

Obituaries

Marianna Sankiewicz and Gustaw Budzynski (1921–2018)



Professor Marianna Sankiewicz, Eng.D. was born in Suwałki region in 1921 (died on May 29, 2018), where she spent her early years. After the outbreak of the Second World War she was sent from Vilnius to a forced labor camp in Germany. On many occasions she reminisced the dreadful memories of war, the German occupation, and the time spent in the concentration camp. After WWII she returned to Poland in February 1945. She started work for the Polish Radio in Warsaw and then moved to Gdańsk. Then, she obtained M.Sc. at the Faculty of Electronics of Gdańsk University of Technology in 1950 and became an assistant lecturer in the Department of Radio Broadcasting Engineering, and later associate professor after she had completed and defended her Ph.D. thesis. 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 radiophony at the Gdańsk. As an independent researcher, Professor Sankiewicz together with her husband and collaborator Gustaw Budzynski, was the cofounder of a new specialization at the Faculty and a new department of Electrophonics, later transformed into the Department of Sound Engineering. This unique specializa-

tion 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. Prof. Sankiewicz 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.

Prof. Gustaw Karol Edward Budzyński was born in 1921 (died on July 29, 2018). The outbreak of WWII on September 1 saw him in the Polish Army near Grodno. In the middle of October 1939 Gustaw Budzyński got back to Warsaw, where he began his activities in the underground, which resulted later in his participation in the Warsaw Uprising. During the occupation, in 1941, he began underground studies at the Faculty of Mechanics and Electrical of the secret Warsaw University of Technology. Close to the end of the war (April 1945) he returned to Warsaw to study at the University of Technology, and later at the Gdańsk University of Technology in 1946. While having three years of study and being a adept in science, he began his academic assistantcy (as a volunteer). In 1948 he was arrested for his anti-communist activities and then sentenced to 12 years in prison and deprivation of rights for another five years. After spending seven years in heavy communist prisons he was released in 1955 and he continued to study communication, radio technology, and radiocommunications. Despite his dramatic history of war and post-war, he managed to catch up, get a doctorate (1965), and as a result he gradually came to a position of professional, scientific, and teaching fellow (Associate Prof.).

As already mentioned, in 1968, together with his wife and research associate, Prof. Marianna Sankiewicz-Budzyńska, he founded the Electrophony Unit. In 1982, he took over the management of this unit, and at the same time changed its name to the Department of Sound Engineering. Prof. Budzyński chaired this department for nine 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. 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.

Organizing the Polish AES Section became real during the session of the National Sound Engineering Symposium held at the Gdansk Technical University in 1991. AES President Tim Shelton came to the Gdansk Symposium and inaugurated the activities of the newly founded PS-AES. During this session Prof. M. Sankiewicz was elected first chair of the Polish Section. She was the recipient of Fellowship of the Society in 2005 and Citation in 1998. In 1995 M. Sankiewicz was proposed a candidate to the newly established function of AES vice-president for Central Europe, and then elected for a two year term. Acting as an AES officer, she initiated a rapid enlargement of the Central Europe Region toward the East, by founding several new AES sections in Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and a new student section in Poland, as well as coordinating activities of the formerly existing Sections of this Region. The influence of the cooperation with the AES authorities was beneficial to the development of Polish teams of sound engineers and acousticians. The PSAES was accepted as a professional and scientific national organization and jointly within the Polish Acoustical Society represented this branch within the Polish Academy of Sciences (see the story of the Polish AES Section: B. Kostek, M. Sankiewicz, Retrospecting Polish Audio Engineering Society Membership on 20th Anniversary of the Polish Section of the Audio Engineering Society, Archives of Acoustics, 36, 2, 187–197 (2011), DOI: 10.2478/v10168-011-0016-x).

We cherish and respect their memory for all that they did for us,

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