came from the working class, they often did not want to learn and only counted on money from their internships.

In 1971, the Basic Vocational School No. 2 was transferred to a new building at 2 Szkolna Street (today's 2 Grzeczmarowski Avenue), although the workshops were still located in the old barrack. At that time, there were 17 grades and 551 students altogether at Basic Vocational School No. 2. They specialised in the following professions: millwright, turner, milling machine operator, precision mechanic, toolmaker, and locksmith-mechanic. The training specialisations were designed according to the needs of Radom plants, especially the company that supervised the school – the Gen. Walter Metal Works.

The Basic Vocational School of Additional Training settled in the building on 1 Maja Street in early 1971. The Basic Vocational School No. 1 and the Basic Vocational School No. 4 were merged in 1972/73. Relatedly, the school learning was held from 7:10 to 20:00, and the internships took place in numerous plants. There were the following specialisations in the school: confectioner, baker, tobacco processor, ceramicist, salesman, tailor, hairdresser, and furrier. Students took their internships at private and public companies.

In the 1975/76 school year, there was only one grade with classes 6 days a week in the Basic Vocational School No. 1. Other grades were taught regular classes for 3 days and vocational classes for 3 days. Operation was becoming increasingly difficult, the building could not hold 27 grades, and the Radom region became a voivodship at that time. Finally, it was decided that the Basic Vocational School No. 1 and the Basic Vocational School No. 2 be merged. Thus, the Basic Vocational School No. 1 was transferred to Szkolna Street – currently 2 Grzeczmarowski Avenue.

Zespół Szkół Zawodowych nr 2 (the Vocational School Complex No. 2), one large school, dates back to that moment. New school workshops with an administrative-amenity building were commissioned in that year as well. In 1978, the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering with a machining specialisation was established, and the Basic Vocational School No. 2 became the Vocational School Complex.

The idea of assigning a patron's name to the school and creating a National Memorial Room arose after the schools' merger, from 1976 to 1980. The youth collected historical mementos and documents. In the 1982/83 school year, the following candidates for the school patron were proposed: General Zygmunt Berling, gGeneraln. Stanisław Skotnicki, Franciszek Zubrzycki, and major Henryk Dobrzański. The youth became familiar with these figures by listening to a series of radio broadcasts, watching films, and meeting with World War II participants. A plebiscite was announced. Major H. Dobrzański received a majority of votes. Contact with the Hubal Partisans was sought from that moment, and the school was named after the major in 1984.

A plaque devoted to the patron was bricked in, with soldiers from the "Hubal" regiment and representatives of Radom authorities headed by the vice-voivode Zbigniew Gołabek (Gołabek) present, on the 10th anniversary of this event, on October 20th, 1994.

The Vocational School Complex' students and teachers still participate in ceremonial assemblies commemorating the soldiers fallen in Anielin, lay wreaths under the "Hubal" bulwark, and organise cross-country runs, tracing the routes of the Hubal Partisans.

The students of basic grades are practically taught by craftsmen from *Cech Rzemiosł Różnych* (the Guild of Various Crafts), training in the following professions: locksmith, car mechanic, panel beater, sprayer, and electromechanic. For many years, in multi-profession grades, students could learn the following trades: clockmaker, goldsmith-jeweller, bookbinder, upholsterer, photographer, cook, or salesman. After graduating, the youth take the journeyman exam and then can strive for master craftsman's qualifications. Many graduates run craft businesses in different fields.

The Medical Post-Secondary School Complex in Radom

A separate matter connected with vocational education was the medical (nursing) education. Until 1958, Kielce was home to the only nursing school in its Voivodship. The number of the graduates was insufficient in the face of the continuous economic growth of the voivodship and the rising population. Thus, the need to establish one more facility, training middle level medical personnel, arose. Overall, the Kielce voivodship was 350 nurses short, and new hospitals in Radom, Morawica, Busko, and Opoczno were being built then. Radom was particularly affected by the shortage of qualified nurses. It had 123,100 inhabitants in 1958 and only around 340 nurses, including approximately 180 registered ones. In the face of the lack

of middle level medical staff, a 2.5 year *Państwowa Szkoła Pielęgniarstwa* (State Nursing School) was established in 1958 pursuant to a decision of *Wojewódzki Wydział Zdrowia w Kielcach i Miejski Wydział Zdrowia w Radomiu* [the Voivodship Health Department in Kielce and the Municipal Health Department in Radom] (*50-lecie Zespołu Medycznych Szkół* [...], 2008, p. 11).

The day of November 11th, 1958 was an important moment in the history of Radom nursing, and thus vocational education. Jadwiga Szymanska (Szymańska) became the first principal of the school.

The first teachers were doctors of Radom public healthcare: Jan Anańko, Jerzy Blinowski, Stanisław Fundowicz, Czesław Myśliwiec, Ryszard Paprocki, Teresa Zawisza. Registered nurses, Apolonia Banasiewicz, Sylwia Kmita, Stanisława Plebankiewicz, Jadwiga Trześniewska, conducted vocational training.

Zofia Palczynska (Pałczyńska), MSc, Aniela Padzik, MSc, Wiesław Banasiewicz, Zygmunt Krzyzanowski (Krzyżanowski), Władysław Tugiel, Janina Jablonska (Jabłońska), Jadwiga Kanska (Kańska) taught theoretical classes in general subjects.

54 students began learning (35 in the Ia grade and 19 in the Ib grade). After finishing the school in December 1960, the graduates received registered nurse diplomas and began working in the hospitals of the Kielce region. 4 of them, Joanna Brzeska, Teresa Gazda, Kazimiera Plaskocinska (Płaskocińska), and Anna Repsz, became the instructors of vocational training in their alma mater.

The school was reorganised and transformed into a 4-year *Liceum Pielęgniarskie* (Nursing Secondary School) in September 1959. 58 students were admitted to the school then, creating two grades. Among them, 45 received diplomas granting them full qualifications.

Adam Osuchowski performed the duties of vice-principal from September 1st, 1959 to June 25th, 1962. Jan Marczyński assumed this post in September 1962.

The 1961/1962 school year was a breakthrough for the secondary school, because its structure changed and it was renamed *Liceum Medyczne Pielęgniarstwa* (the Medical Nursing Secondary School). The instruction in the medical secondary school was supposed to continue for 5 years. The school accepted students after primary school. 105 were admitted in 1962, creating two grades: Ia – Apolonia Banasiewicz became its supervising teacher and Ib – the supervising teacher was Sylwia Naumowicz.

Schools training in different medical professions were established on the basis of the existing Medical Secondary School. Due to the staff shortages and the necessity to quickly learn how to care for the sick, *Zasadnicza Szkoła Asystentek Pielęgniarskich* (the Basic School for Nursing Assistants) was founded on September 1st, 1962. Its name was changed to *Zasadnicza Szkoła Medyczna Asystentek Pielęgniarskich* (the Basic Medical School for Nursing Assistants) in September 1965. It existed until August 31st, 1969.

The learning cycle was 2 years long and included teaching general subjects, clinical illness descriptions, anatomy, sanitation, nursing theory, and vocational training. The school was established in order to quickly prepare auxiliary nursing staff for working in in-patient healthcare, internal medicine, surgical and children wards, dentist offices, and in nurseries as nursery practitioners.

A 2-year *Medyczne Studium Zawodowe Wydział Pielęgniarstwa* (Medical Vocational School – Nursing Department), admitting secondary-school graduates, was established in September 1973, pursuant to a decision of the Voivodship Health Department in Kielce. *Medyczne Studium Asystentek Pielęgniarstwa* (the Medical Vocational School for Nursing Assistants) was founded in 1976. It was created for people working as nursing assistants in various healthcare facilities. These persons, due to the shortages of nurses, already performed their role in practice. The vocational school was attended to complete the nursing knowledge and obtain a diploma and a registered nurse title.

The Medical School Complex in Radom was formed on June 18th, 1979, pursuant to a decision of *kurator* (the Educational Officer). It included: a 5-year Medical Secondary School and a 2-year Medical Vocational School with the following departments: a 2-year Nursing Department and a 2.5 year Obstetrics Department from 1983.

Szkoła Higienistek Szpitalnych (the Hospital Hygienist School) was established in 1987 for one 3-year cycle of learning. During these 3 years, the school prepared the hygienists for nursing the sick in hospitals. During the learning cycle, a curriculum of comprehensive subjects in the scope of a basic school was realised together with a curriculum of vocational subjects with some elements of anatomy, sanitation, and pathology.

Medyczne Studium Zawodowe Pracowników Socjalnych (the Medical Vocational School of Social Workers) was established in 1989. The school operated on a part-time basis. It prepared comprehensive secondary school graduates for performing the roles of social workers in clinics. The school was reorganised in 1991, assuming the name of the Medical Vocational School with the following departments: a 2.5 year Nursing Department, a 2.5 year Obstetrics Department, from 1993: a 2.5 year Physiotherapy Department and a 2-year Radiology Department. Learning in the secondary school continued until 1997.

The school's history is about the people who have created it for the last 50 years. The first principal of the school was Jadwiga Szymańska – a registered nurse who performed this function for a short time, only until January 31st, 1959. Kazimiera Grelewska, who had great merits in equipping the school with indispensable teaching materials, was appointed headmistress in February 1959.

She assumed the post of the principal of the State Nursing School on February 1st, 1959. She performed that function from December 31st, 1977. She studied pedagogy at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin at the Faculty of Humanities. After retiring, she worked as a vocational teacher in the Medical Secondary School in Radom. She was an active member of *Związek Zawodowy Pracowników Służby Zdrowia* (the Healthcare Professionals Trade Unions) when she worked. She performed the functions of the District Government's member and a Person of Trust in the State Primary School in Białystok (Białystok). She was a member of *Komisja Kontroli Zawodowej* (the Committee of Control over Professions) for two terms from 1964. During many years of work, she received numerous national and sector/ specialist awards, including: the Order of Polonia Restituta – Knight's Cross in 1983 for thirty years of distinguished teaching, and the Cross of the Home Army in 1994 from the Republic of Poland's President Lech Wałęsa.

After principal Kazimiera Grelewska retired, Teresa Ciechanowska, MSc, assumed the function of the headmistress on January 1st, 1978. She led the work of the school and teachers until December 31st, 1990. She received numerous awards while fulfilling her function.

Joanna Werdin, educated in nursing and holding a Master's degree in Polish, assumed the post of the school's principal in 1991. She worked in the medical school in Radom for 41 years. She began teaching Polish in 1961. She performed the function of the vice-principal from September 1st, 1986 to December 31st, 1990, and then was the principal of the Medical School Complex in Radom from January 1st, 1991. She fulfilled that role until the end of August 2003. She received numerous awards throughout the many years of work.

The administrative staff also comprised vice-principals: Adam Osuchowski, MSc, Jan Marczyński (Marczyński), MSc, Zofia Kryńska (Kryńska), MSc, Jan Cichy, MSc, Danuta Grabowska, MSc, Urszula Gołaszewska (Gołaszewska), MSc, Stanisław (Stanisław) Skrzek, MSc, Wanda Darmas, MSc, Wiesława (Wiesława) Kowalczyk, MSc, Jolanta Maciejczyk, MSc, and heads of vocational training: Anna Radkowska-Głębocka, MSc, Mirosława Budzyńska, MSc, Barbara Kornafel, MSc, Sylwia Naumowicz, MSc, Urszula Gołaszewska, MSc, Teresa Ciechanowska, MSc, Wiesława Kowalczyk, MSc, Wanda Kamieniak, MSc, Lidia Pietrzyk, MSc.

The medical school in Radom was not always situated at 3 Kelles-Krauza Street. The school changed location, was equipped, expanded, and modernised.

In 1958, the medical school was located on the second storey of the residential hall of the Basic School of Metallurgy at 5 Kościuszki Street. The space conditions were difficult, two residential hall rooms and one room for learning sanitary procedures were given to the school. It was then transferred to the building of the Health

Department at 3 Kelles-Krauza Street, where it is located to this day. Classrooms were initially situated on the first storey, a blood donation centre and a pharmacy occupied the ground floor.

The administrative units of the Health Department were located on the first storey, in the left wing; a medical library and the Healthcare Professionals Trade Unions – on the second storey. There were rooms and workshops of medical analytics, rooms for equipment and medical materials sterilisation in the annex. A district medical centre with all clinics, an X-ray unit, an emergency unit, and a column for transporting sanitary materials were located in the middle of the square-yard. The cellars under the main building belonged to the Civil Defense.

The classrooms were small, desks put close to each other, in twos – the students edged their way around them with difficulty. Physical education classes were held in the gymnasium of the then Youth Cultural Centre on Mickiewicza Street, as well as in other Radom schools.

The institutions operating at 3 Kelles-Krauza Street gradually left that place. Thus, the school could finally take over the whole building. Owing to the efforts of subsequent headmistresses, there were more and more classrooms after numerous renovations and adaptations. A leisure room, a large library with a separate entrance, and a small playing field on the yard were created. The school, due to the learning character?, had workshops for vocational training, rich in teaching materials.

The Cadet School of the Air Force Reserve

The Radom Cadet School of the Air Force Reserve is a type of vocational school which should also be mentioned in this monograph. Radom had the perfect conditions for such an endeavour. The city had its own airport and an already existing school training pilots.

In 1937, the network of air force schools was expanded, the number of their staff increased, and their organisational structure ordered. On July 1st, 1937, *Komenda Grup Szkół Lotniczych* (the Headquarters of Air Force School Groups), directed by pilot-colonel Wacław Iwaszkiewicz, was established. The Radom Cadet School of the Air Force Reserve (further: the SPRL) was created out of the existing *Szkoła Pilotów i Eskadry Ćwiczebnej Pilotów* (the School of Pilots and Training Pilot Escadrille) in Sadków pursuant to an order of the General Inspector of the Armed Forces of July 24th, 1937 (Orlik, 2012, p. 13). All theoretical and practical training of the reserve cadets was transferred from Dęblin to Sadków. The SPRL consisted of:

- the Learning Department, led by the school's vice-commander, pilot-major Michał Suhs,
- School Escadrille No. 1, commanded by pilot-major Julian Łagowski,
- School Escadrille No. 2, commanded by pilot-captain Eugeniusz Kowalczyk,
- Training Escadrille No. 3, commanded by pilot-captain Kazimierz Grzybowski.

Pilot-major Alfons Beseljak was the SPRL's commander, pilot-captain Mieczysław Stefanicki – its aide-de-camp. Moreover, the SPRL officer staff was comprised of lecturers: pilot-lieutenant Wincenty Nalecz (Nałęcz) and pilot-lieutenant Witold Pelczynski (Pełczyński), pilot instructors: pilot-lieutenant Franciszek Frodyma, pilot-lieutenant Michał (Michał) Kotarba, and lieutenant-pilot Witold Pelczynski (Pełczyński), SPRL doctor-lieutenant Roman Łada-Grodzicki, special instructor pilot-captain Roman Radziszewski, technical officer lieutenant Adam Siedlanowski, technical supervision officer – lieutenant-observer Adam Kropiwnicki⁷.

80-100 cadets – pilots and navigators – were trained during one course, and there were 104 of them in the last course, in 1939. The training and life conditions just before the war were excellent. A high standard of learning and varied cultural life were ensured. The state-of-the-art Radom airport was located conveniently. It was one of the most modern permanent airports in Poland. There were state-of-the-art, neat, well-lit hangars.

Young people with flight experience obtained through glider and aeroplane piloting courses at an aeroclub or through *Lotnicze Przysposobienie Wojskowe* (the Air Force Military Training) were admitted to study piloting and undergo observer training at the SPRL. The preliminary learning period included subjects pertaining to: civic education, military training and education. The basic period pertained to learning indispensable tactical and technical information and practical equipment handling. The specialisation period was intended for practical learning of: combat aircraft piloting (pilots) and defense in the air, fighting targets on the ground and methods of operation in the air (observers). Candidates for pilots and observers attended specialised flight classes together. The range of content covered by the training courses, including the use of flight equipment, navigation and air traffic regulations, as well as airframes, engines and armaments, allowed candidates to begin learning how to pilot. Only the introductory training with the first type of a school plane allowed for verification of candidates training in piloting military planes. Those who did not finish the introductory pilot training graduated SPRL as observers.

While pilots were training in the air, observers took specialised courses in the construction of observer's automatic guns, bombardier equipment, and sighting devices. They also participated in classes on bombarding rules and methods, handling and using aerial photographic equipment, reporting, designing aerial photos. Following specialist (military) training, SPRL graduates were given the title and badge of a reserve cadet. Observer reserve cadets were conscripted into air force units in order to familiarise themselves with airline aviation tasks. Reserve cadets, after the next two years of perfecting themselves in air force units and after successfully completing observer internships, were promoted to the rank of second lieutenant and continued to train as reserve officers – pilots or observers.

⁷ The staff was made up of these officers on July 1st, 1939.

It is worth emphasising that the advanced training was only for candidates who had already finished motor training in aeroclubs or in courses of the Air Force Military Training. Others began with the basics.

Initially, the life and learning conditions in the SPRL were quite harsh. It was really crowded, the future pilots slept on two-level, and even three-level banks. They started learning by flying an already decommissioned plane, Bartel-4. Each group (4–5 persons) had its instructor, who led the first flights.

After training on Bartel, the students moved on to PWS-14. It was a more advanced biplane with a more powerful engine. Initially, the future pilots practised only taking off and landing. Later, they trained in flying, and then acrobatics. They continued to fly PWS-16 and finally PWS-26. The latter was used to drill full acrobatics and simulation of shooting at parachutes with the help of aerial photographic equipment. Actually shooting at a target was practised in the training ground in Dęblin.

Flight training was conducted both at the school airport in Sadkow (Sadków) and field airports near Radom – in Stawy, Oronsco (Orońsko), etc. The adepts spent much of their day flying, at field airports, to be exact, sometimes starting very early in the morning, as early as 3 AM, and beginning as late as 1 AM when flying at night.

Each group was flying with an instructor at a different airport, or at least a different starting point. One of exercises, which could decide further inclusion into one of the pilot categories: fighters, bombers, liaison officers, was the so-called “shooting” at balloons. A student flew with a film camera mounted instead of a machine gun. The goal was to rise to a designated height over a strictly defined area, to throw a colourful balloon filled with air out of the plane and to “shoot” it. It was difficult mostly because it was really easy to lose sight of the balloon. Thus, immediately after throwing the balloon out, without losing sight of it, one made an appropriate, usually very sharp turn, targeted the balloon and took a series of “photos”. If one had not been sure of the result, one would have needed to keep the balloon in sight and continue to fly towards it. Besides possibly losing the balloon, there was a danger of using up the whole filming tape, short anyway, and – what happened often – destroying the balloon, which could be interpreted as a clash in the air.

Acrobatics training was an important element of the programme of perfecting one's piloting skills. The goal was to teach a pilot to manoeuvre in the air, perfect their flying technique, and develop good qualities of their character. At the same time, acrobatics training strengthened a pilot's self-assurance, self-control, resilience, courage – thus, the traits of character and body necessary to master manoeuvres in the air and to show initiative in a possible aerial fight. Acrobatic flights were performed using training-acrobatic PWS-26 planes.

The Sadkow cadet school was viewed as very select in Poland. It was being said you could be admitted only when supported by the government.

SPRL students participated in Radom's life. Soldiers took part in all public celebrations, and a singing column marched each Sunday for a mass to the garrison church.

Teaching studies

After Poland regained independence, educating Polish teachers became the need of the moment. Following Russian troops' departure from Radom, *Komitet Obywatelski* (the Citizen Committee) established *Komisja Szkolna Ziemi Radomskiej* (the School Committee of Radom Region) as early as August 1915. It entrusted Reverend Józef Rokoszny with organising a faculty of the teachers' school in Radom (Rokoszny, 1925, pp. 15–22). The department was comprised of: Reverend Rokoszny – president, Z. Węgleńska – secretary, Helena Bojarska, Janina Bojarska, Jan Debski (Dębski), W. Elbanowski, Eugenia Lesniewska (Leśniewska), Bolesław Saski, and Antonina Szczepaniakowa. They held weekly sessions, discussed the curriculum, invited teachers. None of the members had ever been in a teachers' school, but no one was discouraged by that. Reverend Rokoszny with two students, Debski and Saski, created the school's curriculum without any framework. It turned out later that it was much better than older models. Above all, it was cutting-edge.

Due to the small number of secondary schools, it was decided that the school would be coeducational. The first in attendance were boys from the former craft school and surrounding villages, the girls mostly came from the city. There was no need to encourage teachers, they stepped forward, saying: it is, after all, very honourable to teach future teachers! Jarzyński, the trade school principal, made space available for the school in the afternoons.

In early November, the School Committee confirmed that the school staff would include: president – Reverend Rokoszny, inspector – J. Debski, and the teachers of: religion – Reverend Bronisław Ekiert, Polish language – B. Saski, Polish literature – E. Lesniewska (Leśniewska), general and Polish history – Z. Weglenska (Węgleńska), geography – Maria Gajl, arithmetic – principal Jarzyński, pedagogy – A. Szczepaniak, music and singing – H. Bojarska, gymnastics – Ejcher, geodesy – Cywinski (Cywiński), natural science – Vorbrodt (Kraków University assistant), gardening – Prybe, agriculture – Daszewski (a farmer, he came for lectures), law – T. Wedrychowski (Wędrychowski), social sciences – M. Gloger.

Naturally, there were many difficulties in organising a new type of school during the war. There were also specific problems: the Sandomierz bishop did not allow the reverend to assume a position in a coeducational school, and the school inspector of the Austrian partition did not approve of a school not teaching German. In the end, the bishop yielded, and inspector Paczona reduced the requirement for the school to teach four hours of German a week to two. A ceremonial act of opening

the school took place in the leisure room of the trade school on December 5th, 1915, after a service in a church previously cared for by Bernardine monks, where Reverend Rokoszny was the rector. Some representatives of the Austrian authorities and of the public were present.

At the same time, Stanisława Wroncka established a girls' teaching school. In the interwar period, two-year teaching courses by *Gimnazjum im. Marii Konopnickiej* (Maria Konopnicka Middle School) and a year-long teaching course attended after passing the maturation exam were organised in Radom. High demand for teachers, connected with mainstream education network expanding in Poland, created a good climate for the development of both Radom teaching schools. They issued school magazines of very high quality. Following the death of Reverend Józef Rokoszny, the founder and principal of the boys' school, a distinguished Radom educator Edward Dabowski (Dąbkowski) became the headmaster. In turn, Stanisława Wroncka, political, social, and educational activist, ran the girls' school for many years. After she resigned in 1932, Maria Maj was the principal. In connection with the school reform, both teaching schools were liquidated in 1937.

After Poland regained freedom in 1945, the shortage of teachers was a problem, thus, one of the first goals was to open a Radom facility for educating teachers. The teaching secondary school was reactivated and year-long teaching courses were hastily created. *Komisja Rejonowa* (the Regional Committee) was founded. It prepared candidates for teachers during holidays or five-month courses. This committee operated until 1957. Secondary schools teachers acquired qualifications after passing the so-called simplified exam. The teaching secondary school expanded in that period.

In 1958, the Teaching Secondary School was liquidated and replaced with a new semi-higher education institution, the two-year Post-secondary Vocational School for Teachers with the following specialisations: Polish philology, Russian philology, history, mathematics, biological, and practical-technical. There was also extramural education. The Radom school had a very rich library as well – specialising in pedagogy and humanities, comprised of 23,000 volumes. It could also boast excellently equipped laboratories and workshops. This Vocational School was liquidated in 1969 due to a diminished demand for primary school teachers. The last year of instruction was 1971 (Sołtyk, 1973, pp. 47–94).

Subsequent facilities of this kind, educating teachers, began arising in Radom towards the end of the 20th century. Thus, *Nauczycielskie Kolegium Języków Obcych* (the Teacher Training College of Foreign Languages) (Stare Miasto Square 10) was established in 1990 at the initiative of the Radom Educational Authority. One could study English and, from 1991, German there. The University of Warsaw supervised the school. *Kolegium Nauczycielskie* (the Teacher Training College) (9 Kazimierza Pułaskiego Street) was the second best known institution of this kind in Radom. The facility was founded in 1992 under the patronage of the University of Maria

Skłodowska-Curie in Lublin. The school connects elements of academic knowledge with strictly vocational practice very skillfully. Subsequent teaching colleges, developing fully only in the 21st century, began to be established in Radom.

Kazimierz Pułaski Technical University of Radom

After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, many members of Polish intelligentsia found refuge in Radom. They founded a University of Warsaw branch there. Students were taught secretly, mostly in humanities and social sciences. Janusz Chmielewski, MA, was these courses' organiser, and they continued until April 1945.

A clandestine education organisation also existed in our city. Prof. Tadeusz Kotarbiński, a representative of the so-called Lviv-Warsaw school of philosophy (famous across Europe before the war), presided over it. Its members were mostly young, e.g. Janusz Chmielewski (later a sinologist, professor of the University of Warsaw), Hanna Cybulska (an excellent lawyer specialising in juvenile law in time), or Stefan Witkowski (later known as an economist, geographer, and urbanist). Poets, journalists, artists were also in Radom. Thus, there were a lot of educated people with intellectual potential in Radom towards the end of the Second World War and in the first months of the People's Republic of Poland. The war rendered all their scientific plans null. Relatedly, *Instytut Naukowo-Społeczny* [the Scientific-Social Institute] (further: the IN-S), headed by attorney Henryk Paluszynski (Paluszyński), was established on February 7th, 1945.

The IN-S referenced the experiences of Radom inhabitants during the Nazi occupation in its statutes. They said the Institute was established as „a living monument to the fight against the occupier for a Democratic and People's Poland”. The document invoked the Nazi crimes' victims, whose blood was to be the organisation's "leavener". The Institute's board included: Henryk Paluszyński (director), Teofil Sosnowski (vice-director), Kazimierz Sorys, Elżbieta (Elżbieta) Jackiewiczowa, Antoni Kwiecień (Kwiecień), Tomasz Kwapisiewicz, Stanisław Piątowski, Marian Sołtyk (Sołtyk), and Eugeniusz Wasilewski. Many intellectuals, such as Prof. Andrzej Nowicki, PhD, the District Court's president Witold Komera, historian Celestyna Chrzanowska, Maria Woynilowicz (Woyniłłowicz), and Stefania Bienkowska (Bieńkowska), cooperated. Artists: two poets (Jan Bolesław Ozog [Ożóg] and Stanisław Skoneczny), as well as musician Stanisław Prokop, also became members of that group. The IN-S additionally included four administrative workers: Maria Andrzejewska-Kwietniowa, Zofia Kossowska, Irena Milewicz, and Janusz Stankiewicz. Over two hundred teachers, social activists, and lecturers engaged in the endeavour. It is worth emphasising that it was the only organisation of this type in Poland.

The IN-S arranged many cultural events (declamatory contests, poetry readings, assemblies, educational activities for soldiers), language competitions, recreational rooms, or company training. *Klub Literacko-Dyskusyjny* (the Literary-Debating

Club) was established in a flash, as early as February 1945. It issued poetry books of Radom poets and organised meetings with the most famous writers in Poland, such as Jan Parandowski or Maria Dąbrowska. Prof. Kotarbiński arranged lecture cycles called "*Treatise on A Good Job*" and "*Monad and Assemblage*".

The Radom victims of Nazism were ceremonially commemorated with a funeral at the initiative of IN-S. Morning meetings and concerts were organised for people returning from concentration camps. Gdansk (Gdańsk) regaining freedom was celebrated in April 1945. Due to these activities, the scientists quickly became popular among the city's inhabitants.

One of the first fundamental goals of the IN-S was research into Nazi crimes in Radom. It is worth noting that 6,000 persons were murdered only in Firlej, the place of mass executions (more died in other places). In order to realise the Institute's aims, *Sekcja Dokumentarna* (the Documenting Section), which gathered numerous documents confirming the criminal activity of the German occupier in the Radom region, was established. Notices about executions, photographs from executions and of murdered Poles, as well as many newspapers from the General Government period, were also collected. Celebrations commemorating the victims of the Nazi regime were repeatedly organised. *Sekcja Wiejska* (the Rural Section), whose goal was to repair the damage caused by the Third Reich to rural education, existed as well. This section was occupied with staging plays and reactivating folk concerts, arranged courses in recreational rooms, and distributed textbooks teaching agriculture. *Sekcja Widowiskowa* (the Spectacle Section), organising cultural life in the city, also operated dynamically. The organisation cared about compatriots in other parts of the city as well. For example, *Fundusz Odbudowy Stolicy* (the Capital Reconstruction Fund) was supported by funds gained at *Wieczór Pieśni Polskiej* (the Polish Song Evening) on April 29th, 1945.

However, the most interesting project of the Institute was an attempt to establish a university in Radom. *Sekcja Kształceniowa* (the Learning Section) aimed to found an economics university and *Uniwersytet Powszechny* (the Common University). Under the direction of Stanisław Piętowski (the future rector of the University of Lodz), a special committee was established. Its goal was to mobilise the Radom public and seek a positive decision of the appropriate public officers. Stanisław Witkowski drafted the curriculum and an organisational plan. An initiative to create *Wyższa Szkoła Administracyjno-Spółdzielcza* (the Administrative-Communal University) (WSAS) was presented to the municipal authorities. In April and May of 1945, there were meetings with representatives of the Municipal Executive, unions, political parties, and the IN-S. As a result, the situation in the city was deemed suitable for founding a university. Varsovian intellectuals resided in Radom, and a part of the building at 53 Żeromskiego Street was not being used. Apparently, the area was 590 square metres, which was to include 11 halls and 12 rooms. It was decided to give these rooms to the future WSAS. This university was to make the city a centre for educating administrative-cooperative staff.

A request to establish WSAS was sent to the Minister of Education on May 12th, 1945. The mission of WSAS was to educate members of the local government in advanced theoretical matters, as well as economists. After the Second World War, none of the universities educated in these fields. It was planned that the Radom university would be teaching sociology and economics. Ultimately, its name was to be *Szkoła Główna Ekonomiczna w Radomiu* (SGE) (the Radom School of Economics). After three years of learning, one of these specialisations could be chosen: cooperative, connected with local government, economy and trade, or treasury. One would be able to obtain a Master's degree in economics by passing exams and defending a thesis accepted by the university's senate. This degree would allow a student to pursue a doctorate.

Two subcommissions: organisational and library-related, were created. The first was to establish contacts with university professors who would become members of the SGE teaching staff. The other's task was to create a university library of several thousand volumes. Stefan Hempel book collection (the second largest Radom library, counting over 9100 volumes in 1930) and books of the Municipal Library on economics and sociology were to be donated to the university. Regular Radom inhabitants also declared help and support for the creation of a university.

In "*Memoriał do Obywatela Ministra Oświaty w sprawie utworzenia Szkoły Głównej Ekonomicznej w Radomiu*" (A memorandum to Citizen Minister of Education on the matter of establishing the Radom School of Economics), the IN-S related persons pointed out the traditions of education development in Poland. They reminded that the idea of higher education centralisation dominated in the Second Polish Republic (as many as half of universities were located in the capital, and others in larger cities, such as Kraków or Lwów). Citing the example of the USA, England, and Switzerland, the authors of the document advocated decentralisation because life in big cities does not offer conditions suitable for studies. They also invoked arguments in accordance with the world view of the then authorities, writing that it is difficult to supervise a large group of students and that it was one of the things that led to the anarchisation of the youth's life in the Second Republic.

They also argued for leaving behind the higher education "elitism" of the sanation era and emphasised the fact that Warsaw in 1945 was in ruin and – according to the document's authors – would be unsuitable for organising spaces for students for many years to come. They believed that creating a university in the Kielce voivodship, in Radom to be exact, would help the industrialisation of the region as well, which the new government cared about so much. The voivodship was decidedly a rural region in 1945. A school of economics would educate specialised workers in trade, industry, etc.

During the talks of the organisational committee representatives with the authorities in Warsaw, it was hopefully assumed that the first academic year at the university would be as early as 1945. Unfortunately, the optimism of the Radom scientists

proved to be premature. At the organisational committee meeting on October 14th, attended by representatives of Radom community as well, Stanisław Piątowski, MA, announced that the Ministry of Education declined the proposition. According to the Varsovian authorities, schools with similar specialisations already existed in the capital and Lodz. However, the Ministry suggested that a legal-administrative school for lawyers with middle level qualifications could be established in Radom. *Mała matura* (lit. small maturation exam, similar to the British General Certificate of Secondary Education) was prerequisite to attending such a school. However, Radom inhabitants did not appreciate the ministerial proposition as much as the one from IN-S (Zwolski, 1975, pp. 27–59).

The presence and activity of many excellent scholars in our city and a simultaneous enormous demand of local industrial plants contributed to the creation of appropriate climate necessary for a decision to found a university. *Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów Mechaników Polskich* (further: the SIMP) (the Society of Polish Mechanic Engineers) played a considerable role in its opening. It was the SIMP which created a new model of teaching this type of staff, establishing the first vocational school of higher education, *Szkoła Inżynierska* (the Engineering School), with the permission of the Minister of Education in 1948. This school operated as a private entity, a part of the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations. *Komisja Organizacyjna Wieczorowej Szkoły Inżynierskiej* (the Organisational Committee of the Evening Engineering School) was created at the SIMP's initiative. The committee included: the president – Jerzy Dickman, M.Eng. (the director of *Zjednoczone Zakłady Wytwarzania Metalowych w Radomiu* – the United Metal Works in Radom), Bolesław Egiejman, Eng. (the principal of the State Industrial School – the later Technical School of Mechanical Engineering in Radom), Tadeusz Wichert, M. Eng and Eugeniusz Wasilewski, M. Eng. (famous teachers of technical education), as well as technical workers of the United Metal Works in Radom: Ludwik Kuberski, Eng., Edward Ruta, Eng. (the Polish Foundrymen's Association), Józef Adamski, Eng., Feliks Jastrzębski, and Bronisław Pająk, Eng. (Raczyńska, 2000, p. 23).

On 29 November 1949, the Radom branch of SIMP submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Education in Warsaw for the establishment of an Evening Engineering School in Radom. The project assumed the creation of one, Mechanical department with the following sections: precise mass production, casting, and construction, with specialisation during the last four semesters in all sections. Around 100 students were expected to be admitted for the first year. The candidates were required to hold the comprehensive or technical secondary school certificate and have at least 3 years of professional experience. The curriculum included a specialisation adjusted to the needs of local companies.

The Ministry of Education, in an order of January 13st, 1950, allowed for the establishment of the Engineering School of the Polish Foundrymen's Association in Radom in the 1950/51 academic year. It would teach students in the evenings.

On February 8th, 1850, the Organisational Committee of the Engineering School of the Polish Foundrymen's Association in Radom proposed to open a course preparing for university entrance exams on March 1st, 1950. The project included the organisation of a 6-month course training for entry examinations.

The preparatory course, comprised of three parallel grades, began on March 6th, 1950. Lectures (mathematics, physics, contemporary Poland issues) were held every day in the afternoon in the State Industrial Schools at 7 Kościuszki Street.

The Radom University was modelled after the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations' engineering schools already existing in Poland, in Warsaw, Białystok (Białystok), Gdansk-Wrzeszcz, Katowice, Wrocław (Wrocław), and Poznań (Poznań). Eugeniusz Wasilewski, M.Eng., became the first rector of the Radom university. The subsequent rectors were: Tadeusz Wichert, M.Eng., (1951–1955) and Mieczysław Pietrzykowski, M.Eng., (1955–1965).

The Higher School of Engineering in Radom (WSI) was already a school with branches in Skarżysko-Kamienna (Skarżysko-Kamienna), Pionki, and Kielce in the new 1951/52 academic year. A second branch of the Radom WSI, the Faculty of Chemistry, was opened in the same year in Pionki.

Kielecko-Radomska Wieczorowa Szkoła Inżynierska (the Kielce-Radom Evening School of Engineering) (the KR WSI) was established by an ordinance of the Council of Ministers of June 3rd, 1965. Docent Bronisław Ślusarczyk, PhD Eng., became its rector. The School of Engineering included the following faculties: General Technology in Kielce, Mechanical in Radom and Kielce, Electrical in Kielce, and non-local Faculty of Tanning in Radom.

An important stage in the KR WSI life happened in 1967, when the Kielce-Radom Evening School of Engineering was transformed into the Kielce-Radom Higher School of Engineering, pursuant to an ordinance of the Council of Ministers of May 5th, 1967. Classes were held during the day, in the evenings, and weekends from that year. A degree in transport was created in Radom in 1967, with the help of *Ministerstwo Komunikacji* (the Ministry of Transportation) and *Dyrekcja Okręgowa Kolei Państwowych w Lublinie* (the District Board of State Railways in Lublin). The Faculty of Transport was founded in May 1969. Docent Augustyn Chwaleba, PhD, became its dean.

The Faculty of Economics with the Kielce-Radom Higher School of Engineering was created on June 1st, 1969, pursuant to a decision of the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Higher Education. Docent Jerzy Więckowski, PhD, became its dean.

The day of October 1st, 1974 was another serious step in the school's development. The KR WSI was transformed into the Kielce University of Technology. Prof. Henryk Frąckiewicz, PhD Eng., became its rector.

A separate Higher School of Engineering (WSI) in Radom was created by an ordinance of March 31st, 1978. The patronage of Kazimierz Pułaski was bestowed

upon it by an ordinance of the Council of Ministers of September 7th, 1979. Prof. Michał Hebda, PhD Eng, was appointed rector.

The Company Committee of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity"'s proclamation of a sit-in on October 24th, 1981 was an important event for the university. It continued until the introduction of martial law, i.e. December 13st, 1981. This strike, the longest in Poland, became the centre coordinating academic strikes in the whole country. The direct causes of the strike were local conflicts. In time, increasing the autonomy of academic community and freedom in research became the goals of the Radom strike and of those coordinated by *Centrum Strajków Akademickich* (the Centre of Academic Strikes), functioning at the WSI in Radom.

After the introduction of martial law, many university employees lost their jobs, many were questioned, numerous were affected by repressive measures, some were interned. Following these events and Prof. Michał (Michał) Hebda's withdrawal from the position of rector, Prof. Jan Sajkiewicz, PhD Eng., performed this function from July 1982 until August 31st, 1985.

After he resigned, Prof. Jan Misiak, PhD Eng., chosen by the Senate, led the university from July 1st, 1985 to August 31st, 1993. During his term, new degrees were created and a new faculty was established. It was the Faculty of Teaching with three vocational (3-year) degrees: physics, mathematics, physical education. A 5-year Master's degree – technical education, was founded in 1992.

In 1993, two faculties, Mechanical and Economics, became authorised to grant doctoral degrees. The Faculty of Transport received that privilege in 1999. Prof. Wiesław Wasilewski, PhD, began directing the University on September 1st, 1993. He was chosen to be rector by the Senate for two consecutive terms.

During Rector Wasilewski's term, the university developed dynamically both when it comes to the number of students rising to over 10 000 and to the new degrees and types of studies. The following degrees were opened: artistic education, Master's degree in administration and transport, and Bachelor's degree in physical education.

The university's scientific development was accompanied by a rise in investments: the construction of a new Faculty of Economics by the university, the Ministry of National Education and the Radom borough began, the building of laboratories for the Faculty of Materials Science and Footwear Technology continued. Both the structures were finished in 1999.

Renaming was a very important matter for the university. Rector Wasilewski, together with the rectors of three other Higher Schools of Engineering (in Koszalin, Opole and Zielona Góra [Góra]) asked the minister of national education for a change of the name from Higher Schools of Engineering to Technical Universities. The request for the change was corrected, completed, and changed numerous times.

Ultimately, the Republic of Poland's Parliament changed the name of Kazimierz Pułaski School of Engineering in Radom to Kazimierz Pułaski Technical University of Radom by force of an act of July 4th, 1996. During the term of Prof. Wincenty Lotko, PhD Eng., the Faculty of Transport earned the right to grant doctoral degrees, the teaching staff developed in a dynamic way, unseen thus far in the history of the Technological University of Radom: 80 academic teachers became doctors, 23 were habilitated, 13 received the title of professor.

A very modern main hall for 600 persons was erected, chemistry laboratories were adapted to the needs of the Faculty of Materials Science and Footwear Technology, a thorough renovation of the main building of this Faculty was conducted, financial means for constructing the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering were acquired, and 2.5 ha of land was received for this investment. A whole complex of buildings were commissioned and given to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, administrative buildings, residential halls, student canteen and other buildings of the Faculty of Teaching and Transport were renovated, considerable funds for the construction of *Akademickie Centrum Sportowe* (the Student Sports Centre) were acquired. A state-of-the-art sports hall was built. The land and building at 9 Kazimierza Pułaskiego Street were obtained. Cooperation with large foreign academic centres in the USA, Spain, Portugal, and Germany developed significantly. During Lotko's term, a well-developing academic choir was created, the sports sections of *Akademicki Związek Sportowy* (the Student Sports Association), promoted to the first and second league, grew very dynamically, a quarterly magazine "Z życia Politechniki Radomskiej" ("Current events at the Technological University in Radom") began to be published.

Summary

The analysis of the vocational education development in Poland in the 20th century, conducted with Radom as an example, shows a direct connection between the local industrial dynamics and the evolution of educational structures. Radom, as a centre with a high industrial and administrative potential, became a place of intense development of vocational education institutions. Not only did they meet the job market demands, but also reflected the political, economic and social changes in our country.

The article shows that the educational policies introduced on the national level were implemented very intensely and successfully in Radom. This was evident in, among others, the number and diversity of educational institutions, their specialisations and an extensive cooperation with the industrial milieu. Both the Second Republic and People's Republic of Poland periods brought intensification of vocational training. Its peak was during the decade of post-war industrialisation.

The post-1989 systemic transformation, despite the introduction of mechanisms adjusting to the market, resulted in a vocational educational system's crisis. It especially manifested itself in the decrease of the number of students and facilities,

and the weakening of the connections with workplaces. In spite of these difficulties, Radom still constitutes an important example of a local adaptation of educational policies and the model of vocational education strongly connected with local social and economic conditions. The gathered source material proves that the vocational education in the 20th century performed not only the function of training staff, but also played an important role of integrating local community and supporting the social development of the region. The Radom case study demonstrates the importance of maintaining a balance between the needs of the job market, national policy and the potential of the local environment for the effectiveness of this education segment.

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