

Contribution to the 60th Anniversary of the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres and the 20th Anniversary of “Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe”

by Professor Janusz Szosland, Ph.D., D.Sc. Eng.

The 60th Anniversary of the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres in Lodz, the former Institute of Chemical Fibres, leads us to recall two events from the past which have played a significant role in the functioning of the Polish textile industry and in which two members of the institute's staff were involved.

The first event was related to the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN). In the 1990s I had the great honour to organise the first commission for technical science, the Textile Commission affiliated with the Lodz Branch of PAN, and during the period of 1996 – 2005 I fulfilled the duty of president.

During that time, the existence of many scientific and research units was threatened by the possibility of their closure, and this particularly concerned the city of Lodz. After the time when the majority of textile factories in the city had been closed, there was no formal reason for the existence of almost ten related institutions, and no conception existed to solve this problem.

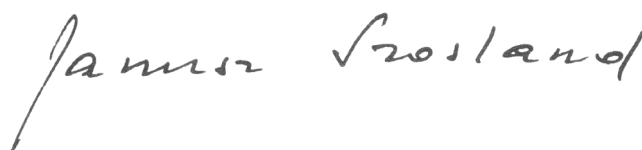
*Time was short, and in this situation, thanks to Prof. Maria Olszewska, the President of the Lodz Branch of PAN in 1995, within the Textile Commission I managed to initiate the **Scientific Textile Centre**, which gathered together all textile and textile related academic and industrial research institutions. Alojzy Urbanowski, M.Sc. Eng., the Managing Director of the **Institute of Chemical Fibres**, a prominent personality in the field of research institutes, was elected as a leader of the Centre. This event seemed to have quite a significant influence on their future, and from that time meetings of this Centre started to be attended by authorities of the State Committee for Scientific Research, the Ministry of Economy as well as by the authorities of the City of Lodz and presidents of government committees for the restructuring of research institutes, all of whom had accepted the trials of restructuring the textile industry and its research centres. Within a few years this enabled to make important changes in the content-related scope and form of the institutes' activity in order to adjust to their future goals and prepare them for the necessary integration. After an almost ten-year period of organisation and integration, all the textile institutes were still functioning. In 2004 director Alojzy Urbanowski resigned his leadership of the Centre, after which it saw a decrease in its activity and finally it was dissolved, as the reasons for which it was created did not exist anymore. Soon this new situation caused the elimination of some institutes or their integration, for which they had 10 years to prepare themselves. An excellent example is the present Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres, celebrating this year its 60th anniversary of the Institute of Chemical Fibres and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute joined together.*

*The second important event in the activity of the **Institute of Chemical Fibres**, even on an international scale was the decision of editing and further supporting “**Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe**” – a scientific journal published in English. Being managed by **Editor-in-Chief Bogdan Mac, M.Sc. Eng.**, it soon gained a significant international role by presenting the achievements of scientific units from all over the world. Its high scientific level, close cooperation with outstanding national and foreign authors and reviewers, excellent editorial form, and high regularity – already in 1998 – enabled “**Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe**” to be placed on the ISI Master Journal List of the Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, USA. At this time it was the only textile periodical of such broad scope in Europe, and the third in the world. This fact has always given and still gives a range of benefits for the authors whose articles have been published after careful evaluation and selection. On this basis, for many evaluating bodies in the field of science and highly developed techniques, their achievements become undoubtedly significant for higher university degrees and titles. Also institutions affiliating those authors gain profits in the form of bonus points, being the basis for governmental funding and classification.*

*The creative activity and achievements of Bogdan Mac have gained formal approval not only in the Lodz area. In 2005, the 26th Congress of the Polish Textile Association gave him the title of its Honourable Member and in 2007 he received the award of the City of Lodz for his contribution in making Lodz a European textile publishing centre. At present, Bogdan Mac is still Editor-in-Chief of “**Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe**” and the journal is further edited by the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres.*

And now we celebrate both anniversaries, the “great” of the Institute and the “small” of the journal. On this occasion, I would like to extend my congratulations to Dr. Danuta Ciechańska, the Managing Director of the Institute and to all its employees and wish them further decades of success in many new fields of activity, spectacular events of great impact on the Institute's international position, as well as to Editor-in-Chief Mr. Bogdan Mac and all Members of the editorial staff wishing them an increasing readership and permanently rising scientific universal recognition.

Yours Sincerely



Janusz Szosland