# The Polish Mathematical Society (PTM)

Janusz Kowalski (Warsaw)

PTM in the early years

The Polish Mathematical Society was established in 1919. The Reader can find information regarding the circumstances of its rise, as well as a description of its activity during the first year of its existence, in an article by Józef Piórek in the *European Mathematical Society Newsletter* ([4]). Stefan Banach, Franciszek Leja, Otto Nikodym, Stanisław Zaremba and Kazimierz Żorawski were among its founder members, and Stanisław Zaremba was elected as the President of the Society. In 1921, the Mathematical Society in Cracow (*Towarzystwo Matematyczne w Krakowie*) was transformed into a national Polish Mathematical Society (*Polskie Towarzystwo Matematyczne*; PTM) with its headquarters in Kraków (Cracow).

According to its first statute, the
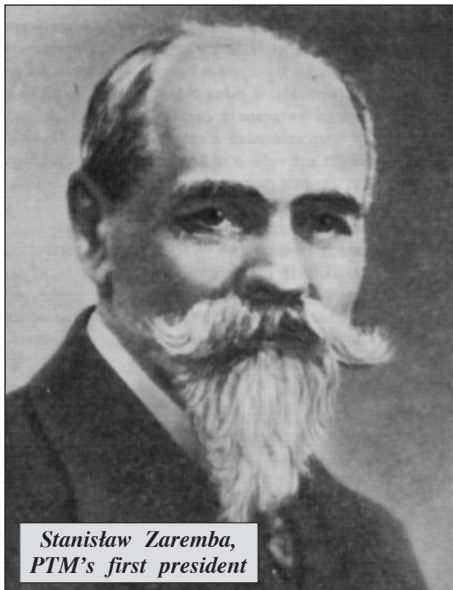
Stanisław Zaremba, PTM's first president

Society's aim was "a comprehensive cultivation of pure and applied mathematics by means of scientific sessions combined with lectures". The first change to the statute - still in 1921 - resulted in the following insertion: "publication of a periodical and maintenance of contacts with the mathematical scientific movement".

Members not residing in Cracow were admitted to PTM through local sections. Within the period 1921-1939, the following sections existed: one in Lwów (Lvov), since 1921, and three others since 1923 in Warszawa (Warsaw), Poznań and Wilno (Vilnius). Since 1937, mathematicians from Cracow have constituted part of the Cracow section (after the Society's

headquarters had been moved to Warsaw and its statute changed).

The number of members of the Polish Mathematical Society equaled 49 persons in 1921 and 155 persons in 1939. The Society was of a scientific character, as stated in the statute, where active and passive voting powers were given exclusively to authors of mathematical publications. A new statute, resolved in Lvov in 1936, established a federal organization of five sections with its headquarters in Warsaw. The General Meeting of PTM, which included delegates from all sections and the President of PTM, elected a president, a secretary and a treasurer - all of them constituting the General Management - as well as a Board of Control. The General Management also automatically included the presidents of the sections, who held titles of "vice-presidents of PTM". Sections held local meetings, where local General Management members were elected as well as those of local boards of control and delegates to the General Meeting of PTM. The aforementioned statute of 1936 substantially extended the aims of PTM.

Stefan Banach, elected president in 1939

Apart from those adopted before, new ones were added, among others to organize competitions, to gather collections of publications, to improve work conditions for mathematicians, to maintain contacts with scientific institutions both within the country and abroad and to invite mathematicians from abroad to give lectures. The basic rules under this statute have been in force until present times.

Until 1936, when a Council for Exact and Applied Science (Rada Nauk Ścisłych i Stosowanych) and its organ called the Mathematical Committee were

called into being by the government, the Polish Mathematical Society had been the only central institution representing Polish mathematics at home and abroad. Apart from assemblies of Polish mathematicians organized by this right, PTM was in contact with public institutions, voiced opinions on subjects related to science and education and issued its own periodical - "Annales de la Société Polonaise de Mathématique" - distributed nationally and internationally.

The post war years

In the years 1919-39, the time when the famous Polish mathematical school was established, Polish mathematics was a great success and met with a high esteem on the international forum. During the Second World War, when Poland fell under occupation, all official activity of the Polish Mathematical Society came to a standstill; only clandestine scientific sessions were held in Cracow and in Warsaw.

The second period of PTM's activity involves the years 1945-53, when Kazimierz Kuratowski acted as President. In 1945 the Cracow section was reactivated and in 1946 sections in Poznań and Warsaw started to operate again. Within the period 1946-53, six new sections were established. The number of members of PTM grew from 144 persons in 1946 to 339 in 1953.

During the first years of the post-war period, the Polish Mathematical Society was, similarly to the situation before 1936, the only institution actively covering the whole range of issues related to Polish mathematics. As such, it cooperated with Polish authorities on the reconstruction of the 3rd level education system (among others, it prepared a reform regarding mathematical studies and M.Sc. degrees in mathematics). PTM also cooperated on a regular basis with the Ministry of Education as well as other educational authorities, being a founding body of the first Olympic Games for sec-

ondary school students in the country, i.e. the Mathematical Olympic Games. The Society was also an initiator of research work and systematically convened scien-

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Kazimierz Kuratowski

tific sessions. Within the years 1946-49, four assemblies of Polish mathematicians took place, the last one together with Czechoslovak counterparts. At the same time, annual competitions for the best works within the field of mathematics were organized. Editorial activities were launched by PTM as early as in 1945, when the 18th volume of "Annales de la Société Polonaise de Mathématique" was published.

In 1948, the National Mathematical Institute (Państwowy Instytut Matematyczny) was established. That meant that PTM ceased to be the only central mathematical institution; therefore its activity started to be gradually limited to the profit of the Institute. After the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Nauk) had been called into being in 1952 (the National Mathematical Institute becoming a part of it after being renamed to: Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences - Instytut Matematyczny PAN), a third national mathematical institution came into being: the National Mathematical Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Komitet Nauk Matematycznych PAN). Statutory tasks of the Mathematical Institute covered many fields, previously being within the scope of activity of the Polish Mathematical Society. In bigger scientific centres, numerous specialist seminars were established and, as a consequence, scientific sessions of PTM lost much of their appeal.

However, there still existed important scientific and social projects, which could only be carried out within the frame of a national scientific society that would assemble all scientific and didactic employees from within one field. A clear indication of this was a spontaneous establishment of PTM's new sections in cities and towns where new scientific and academic centres emerged. These were

the sections in Toruń, Katowice and Szczecin - established in the years 1952-55 - and those in Białystok, Rzeszów, Słupsk, Częstochowa, Kielce, Olsztyn, Opole, Nowy Sącz and Zielona Góra - established in the years 1970-75. The saturation of big national scientific centres with specialist seminars made it necessary to do research work within a much wider scope that might be of interest to all mathematicians. There was also a need to hold a council dedicated to social and organizational issues. This type of activity was conducted by successive sections, as well as by the General Management of PTM, during section meetings, councils, conferences and assemblies of Polish mathematicians. The Polish Mathematical Society also fulfilled important tasks within the scope of cooperation with the educational authorities, and introduced new forms of teaching young people with a talent for mathematics. It also cooperated with foreign mathematical centers and initiated new publications. An aspect of significant value was PTM's help to newly established sections, effectuated mainly through delegating lecturers.

At the end of the 1960s, the Polish Mathematical Society got involved in a campaign to establish a new profession for mathematicians working within various branches of science, economy and state administration. This problem was the focus subject for the 10th Assembly of Polish Mathematicians - organized in Katowice in 1970, together with the National Mathematical Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. This Assembly, being the largest one in PTM's history as far as the number of participants is concerned (547), formulated new assignments for the Polish Mathematical Society and desiderata addressed to other institutions as well as a definite activity program. In this way, PTM managed to be a focal point for the majority of mathematicians working in various branches of economy. Members of the Polish Mathematical Society are employees of institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as educational centers such as various types of 3rd level education schools (including technical, pedagogic, economic, medical and agricultural ones), various teaching colleges and secondary schools.

Financial resources are derived from membership fees, subsidies granted by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Information Technology and by the Ministry of National Education and Sport.

According to the provisions of the first statute, PTM was supposed to "comprehensively cultivate pure and applied mathematics", but in practice was confined to "scientific sessions combined with lectures". A change in PTM's pro-

file to a Society involved in large-scale scientific and social activity, became reflected in the development of various organizational structures, created within the Society's frame to fulfill defined assignments. By the end of 1975, six committees operated under the supervision of PTM's General Management: the Committee for Popularization of Mathematics and Higher Education, the Committee for Mathematics at Universities, the Committee for School Handbooks, the Committee for Application of Mathematics, the Committee for Publication and the Committee for an Information and Service Centre. Apart from these, there was a Main Committee for Mathematical Olympiads, which operated together with its local committees, seven editorial committees, one editorial board and four competition jury boards. Analogous teams operated under the supervision of local General Managements.

Roman Sikorski, who in the years 1953-75 impacted PTM's activity and development the most, was the Society's President between 1965 and 1977. Another important character in those years was Tadeusz Iwiński, Secretary in the years 1960-1981.

Conferences and Assemblies

Since the very beginning of PTM's existence, scientific lectures and discussions during local meetings, conferences and assemblies have been the basic form of activity. In the years 1919-39, as many

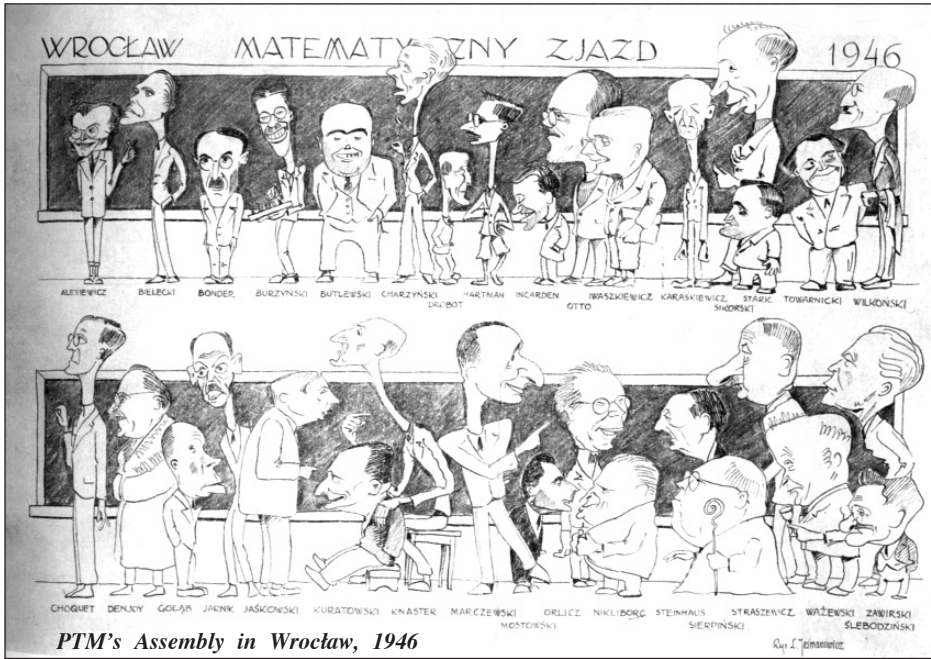*Roman Sikorski,*
PTM's president 1965 – 1977

as 1143 lectures were given, while in the period of 1949-75, the corresponding number was 5998 (there are no data covering the period of 1945-48). During the period between 1976 and 2003, as many as 3860 lectures were given. It is worth mentioning that members of other sec-

tions and mathematicians from abroad constituted a significant part of all lecturers. Foreign lecturers represented over

debates of the General Meeting of PTM, constitute the key elements of PTM's assembly. Forty sessions were held before

over all these publications, including PTM's official organ "Annales de la Société Polonaise de Mathematique", which was then renamed to "Annales Polonici Mathematici".

The Polish Mathematical Society started a new phase of publishing activity in

PTM's Assembly in Wrocław, 1946

"Functions of a Complex Variable"

40 countries from all over the world.

The Polish Mathematical Society has so far organized 15 assemblies of Polish mathematicians (including 3 in the interwar period), which usually take place every 5 years; in the remaining years, regular PTM meetings have been held. In 1929, PTM organized the First Congress of Mathematicians of the Slavic Countries. The assemblies are of scientific character. Their programmes involve lectures and reports of mathematical substance: cross-thematically during plenary meetings and those of a more specialized character during meetings in sections.
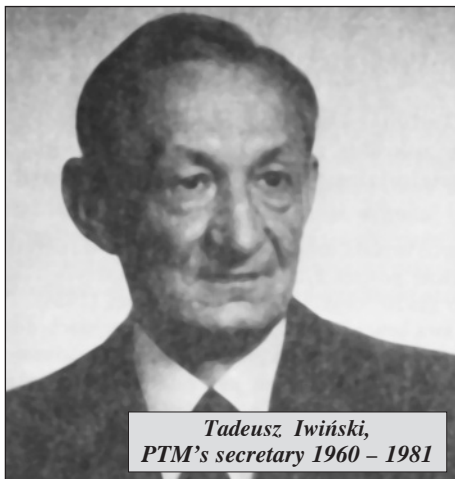
*Tadeusz Iwiński,
PTM's secretary 1960 – 1981*

These assemblies create an opportunity to ponder on more general issues regarding science, the system of education and social matters. These issues could even be a motive to convene a meeting (e.g. in the years 1969, 1970 and 1972).

Since 1962 the Polish Mathematical Society has been organizing 2- to 4-day-long scientific sessions that, together with

2004, which were dedicated to a general overview of selected issues related to contemporary mathematics, being of interest to all mathematicians. The thematic content of scientific sessions held in the years 1999-2002 embraced an overview of the most significant achievements in mathematics throughout the 20th century.

Publications
The publication of periodicals has been the second basic form of activity of the Polish Mathematical Society. In 1921, an organ of PTM entitled "Dissertations of the Polish Mathematical Society" was called into being, and one year later it was changed into a periodical named "Annales de la Société Polonaise de Mathematique". 25 volumes of this periodical were issued during the period 1922-52. In the years 1948-53, PTM started publishing other periodicals: a bimonthly for teachers entitled "Mathematics" ("Matematyka"), launched by PTM in 1948 but taken over by the Ministry of Education in 1953, and a series called "Mathematical Library" ("Biblioteka Matematyczna"), 1953. Apart from the ones mentioned above, the following titles were also published: "Fundamenta Mathematicae", "Studia Mathematicae", "Colloquium Mathematicum", "Mathematical Monographs" and "Mathematical Dissertations" (since 1952). In the years 1948-53, PTM supervised - by the order of the Ministry of Education - all Polish mathematical publications.

In 1953 the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences took

1955, when the first of each of two series of "PTM's Annals" were issued. Series 1: "Mathematical Papers" ("Prace Matematyczne"), which became "Commentationes Mathematicae" in 1967, published 43 volumes up to the year 2003. Series 2: "Mathematical News" ("Wiadomości Matematyczne") published

Wiadomósci Matematyczne
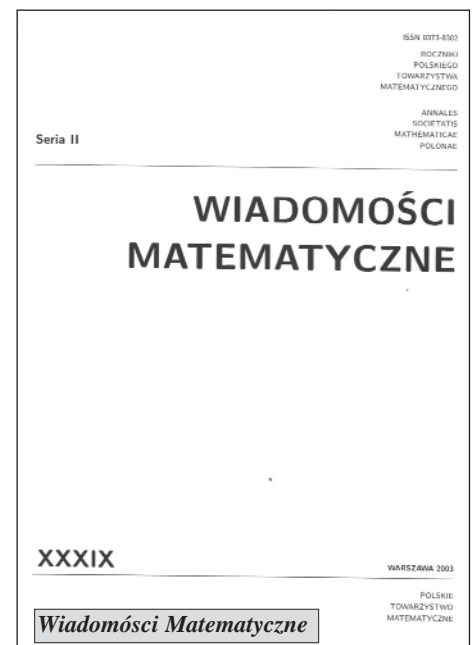
39 volumes up to the year 2003. In 1973, Series 3 was launched entitled "Applied Mathematics", which became "Applied Mathematics. Mathematics for the Society" in 2000, with 45 volumes published up to the year 2003. In 1977, Series 4 was launched, "Fundamenta

Informaticae", publishing 56 volumes up to the year 2003. Finally, in 1982 Series 5 was launched, "Didactics of Mathematics" ("Dydaktyka Matematyki"); 25 volumes were published up to the


Delta

year 2003.

Since 1971, PTM has been distributing among its members an "Information Bulletin of the Polish Mathematical Society", which includes current news regarding scientific and organizational issues. At first it was published several times per year, but later this frequency diminished. After a two-year break (2000-2001) its publication was relaunched and continued on a more regular basis. Since 1974, further to an initiative of the Polish Mathematical and Physical Societies, a popular mathematical/physical monthly, entitled "Delta", has been published. The thematic scope of this publication was extended in 1979 by issues regarding astronomy. For more information about "Delta", see [4]. Two other periodicals are published with PTM's cooperation: "Mathematics" (a periodical for teachers) and "Gradient" (a periodical for teachers, pupils and their parents).

Competitions and prizes
The Polish Mathematical Society is also busy with organizing competitions and awarding prizes. There are two competitions open for entry to all Polish mathematicians, one for young mathematicians under 28 years of age and three for university students. Special PTM prizes have been set up, named after outstanding Polish mathematicians: Grand Prizes for scientific achievements (named after Stefan Banach, Stefan Mazurkiewicz, Stanisław Zaremba, Wacław Sierpiński, Tadeusz Ważewski, and Zygmunt Janiszewski); for achievements in the

field of applied mathematics and practical elaborations (named after Hugo Steinhaus and Wacław Pogorzelski); final-

Hugo Steinhaus
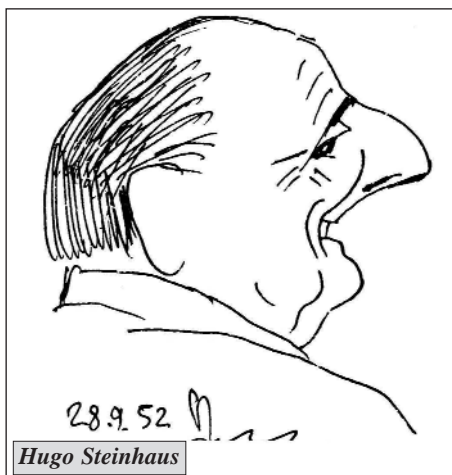
ly, for achievements for the benefit of mathematical culture (named after Samuel Dickstein). PTM Prizes for young mathematicians have also been set up. The Toruń Section organizes the "Józef Marcinkiewicz Competition" for the best

Wacław Sierpiński
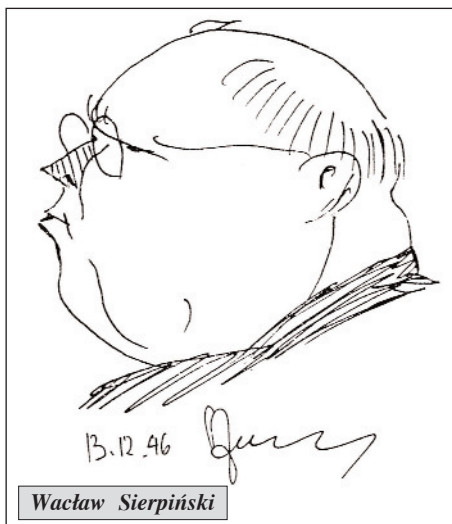
student's paper, the Wrocław Section does similarly for the best student's paper in the field of probability theory and mathematical applications, and the editorial board of "Didactics of Mathematics" organizes the "Anna Zofia Krygowska Competition" for the best student's paper in the field of didactics of mathematics. The Polish Mathematical Society is also involved in organizing and supervising competitions for prizes named after Kazimierz Kuratowski, Stanisław Mazur and Władysław Orlicz. It also takes part in carrying into effect the idea of lectures which are awarded with the "Wacław Sierpiński medal". On the whole, 836 prizes and 25 medals have been awarded so far.

The Polish Mathematical Society is a patron of activity aimed at bringing to light pupils with a talent in mathematics. This activity takes the form of a competition for schoolchildren's mathematical

papers, organized by the editorial board of "Delta" monthly. This competition's finals take place during the annual Scientific Session of the Polish Mathematical Society. In the period 1976-2004, nearly one hundred schoolchildren were awarded with prizes and distinctions. First of all, they were from comprehensive secondary schools in big cities; however, among them there were also some pupils from secondary vocational schools in smaller towns.

Committees
In order to carry out its statutory tasks, PTM brings into being specialized committees. In 1953 a Committee for Popularization of Mathematics and in 1958 a Committee for Secondary Education were called into being by the General Management of the Polish Mathematical Society. In the period 1959-61, a subcommittee for a reform of programmes and teaching methods worked out projects and drafts regarding some school handbooks. This programme was introduced to schools with minor amendments and PTM cooperated with the Ministry of Education in its being carried out. In 1968 a Committee for School Handbooks was called into being to organize debates in working teams (in the period 1968-71), publish articles, deliver relevant materials to authors, and prepare reviews of handbooks (including organized debates over them). The Committees for Secondary and Primary Education and for Popularization of Mathematics worked within three spheres: scientific activity (focusing on the most recent results of scientific research related to didactics of mathematics), analysis of documents and cooperation in their being elaborated (legal acts and instructions concerning educational policy), and working out methods of modernizing the process of teaching mathematics as well as preparing the mathematics teachers for new tasks.

The Committees for Secondary and Primary Education and for Popularization of Mathematics, in cooperation with the Association of Teachers of Mathematics, organized, among others, a national scientific seminar devoted to didactics of mathematics. During this seminar, some proposals of methodical and didactic solutions were put forward which concerned various levels of education in relation to mathematics. Special attention was paid by the Committee to the role of mathematics at the "matura" examination (i.e. the final high school examination). This was exemplified by the "Open letter by the Polish Mathematical Society", accepted by PTM's General Meeting in Lublin in 1992 (published in numerous dailies and weeklies).

In 1962 the Polish Mathematical Society called into being a Committee for University Education which worked in two teams: one dedicated to non-university schools and one dedicated to universities and pedagogic schools. These teams embraced among other activities: a reform of the course and the programmes of studies (1964-67), educating mathematicians at technical schools (1962-65), the inter-school exchange of students and candidates for a doctor's degree, methods of educating future mathematicians, assessment of experimental programs, modernization of teaching methods, and education by the media. In the following years, smaller specialised committees emerged from this Committee.

In 1993, the Committee of Mathematics at Universities, Pedagogical Academies and Teaching Colleges, together with its counterparts in the Polish Physical, Chemical and Biological Societies, handed to the Ministry of Education a "Memorial regarding education within the scope of non-major basic subjects at tertiary-level schools". The Committee analyzed the phenomenon of intensified diversification of programmes related to teaching mathematical subjects in mathematical faculties at individual universities.

On the initiative of the Committee of Mathematics at Technical Universities, tests were conducted in 1995 to verify the level of mathematical knowledge of 1st year students at several technical tertiary schools. The results, which turned out to be somewhat alarming, were passed on to educational authorities and made public. Following this, the Committee insisted that an entry examination in mathematics be compulsory at all technical tertiary schools until a compulsory "matura" examination in mathematics was introduced.

The Committee for Mathematics in Economic Studies was busy with problems related to "the New Matura" examination in mathematics and a "programme base" for mathematics in economic studies.

Since 1987, the Committee for the History of Mathematics, under the auspices of PTM's General Management and in cooperation with mathematical institutes of schools of higher education, has been organizing annual Schools of History of Mathematics. 18 such schools were organized until the year 2004.

During the PTM's assembly in 1970, a Committee for Application of Mathematics was established in response to the fact that many "non-academic" (working in various branches of economy) mathematicians had joined the Polish Mathematical Society. This obliged the Committee to organize (in cooperation with other institutions) annual Conferences of Application of Mathematics, where mathematical models applicable to specified practical issues were acquired and presented. 32 such conferences took place until the year 2003.

In 1972, an Information and Service Centre was set up. Up until the end of the 1980s, it was responsible for solving problems submitted by various scientific and economic institutions, acting as advisor and conducting training for groups of employees in their workplace. During PTM's scientific sessions, assemblies and conferences, problems from applied mathematics have been the subject of a much more detailed scrutiny now than in the past.

Popularization

The Polish Mathematical Society undertakes various types of actions to commemorate Polish mathematicians. Many streets in Cracow, Warsaw and Wrocław have been named, on PTM's initiative, after outstanding mathematicians: Stanisław Gołąb, Bronisław Knaster, Mirosław Krzyżański, Kazimierz Kuratowski, Franciszek Leja, Edward Marczewski, Zdzisław Opial, Witold Pogorzelski, Marian Rejewski, Wacław Sierpiński, Stefan Straszewicz, Jacek Szarski, Tadeusz Ważewski and Stanisław Zaremba.

Further to PTM's application, on 23rd November 1982 the Polish Post-Office issued four stamps in a "Polish mathematicians" series with portraits of Stefan Banach, Zygmunt Janiszewski, Wacław Sierpiński and Stanisław Zaremba. On the initiative of PTM's Cracow Section, a monument dedicated to Stefan Banach was erected, to be unveiled with due ceremony on 30th August 1999 during the XV Assembly of Polish Mathematicians.

The Polish Mathematical Society carries on its activities in the school environment. It organizes lectures for teachers and schoolchildren, as well as the general public. 3637 such lectures were given in the years 1952-2003. Since 1954, PTM has been managing inter-school mathematical circles and competitions for talented pupils. 1100 such forms of work have been recorded so far.

Occasionally, other forms of popularization of mathematical knowledge are used: scientific camps for young people, distance learning studies (delivery of source materials and assignments to students and sending back corrected assignments), and guidance units for schools' mathematical circles.

The Mathematical Olympic Games have been operating under the auspices of the Polish Mathematical Society. 55 Olympiads were held in the years 1949-2004: 81972 pupils took part in 1st degree competitions, 20718 in 2nd degree competitions and 3846 in 3rd degree competitions. The total number of laureates amounted to 817, and of those awarded with a distinction title, to 444. Since 1959, a 6-8 person delegation has been chosen to participate in international mathematical Olympiads. Three of such Olympiads were organized in Poland in 1963, 1972 and 1986. Since 1977,

Stefan Straszewicz, organiser of Mathematical Olympic Games
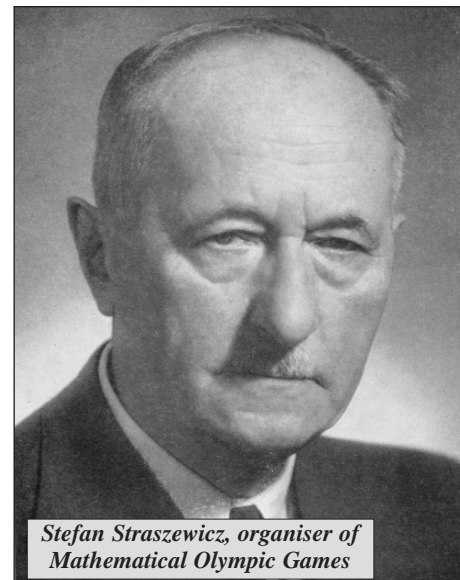
there has also been a 6-person delegation chosen to participate in the Polish-Austrian mathematical competitions, organized each year alternately in Poland and in Austria. Since 1992, a 5-person delegation has been chosen to participate in mathematical competitions of the Baltic States, organized by Poland in 1998.

Several mathematicians have been working on the organization of the Olympic Games. The first Chairman of the Main Committee was Stefan Straszewicz, one of the creators of the Mathematical Olympic Games, who held this position for 20 years (1949-1969).

The Toruń, Wrocław and Nowy Sącz sections, popularized among pupils and students, as well as among adults, the idea of participation in three international mathematical competitions: "Kangaroo", "International French Championship in Mathematical and Logical Games" and "Mathématiques sans Frontičres".

International Cooperation

The Polish Mathematical Society has been actively cooperating with the mathematical community abroad. Since the first years of PTM's existence, lectures have been organized to be given by foreign mathematicians at various occasions or at a special invitation to give a lecture in Poland. These lectures are given during scientific sessions in PTM's local sections, during PTM's conferences or assemblies. Nearly 2000 such lectures

were held in the years 1949-2003. The Polish Mathematical Society made agreements for an exchange with the following societies: Czechoslovak (1962), Bulgarian (1968), Hungarian (1973) and Greek (1980). Within this framework, in the years 1976-1990, 390 persons profited from the exchange program on both sides, spending both in Poland and in the other above mentioned countries a total of 2641 so-called "exchange days". In the case of Greece, such cooperation took place in the years 1980-1982.

Stanisław Zaremba, the President of the Mathematical Society with its seat in Cracow, represented Polish mathematics during the International Mathematical Congress, held in 1920 in Strasbourg. The International Mathematical Union (IMU) was established there by representatives from 11 countries: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Japan, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, United States of America, Great Britain and Italy. Among the members of the Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Union were Kazimierz Kuratowski (1959-1962), a patron of one of PTM's prizes, and Czesław Olech (1979-1982, 1983-1986). In the years 1963-66, K. Kuratowski acted as Vice-President of the Union.

The Polish Mathematical Society sent its own delegations to 4 international congresses organized by the International Mathematical Union (Stockholm in 1962, Moscow in 1966, Nice in 1970 and Helsinki in 1978), as well as to 16 scientific conferences in the years 1950-75. In 1983, Poland was the organizer of the International Mathematical Congress in Warsaw. Due to the Martial Law imposed in 1981, the Congress, initially planned to take place in 1982, could only take place as late as 1983. The Organizing Committee was presided by Czesław Olech, who was also elected President of the Congress.

The Polish Mathematical Society has also been cooperating with the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS) on the basis of a reciprocity agreement.

The Polish Mathematical Society is also one of the founder members of the European Mathematical Society (EMS), called into being in December 1990 during a meeting held in the Polish Academy of Sciences conference centre in Mądralin near Warsaw. EMS was established thanks to the initiative of about 30 mathematical societies representing nearly all European countries.

During the founding meeting, the Polish Mathematical Society was represented by Bogdan Bojarski (then director of the Mathematical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences) and Andrzej Pelczar, PTM's President in the years 1987-1991. One of EMS's first Vice-Presidents, elected for the term ending in 1992, was Czesław Olech. During the term 1992-96, Andrzej Pelczar acted as a member of the Executive Committee of EMS and later, in the years 1997-2000, as EMS's Vice-President. Another organ of EMS's authority is the Society's Council, where the Polish Mathematical Society holds a two-person representation. During the term 1999-2002, its representatives were Julian Musielak and Andrzej Pelczar. Kazimierz Goebel and Zbigniew Palka have been elected for the term 2002-2006.

This elaboration has been written on the basis of an article by Tadeusz Iwiński *[2]*

References
[1] *K.Ciesielski, Z.Pogoda,* Interview with Marek Kordos, *Newsletter of the European Mathematical Society* **41** (2001).
[2] *T.Iwiński,* Polskie Towarzystwo Matematyczne [The Polish Mathematical Society] *in:* Słownik polskich towarzystw naukowych [Dictionary of Polish scientific societies], *Warszawa 1975.*
[3] *T.Iwiński,* Ponad pół wieku działalności matematyków pol-

Honorary Members
In recognition for contributions to the development of mathematics, its being taught, applied and popularized, as well as in acknowledgement of devoted participation in PTM's activities, the Polish Mathematical Society confers the dignity of Honorary Member of PTM. The following mathematicians have been given this dignity so far: Paweł S. Aleksandrow, Donald W. Bushaw, Karol Borsuk, Zygmunt Butlewski, Zbigniew Ciesielski, Mieczysław Czyżykowski, Samuel Eilenberg, Pfl Erdős, Eugeniusz Fidelis, Stanisław Gołąb, Tadeusz W. Iwiński, Wiktor Jankowski, Leon Jeśmanowicz, Bronisław Knaster, Andriej N. Kołmogorow, Jan Kozicki, Anna Krygowska, Włodzimierz Krysicki, Kazimierz Kuratowski, Andrzej Lasota, Jean Leray, Franciszek Leja, Stanisław Łojasiewicz, Edward Marczewski, Stanisław Mazur, Jan Mikusiński, Julian Musielak, Jerzy Spława-Neyman, Witold Nowacki, Władysław Orlicz, Franciszek Otto, Aleksander Pełczyński, Helena Rasiowa, Marian Rejewski, Edward Sąsiada, Wacław Sierpiński, Hugo Steinhaus, Roman Sikorski, Stefan Straszewicz, Władysław Ślebodziński, Andrzej Turowicz, Eustachy Tarnawski, Kazimierz Urbanik, Antoni Wakulicz, Tadeusz Ważewski, Lech Włodarski, Zygmunt Zahorski, Antoni Zygmund.

PTM's presidents (1946 – 1977)
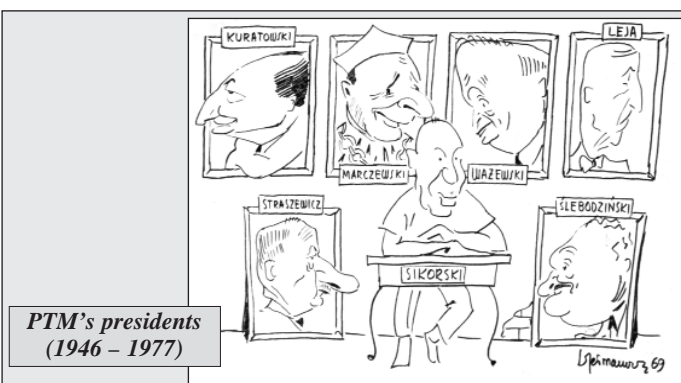
Presidents
The function of President of the Polish Mathematical Society was performed by: Stanisław Zaremba (1919-21, 1936-37), Wiktor Staniewicz (1921-23), Samuel Dickstein (1923-26), Zdzisław Krygowski (1926-28), Wacław Sierpiński (1928-30), Kazimierz Bartel (1930-32), Stefan Mazurkiewicz (1932-36, 1937-39), Stefan Banach (1939-45), Karol Borsuk (1946), Kazimierz Kuratowski (1946-53), Stefan Straszewicz (1953-57), Edward Marczewski (1957-59), Tadeusz Ważewski (1959-61), Władysław Ślebodziński (1961-63), Franciszek Leja (1963-65), Roman Sikorski (1965-77), Władysław Orlicz (1977-79), Jacek Szarski (1979-81), Zbigniew Ciesielski (1981-83), Wiesław Żelazko (1983-85), Stanisław Balcerzyk (1985-87), Andrzej Pelczar (1987-91), Julian Musielak (1991-93), Kazimierz Goebel (1993-99), Bolesław Szafirski (1999-2003), Zbigniew Palka (2003-).

skich [More than 50 years of activities of Polish Mathematicians], Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe [Polish Scientific Publishers], *Warszawa 1975.*
[4] *J. Piórek*, From the minutes of the Mathematical Society in Cracow, *Newsletter of the European Mathematical Society* **32** (1999).

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