



Company history – the beginnings

Changes in the company's image

Dear Sirs,



Marek PODGRODZKI
President of the
Management Board

The topics of the first two issues of our company newsletter were dedicated to the present day and the future of our Plant.

In turn, in this issue, our intention is to present some interesting moments from the past. And the past of the Plant is very abundant – it reaches back to 1838!

And so, next year, in 2013, we shall be celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding.

To honour this occasion we have decided to realize a first ever in the Plant's history, objective and most comprehensive possible monograph of the Plant, and to commemorate the people who had formed it, built, and developed.

We would also wish to create a "virtual museum" of METALPOL, in which, thanks to the Internet, it would be possible to surf and to browse all the historical materials to do with our Plant, which we have managed to collect.

We already have at our disposal a number of documents and souvenirs, nonetheless, I am convinced that many of the present and past Employees of the Plant possess documents or articles, which could enrich the knowledge about the Plant just

like the resources of the "virtual museum".

Henceforth, I would like to ask all of you to submit to Ms. Dorota SORDYL, secretarial office (phone no.: 33 864 18 01 ext. 105) any information you might have on documents and souvenirs relating to the Plant.

It is not our intention for you to give up these documents or articles, but just to let us scan them or make professional photographs of these, so that we could subsequently present them on the website of "METALPOL Virtual Museum".

If amongst your family there are people who have distinguished themselves for the Plant throughout its history, then, we would much appreciate to be able to say a few words about them. So please, let us know their story, photographs and souvenirs, and we shall present their profiles in the internet "Gallery of Personalities" and in the book monograph.

In this METALPOL INFO issue you shall find some pieces from the future Monograph of the Plant and the profiles of two people: professor Jerzy BUZEK (1874–1939) thanks to whom the Foundry survived in the early XX century and who subsequently was the champion of its splendour in the 1930s as well as

Edward BORSKI (1879–1949) – ironfounder, foundry foreman, and pipe foundry head.

I hope that the stories of the foundrymen and the documents speaking of the past, which, thanks to you, we shall be able to save from oblivion, shall mean that the past will be remembered and that we will be able to reconstruct the foundations, on which our present day and the future, are being built.

The story of the Plant shows that throughout its history the site was amongst the leading companies in the respective time periods: as one of the most modern ironworks in Poland of the late XIX century, one of the best foundries and a leading fittings producing plant in the years between the two World Wars, as well as a leading fittings manufacturer in the Soviet Block Comecon countries after World War II.

The tradition obliges us – and so the ambition of all of us together should be to do the same as our predecessors, and in many cases, also your ancestors, and this is to make our Plant again join the best foundries in Poland and in the Central Europe.

And this is which I am wishing to all of us as I am availing of this opportunity to pass on to you and to your families these best Easter greetings of joy, good health, plenty of spring optimism and every success.

Such were the beginnings...

(based on Leopold Schroötter's article "The Cięcina Parish Chronicle on the Erection of Ironworks in Węgierska Górką" – "GRONIE" quarterly, No. 3, July–September 1938) In the early XIX century the landowner of Węgierska Górką being part of the Żywiec region was the count Adam WIELOPOLSKI, the descendant of the count Jan Wielopolski, who acquired the Żywiec region in 1678.

Adam Wielopolski decided to erect ironworks using iron ore deposits found in the locality owned by him, and to avail of the ample resources of wood letting him produce charcoal necessary for technological process of melting, and to avail of the Sola river water – as a source of energy. At that time, in the Żywiec region iron ore used to be extracted by open-cast methods in some 17 places.

The plans envisaged the building of a "hamr" in Węgierska Górką area (from the German Hammerwerk – ironworks consisting of a single or several puddling furnaces processing blast furnace pig iron into malleable iron, which used to be forged into iron in forms of rods, bars and strips, with the use of water hammers), with two blast furnaces to go with

it, the production of which was to reach even 2,500 to 3,000 tons of pig iron per annum.

The beginnings were difficult, as the local peasants disbelieved in the liquidity of Adam Wielopolski and did not wish to carry in the stones necessary for constructing blast furnaces. The contemporary priest, the parish-priest of the Cięcina parish – Józef Olesiak offered to be a guarantor of liquidity to stone suppliers and an agreement with three farmers – Józef Gawet, Michał Niewiadomy and Józef Gałuszek was struck on 15 January 1838. These farmers obliged themselves to carry for a trial one cubic cord of stone each (one cubic cord was worth of 14 well loaded carts) for which they were to obtain two Rheine zlotys in silver. The trial turned out to be convincing and other farmers joined the three first ones. Until 10 April 1838 Cięcina village supplied 89 cubic cords of stone, Wieprz 9, Juszczyna – 4, Bystra – 10, Brzuśnik – 4, Cisiec – 9, Milówka – 1, Radziechowy – 4. All together there were supplied some 130 cubic cords of stone.

In April 1838 an agreement was struck between the count Adam Wielopolski and the brothers Antoni and Edward Homolacs (the landowners of Kuźnice near

Zakopane), for the construction of ironworks on the spot of farm in Węgierska Górką, and on 4 September of that same year Regional Mining Court at Wieliczka, acting in representation of the Court Chamber for the Monetary and Mining Issues in Vienna issued concession for building two blast furnaces.

On 15 May 1838, in the presence of the count Adam Wielopolski together with his mother and spouse as well as many honourable visitors, there was celebrated a solemn Holy Mass, in the intention of factory construction, by the vicar Józef Olesiak together with priest Mikołaj Krzyżowski, the vicar of Radziechowy and priest Marcin Pająk, the Milówka vicar. Mr. Franciszek Kutschka, the hamr director, also participated in the celebration.

These are priest Olesiak's words describing the celebration: "After the service, all present there made their way to the place, where the undersigned in the assistance of the above mentioned clergy and people, consecrated the already earlier selected foundation, and then the corner stone. After the consecration, this very corner stone was put in with her own hands by the Countess Esq., the mother of the above mentioned



Year 1865 – the ironworks facilities with two blast furnaces (between the low and high building).

land's heir, accompanied by some mortar's shooting." Unfortunately, it was not to be given to the count Adam Wielowiejski to see the ironworks in operation.

Priest Olesiak wrote about this as follows:

"On the night 16/17 of October 1838 the Soła river flooded the dam made for hamr, taking it away completely with it downstream. The damage is more than 8 thousand of Rheine zlotys in silver. The sluggishness of the governor Franciszek Kutscha, the hamr director, was the reason, as he listened to the advices given by his secretary Alojzy Jan Thom – as was the imprudence of Adam Wielopolski, the heir, who was revelling in Vienna.

On 6 November 1838 Adam in a state of despair sold the land to the Archduke Charles (of Habsburg). And on 7 December 1838 he died in Lwów."

The Archduke Charles of Habsburg vigorously continued the started off works, and on 14 July 1844, Mass was celebrated in the intention of the newly made hamr, described by priest Olesiak as follows:

"On 14 July a solemn Mass was celebrated in the intention of the newly made hamr, after which I made my way to Górká to consecrate the very hamr in the assistance of my priest, many officials, craftsmen and multitude of people, and dressed in surplice, stole and cope, having placed a cross on the clothed table – by which stood the boys dressed accordingly with banners, one to the right, second one to the left, and the third one with a cauldron with consecrated water – first I started to consecrate Introit Porta Principalis (main entrance gate – author's note), then the entire annex, thirdly Carbones – the coals, fourthly – the fire, fifthly – Minerale, the so-called pig sow, sixthly – Rotas, the wheels, seventhly – Maleos, being the four hammers, eighthly – water, each of these was consecrated on its own with the holy water."

Ludwik Hohenegger – the director of all the Archduke Charles of Habsburg's plants, Ludwik Ölwein – the director of the ironworks in Węgierska Górká, Józef Kelerman – the director of ore mines, as well as many

honourable visitors took part in the celebration. The second furnace was activated only in December 1852.

The furnaces were in operation for over 50 years. The last blast furnace was extinguished on 20 May 1905 ...

By the ironworks there was operating a separate Factory division – puddling furnace division, called the Hildegarda Ironworks, where on 2 fineries with forging hammers driven by water power there were forged billets of pig iron obtained in blast furnaces (pig sows) into malleable iron in bar form and tool iron destined for horse shoes, brakes, cart axes, sheets and other products like that.

Almost from the very start in the Plant there was also operating an iron foundry producing pots, mortars, cauldrons for washing clothes, fire place doors, weights and many other goods. This part of the ironworks was named after Charles Frederick.

Because of the demand for iron pipes, in 1860 a pipe foundry was put into operation – the so-called "pipe plant" producing modern pipes, first of all, using the horizontal casting method, and then, since 1877, vertical casting method.

At that time, the plant was generally regarded as one of the best in Poland, and even throughout Europe.

More information on the beginnings of the Ironworks and the Foundry in Węgierska Górká you shall find in the currently prepared Plant's Monograph, which will be published in 2013.



Jerzy BUZEK
(1874-1939)
Prof. Academy
Mining and Metallurgy
in Cracow,
prominent casting
theoretician, in
1911 – 1939 Managing
Director Casting Plant
in Węgierska Gorka.



In the foreground – dry distillation of wood plant, and in the background – the iron foundry. Year 1914.

He was born on 27 March 1874 in Końska near Trzyniec (the present day Czech Republic), as the son of Andrew – a farmer, and Maria of Kajzar.

He finished a local rural school, then departmental school, and German secondary college in Cieszyn. He studied at the Mining Academy in Loeben, where he obtained engineer's diploma in mining and metallurgy. Since 1940 he conducted scientific works in the area of iron foundry engineering.

He published his findings in Polish and German magazines, such as: Przegląd Techniczny, Przegląd Górniczo-Hutniczy, Przemysł Metalowy, Gaz i Woda, Hutnik, Stahl und Eisen.

Since 1899 he worked as an engineer in Zakłady Hutnicze in Trzyniec. In 1906 he was delegated to work in Węgierska Górká plant so as to evaluate its chances for activity continual after blast furnace extinguishing. The verdict was a positive one as he recommended the development of pipes and fittings production. This recommendation resulted in the shifting in the years 1908-1909 from Trzyniec to Węgierska Górká of some modern machinery for pipe production, and in particular, of two mills for casting pipes with

diameters from 40 to 100 mm in the Wasserralfingen system – which were called by the workers as "obyrtoks".

In 1911 Jerzy BUZEK was nominated Director of the Iron Foundry in Węgierska Górk. He submitted to the Board of the Cieszyn Chamber in Vienna its development plan and obtained investment funds. As part of the investment project in 1912 there was constructed a concrete dam on the river Soła, the entire plant was electrified and modernized, and in 1913 there was installed a new foundry for producing pipes with diameters from 80 to 300 mm and up to 5 m in length in the Ardelt system.

In 1923, after separating the plant from the Austrian concern with its seat in Trzyniec and after the erection of the Polish company under the name of "Węgierska Górk" Górnicza i Hutnicza Spółka Akcyjna with its seat in Kraków – he assumed the position of the company General Director.

Throughout his entire spell at Węgierska Górk he modernized the foundry and the fittings production and machining division, to the effect that by the late 30s of the XX century the plant became one of the most modern in Europe. In 1929, the plant saw the casting of the then biggest pipe in the world having the length of 5m and the diameter of 1.2m.

Professor Buzek was also an outstanding foundry engineering theorist. The works carried out by him in the years 1908–1910, on the theory of melting in cupola-furnaces concerned the relation between the cupola-furnace efficiency and the consumption of coke as well as the quantity of blast and the air needed for burning 1 kg of coke. Jerzy Buzek derived a mathematical equation stating the most favourable blast quantity in the cupola-furnace process, which equalled approx. 100 Nm³/m² of transverse cross-section of cupola-furnace within one minute – the so-called "Buzek number". The results of his findings were published by him in the articles "The rules concerning the running and the construction of dome kilns", "The consumption of coke and the loss of raw material for mining kilns combustion", as well as "The quantity and the chemical composition of dome gasses" presented in Przegląd Górniczo-Hutniczy (1908 – 1909) and in the German magazine Stahl und Eisen. His works were highly regarded and became famous abroad. Jerzy Buzek was entrusted the preparation of two chapters to the famous 3 volume work Handbuch der Eisen – und Stahlgießerei edited by C. Geiger (Combustion – volume 1, 1911 and the cupola-furnace theory – volume 2, 1916). Since 1927 he was lecturer at the Metallurgy Department of the Mining and Metallurgy Academy in Kraków giving lectures on foundry engineering and blast furnace engineering. In 1934 he qualified as assistant professor with his work "The theoretical remarks on the construction and the running of foundry furnaces", which he presented in 1933 at the International Foundry Engineering Congress in Prague. In 1927 he assumed the position of lecturer of foundry engineering at the metallurgy department of the Mining and Metallurgy Academy in Kraków. In 1934 he was nominated to be member correspondent of the Polish Technical Sciences Academy. In 1935 he became full professor of ferrous metallurgy and foundry engineering at the Mining and Metallurgy Academy in Kraków. In 1938 he had a read out together with Mikołaj Czyżewski at the International

Foundry Engineering Congress in Warsaw with his paper on "The extent of dross of pig iron ingredients depending on the volume of charge pieces".

He was also a member of: Technical Sciences Academy, Industrialists Union Counsel in Kraków, the Standardization Committee at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as well as Counsellor of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Kraków.

Jerzy Buzek was a co-organizer of the Polish Union of Metal Industrialists, erected in order to tidy up the industry's organization. He was initiator of the founding of the GROD Foundry Engineering Group, which was to raise the level of foundry engineering in Poland, as well as co-organizer of the Technical Association of Polish Foundrymen in 1936.

His publication from 1929 in the Metal Industry Weekly titled "Polish Foundry Engineering" points to his in-depth knowledge of the economic aspects of



Commemorating plate in the honour of prof. Jerzy Buzek to be found in the foundry engineering building of the Mining and Metallurgy Academy in Kraków.

foundry engineering; it became a contribution to the economic development of foundry engineering in Poland between the two World Wars.

In 1931 he was awarded a Polonia Restituta Officer's Cross.

All together he published 64 scientific papers. He was a member of numerous social and economic organizations, inter alia, the founder and first chairman of the Association of Polish Foundrymen Technicians in Warsaw, the chairman of the Counsel of the Foundries' Union by the Polish Association of Metal Industrialists in Warsaw, member of the Standardization Committee by the Ministry of Industry.

Jerzy Buzek was highly committed social and self-government activist. In the years 1923–24 he was

councillor of the Cięcina Commune, and in the years 1925–1927, he was its Head (Governor). He was also co-founder (in 1919) and a perennial chairman of the Circle of Rural School Association (TSL) in Żywiec and member of TSL's Central Management. Out of his initiative the TSL Circle in Węgierska Górk founded the aid fund for educating the sons of farmers as well as the erection fund for rural culture house.

In 1905 he married Helena Leopoldyna Gryglewicz, with whom he had two sons: Andrzej and Jerzy.

Throughout the 28 years of his work at the Foundry he lived together with his family in Węgierska Górk and took active part in the life of the Evangelical Parish, having a major contribution in the influence of the Evangelical community on the community of Węgierska Górk and the entire Żywiec Region.

He died on 9 February 1939 in Węgierska Górk, and after an honourable farewell that was organized for him by the local community, he was buried at the communal cemetery in Cieszyn, Katowicka Street.

The article has been prepared with recourse to the information from www.cesa.project.eu and to the article "The Settlement of the Evangelical Families in Western Galicia in the XIX century" published on the website of the Evangelical-Augsburg Parish in Biata – www.biala.luteranie.pl



Edward BORSKI (1879–1949)
– iron founder,
foundry foreman,
pipe foundry head.

He was born in Węgierska Górk on 22 November 1879, as son of Jerzy, ironfounder, and Franciszka of Lind family, having many siblings.

He finished Local Rural School in Węgierska Górk, after which he started moulder – ironfounder apprenticeship at the Węgierska Górk ironworks. In 1897 he commenced his professional work at the ironworks and through diligent work he achieved some notable mastery in his profession.

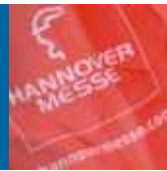
On 17 September 1904 he married Emilia of Drozd family (the eldest sister of Jan and Karol) with whom he had the sons: Jan (1905) and Gustaw (1909).

In 1918 director engineer Jerzy Buzek delegates to him the position of a foreman, and later on that of pipe foundry (the so-called pipe plant) head. His honest approach to work and enormous technical knowledge made Edward Borski one of prof. Jerzy Buzek's friends until his death in 1939.

Edward Borski was co-founder of the Voluntary Fire Brigade in Cięcina (1901) and its Chief in the years to come.

In 1919 he was the initiator and founding member of the Circle of Rural School Association in Węgierska Górk.

He died in Cięcina on 12 June 1949.

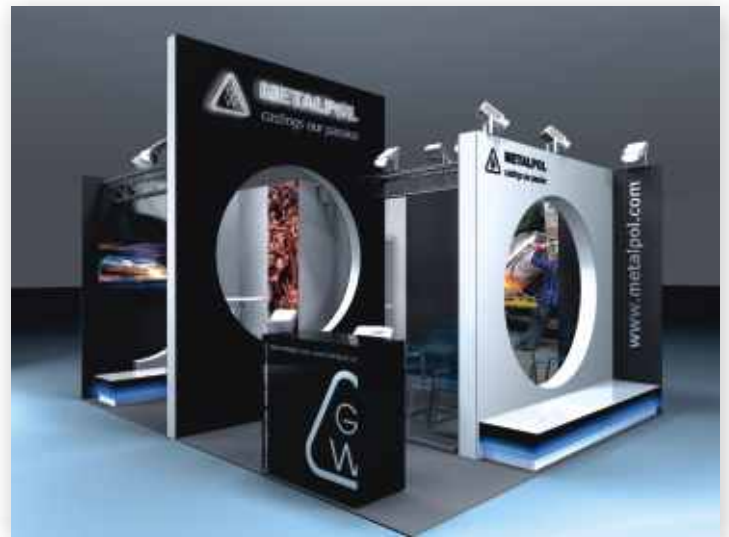


Dear Sirs,

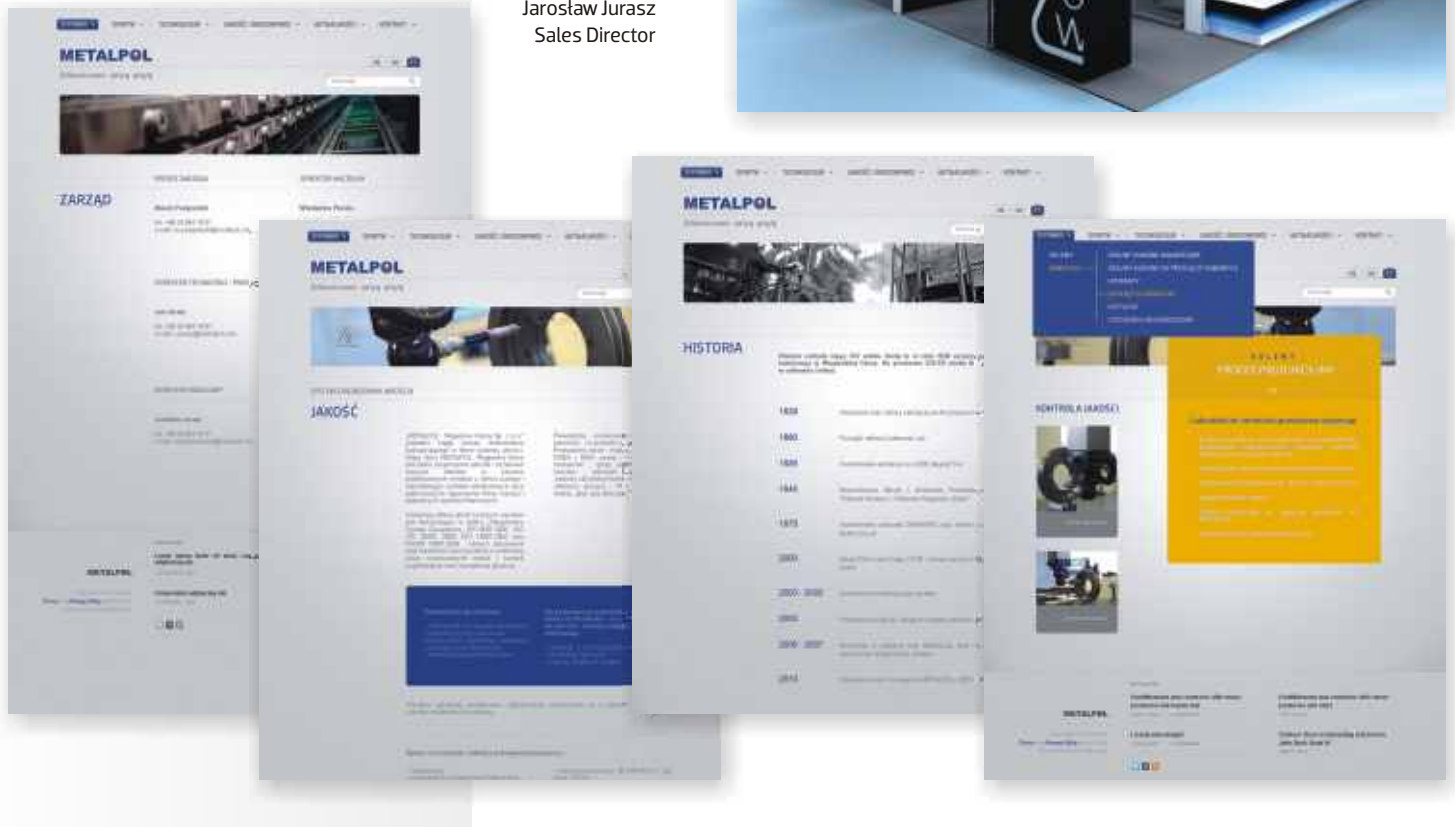
Our Company is changing. And so is its image. Below we present the visualisation of our new fair stand. We shall officially present it at the Industrial Fair in Hannover, 23.04 – 27.04.2012. During these days we also plan to activate our new Company website. You are welcome to visit our website at the address: www.metalpol.com

You are most welcome to visit our company stand during the Industrial Fair Hannover Messe 2012, 23.04 – 27.04.2012. You shall find us in Hall No. 3, stand A48.

http://www.hannovermesse.de/aussteller/metalpol-wegierska-gorka/Z118221?source=dl_prev



Jarosław Jurasz
Sales Director



The best of Easter greetings, plenty of good health, joy, spring optimism and every success

wishes you the METALPOL's Management Team

