

In Memoriam

Professors Marianna Sankiewicz-Budzyński and Gustaw K.E. Budzyński Founders of the Polish Audio Engineering



Associate Professor **Marianna Sankiewicz-Budzyńska** PhD. Eng. was born in 1921 (passed away on May 29, 2018), in the Suwałki region, where she spent her early years. She attended the State Higher Junior High School in Suwałki and then the Secondary School in Starogard Gdański.

After the outbreak of the Second World War she was sent from Vilnius to a forced labor camp in Germany. On many occasions she evoked the dreadful memories of war, the German occupation and the time spent in the concentration camp.

At the end of World War II she was once arrested by Soviet soldiers, placed against the wall and sentenced to death. She escaped death at the very last moment thanks to an unexpected air raid. Throughout the years she continually wondered about the life mission she was summoned to accomplish in return for her miraculous prolongation of life. Soon she concluded that there was an important role she had to play and subjected all her life to this idea, first by her involvement in conspiracy activities. After she was detained in the Hammerstein concentration camp she contacted the Polish POW organization and joined in intelligence activities which she continued until February 1945. Their aim was to provide information concerning the development of German rocket weapon. She was imprisoned in Szczecin and subjected to severe investigation by Gestapo. Her activity was an impor-

tant contribution to the chain of events which changed the course of history.

After returning to Poland in February 1945 She started to work for the Polish Radio in Warsaw and then moved to Gdańsk. She started studies at the Faculty of Electronics of Gdańsk University of Technology where she obtained her Master degree in Engineering, in 1950 and became an assistant lecturer in the Department of Radio Broadcasting Engineering. In 1968 Professor Sankiewicz obtained Her Doctor degree in Engineering and became an associate professor at the Faculty of Electronics in 1970. Her research was supervised by the legendary Polish Professor Janusz Groszkowski. She worked at the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics of Gdańsk University of Technology until her retirement in 1992.

She simultaneously continued her cooperation with the Polish Radio where she taught technical and program specialists for the centers of Polish Radio and Television in Northern Poland. Professor Sankiewicz was one of the architects and the witnesses of the development of radio broadcasting at the Gdańsk Coast.

As an independent researcher Professor Sankiewicz, together with her husband and collaborator Professor Gustaw Budzyński, was the co-founder of a new specialization at the Faculty and a new department of Electroponics, later transformed into the Department of Sound Engineering. This unique specialization

proved to be extremely prolific in terms of both M.Eng. and D.Eng. graduates, many of whom developed their professional careers in Polish and foreign broadcasting stations.

Professor Sankiewicz was the author of over 140 publications which contributed to the scientific position of the Gdańsk University of Technology. She was also a member of the Committee of Acoustics of the Polish Academy of Science.

Driven by a strong social instinct, alongside her pedagogical and scientific activity, she accepted the functions of the Deputy Dean and later of the Vice Rector for Education, which she performed for 17 years. This period of her academic career is well known to hundreds of graduates of the Faculty.

It has to be remembered that the period in which she became a member of the University authorities coincided with the difficult time of the Martial Law in 1981. Her caring instinct made her stand against the then authorities and protected numerous students against the oppressive communist state.

Apart from her activities at the University, Professor Sankiewicz was the initiator of many social and scientific organizations. It was her energy that contributed to the development of scout organizations and the Brotherly Help of Students of the Gdańsk University of Technology. She was also a member of the world organization of former Home Army soldiers.

Professor Sankiewicz was a member of many scientific societies, a pioneer of sound engineering and it was she who introduced Poland to the Audio Engineering Society, whose Vice President she became later. For her social activity she was awarded with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Medal for the Service for Gdańsk, as well as many scientific awards.

Those who knew her are aware that she did not work for awards. Till the very end of her life she actively developed a private system of support for those who, due to life and social reasons, were not able to support themselves. She supported many people whose life paths complicated and organized material and moral help, often offering her home as a shelter.

It was Professor Marianna Sankiewicz and people of her kind who, against all dramatic obstacles, successfully defended and developed the free country we are living in today.

Professor **Gustaw Karol Edward Budzyński**, PhD. Eng. was born in 1921 (passed away on July 29, 2018), in Warsaw, he grew up in the patriotic tradition, his father served at the time in the Polish Army, in the rank of major. Earlier, his grandfather served in the January Uprising, and the great-great-grandfather was an officer of the November Uprising. Gustaw K.E. Budzyński inherited, therefore, a long and glorious family tradition of armed struggle against foreign in-

vaders. Before September 1, 1939, he was in active military service. The outbreak of the war on September 1 found the battalion of the 81st Grodno Rifles Regiment in which he served, deployed near Grodno. In the middle of October 1939, Gustaw K.E. Budzyński got to Warsaw, where he began his activities in the underground, under the pseudonyms "Szymura" and "Szli-fierz", which resulted in his participation in the Warsaw Uprising, in the rank of lieutenant of the Home Army and deputy commander of the company "Żni-wiarz" fighting in Żoliborz. Acting in a conspiracy, he was involved, among others in subversive, training and weapon transports. During the armed operations in the Uprising he was repeatedly wounded, and on August 3, 1944, he was seriously wounded in the battle of Bielany. He was evacuated by his family to Cracow and returned to Warsaw in April 1945 and re-entered the conspiracy under the command of the III Headquarters of the Main Organization of NIE, the future President of the Central Area of WiN (Freedom and Independence).

After the war, in 1948 he was arrested and subjected to a 17-month investigation, and then sentenced to 12 years in prison and deprivation of rights for another 5 years. He served mainly in prison in Wronki and in Sieradz, from where he was released in 1955, that is after seven years in a heavy communist prison.

During the occupation, in 1941, he began underground studies at the Faculty of Mechanics and Electrics of the secret Warsaw University of Technology. After the war, before his arrest, he managed to study at the Warsaw Polytechnic in 1945, and in 1946 at the Gdańsk University of Technology, having three years of study behind him and being a talented adept in science, he started his academic career as a volunteer assistant at the University of Technology.

After releasing him from the prison, he continued to study issues related to communication, radio technology and radiocommunications. In order to be able to continue his studies and to develop his scientific career, he was forced to overcome harassments and obstructions from the authorities of that time. Despite the aforementioned difficulties and his dramatic history of war and post-war, he managed to catch up, get a doctorate, and as a result he gradually came to a position of professional, scientific and didactic fellow.

In particular, despite the continuous persecution and difficulties, guided by unprecedented determination, Gustaw K.E. Budzyński in 1965 obtained the degree of doctor of technical sciences (at the Warsaw University of Technology). As aforementioned, in 1968, together with his wife and research associate, Marianna Sankiewicz-Budzyński, founded the Electrophonics Department, which was a part of the Telecommunications Institute of the Faculty of Electronics. In 1982, he took over the management of this unit, and at the same time changed its name to the Department of

Sound Engineering. Professor Budzyński chaired this Department for 9 consecutive years, creating the program of the first in the country and for many years the only specialty under the name Sound Engineering. From his inspiration and as a result of his letter addressed to the authorities of the global society of sound engineers (the Audio Engineering Society), Poland joined the group of countries represented on the world map of centers associating outstanding specialists in this field.

Conducting scientific and didactic activities, he was promoted to the position of Associate Prof. Dr. Eng. (in 1972), he educated several hundred masters of engineers and successors who are currently academic. He has written over 150 scientific publications, not counting popular articles about historical or veteran subjects. He was the supervisor of five doctoral dissertations, as well as the promoter of a very large number (hundreds) of master's and engineering theses.

He conducted in a novel way all the lectures of the new, unique didactic specialty: Sound Engineering and a series of lectures on other specialties. At the same time, he lectured since 1977 experimental music (and other subjects) at the Academy of Music St. Moniuszko in Gdańsk, organizing the Music Acoustics Department there (he managed it until 1982).

In scientific work, especially in publications (foreign language articles), as well as didactic (lectures at universities abroad), he was well-versed in good command of foreign languages (French, English, German, Russian, Italian). His erudition, high personal culture, polyglot abilities and open attitude thus created yet another path of professional performance, which was also recognized by foreign acoustic societies (Greek and international Audio Engineering Society and others).

Since his retirement in 1992, until the last moment of his life, he maintained lively contacts with the Department of Multimedia Systems, taking part in selected research and teaching works.

On August 2, 2018 he was assisted to his final resting place by his family, friends, associates and honorary military escorts.

We cherish and respect Their Memory. Every graduate and every researcher and employee was then and is now their foster child.

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