

TARNÓW'S NEWS



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Tarnów „Pearl of Renaissance”



“Pearl of the Renaissance” that is how Tarnów’s Old Town is spoken about by art connoisseurs. In the epoch of Renaissance Tarnów was one of the most beautiful towns in Poland. Its extraordinary beauty and atmosphere were created by structures such as: majestic parish church, magnificent Town Hall and the townsmen houses with polychrome finished front walls.

At the beginning of the 16th century Tarnów had ca. 1,200 inhabitants. The city was surrounded with fortified walls and had water supply and sewage systems in place. The inhabitants made their money on trade and craft.

The then owner of Tarnów was a world renowned nobleman, politician and traveler, royal hetman Jan Tarnowski. His family residence was the castle located some 3 kilometers south of

the town, on the top of Saint Martin Hill. In the 1620s the city was surrounded with new fortified walls, which were partially renovated in 1960s and can be seen today.

Today, while walking the streets of Tarnów one can admire the beauty of the Renaissance houses within the Old Town, unique tombstones inside the Cathedral and remains of the once magnificent castle on St Martin Hill.

The Magic of Tarnow

Tarnów - the pearl of the Renaissance has been admired for ages. Its magic is created by the unusual climate of the Old Town with the most beautiful Italian Renaissance of small tenements and the Town Hall on the Market Square, Romanticism of many stylish restaurants and cafes. Record number of sunny days a year, cordiality of residents, great climate for business contribute to the fact that the Polish Heat Pole is a good choice. This has been the situation since 1330 when Tarnów became a city and for ages it has been a Europe of many nations - the Austrians, the Jews, the Ukrainians, the Scots or the Romani. Here, the history intertwines with the present and the rich cultural heritage influences everyday life.

Grand Crown Hetman Jan Tarnowski, General Józef Bem, Polish Edison Jan Szczepanik - the inventor of colour photography and precursor of television, President Ignacy Mościcki, the builder of the Second Polish Republic Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski, a cosmologist and a priest Michał Heller PhD or an artist

Wilhelm Sasnal are persons strongly connected with the history of the city, in which praiseworthy past intertwines with the present and the historical heritage influences everyday life.



Tarnów - a laureate of the "Teraz Polska" ["Poland Now"] Emblem 2010, awarded with the Honorary Flag of the Council of Europe is, according to the ranking of Rzeczpospolita of

2012 [Polish national daily newspaper], considered to be the most innovative local government in Poland with unique digital solutions and state-of-the-art education management system. Great location at the crossroads of European routes, proximity of airports and A4 motorway constitute communication strengths of this capital city of the subregion. Tarnów - the host city of the Investments Forum within the scope of the Economic Forum, co-author of International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security, boldly lays out the paths of development while prioritising the comfort of life of its residents and increasing of their wealth.

And those who have ever seen this city, they cannot resist its charm and already legendary cordiality of its residents.

However, no words can describe the unique spirit of Tarnów. Therefore I would like to invite you to our city even for just a while. We will be honored and you will be charmed.

Ryszard Ścigala
City Mayor of Tarnow

Tarnów warmly welcomes the citizens of Hague

During the Third Review Conference of the States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention which will be held in The Hague, the City of Tarnów as one of partners and supporters of the OPCW and the initiators and host of the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security is planning to organize a promotional event: "The Polish Hot-Spot" – the City of Tarnów.

The proposed special event is addressed to tourist information centers, commerce chambers, attendees of Third Review Conference and the citizens of Hague.

The purposes include the promotion of modern Polish city, its culture and the development

and the evolving links to the Hague, the OPCW and TNO.

Tarnów is the second biggest city (after Krakow) in Lesser Poland Region (Malopolska Region), with its unique 680 years of history, and it is also a cradle of Polish chemical industry and the headquarter of the biggest chemical companies in Poland – the Azoty Group.

In 1927 by the decision of the president of Poland Ignacy Mościcki in the villages of Dąbrówka Infulacka i Świerczków (now within the boundaries of Tarnów) started the construction of Państwowa Fabryka Związków Azotowych – the cradle of Polish chemical industry. Being the place where it all began, Tarnów is at

present the leader and consolidator of the Polish chemical industry.

In the year 2012 we have started the process of the establishment of the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Tarnów.

From 86 years we are learning how to deal with dangerous chemicals and also how to build a symbiosis of the factory and the citizens, to protect the lives and the environment.

One of the most important events that took place in Tarnów was the International Meeting on Chemical Safety and Security. 250 participants, 54 countries, five continents, two days of sessions, discussions and presentations, one "Tarnów Declaration" – these are the numbers which very briefly describe the events of 8th and 9th November 2012 in Tarnów. The conference was organized jointly by the Republic of Poland and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Hague in cooperation with Global Partnership G8 and other international stakeholders.

Tarnow is a host of the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security, a leading institution to promote chemical safety and security worldwide. Tarnow is a partner of the OPCW and promotes the development of the OPCW as broad platform of cooperation to enhance chemical security and protection against misuse of toxic chemicals.



Jewish culture

First Jewish immigrants settled in Tarnów region in the Middle Ages. Their presence in the city is mentioned in 1445 writings. From the very beginning their commercial activities focused on wine and grain trading which they imported from Hungary and Russia.

Jewish entrepreneurship was appreciated by the Tarnów owners. In 1581 Konstanty Ostrogski issued special rights allowing Jews to trade in their houses, kiosks and market square. They were also granted right to brew and deal alcohol beverages.

On the behalf of those rights Jews were incorporated into castle's jurisdiction therefore no longer came under the laws of the city of Tarnów. New law allowed tough punishment for any acts of vandalism against Jewish prayer houses or a cemetery. Jews were also allowed to settle 12 houses along Żydowska (Jewish) street. Substantial changes in law attracted numerous Jewish families to move to Tarnów region. The limitations regarding settlement of Jews within the city of Tarnów were lifted in early 18th century by prince Sanguszko.



Some of the Tarnów Jews belonged to the intellectual and cultural elite. Their professions were those of public trust and respect like attorneys, doctors, musicians or teachers. In the 18th century Synagogue in Tarnów covered nearly half of the city tax income, apart from the taxes paid by individuals. Tarnów region with several dozens synagogues and small prayer houses was an important religious center. There were Jewish schools and printing houses operating in the city. Social and cultural life were blooming.

Today however there is no Jewish society anywhere in Tarnów region. No public worship that requires minyan (10 adult men over 13) can be completed. But there are numerous traces left

which document centuries-long Jewish presence in Tarnów region. Cemeteries are the most numerous monuments of Jewish history. Some are very well preserved and cared for, other forgotten and demolished. The original Jewish architecture, bath houses, schools, archives and synagogues can be found throughout Tarnów region. Most of the buildings are still in use today but serve different purposes than originally. Numerous places commemorate Jewish oppressions and Holocaust. Rich judaica collections are stored in few museums. Those of greatest value are exhibitions in Tarnów Regional Museum and museums in Dąbrowa Tarnowska and Bochnia.



The biggest wooden church

St. Stanislaw Church in Skrzyszów was erected in 1517 and has earned the title of the biggest wooden church in Małopolska as a one-part church, with two chapels. The church has a tower and is surrounded by cloisters. Its most prized relics are late Gothic sculptures on the altar and a sculpture of St. Barbara, which dates back to 1500.

The only painted village in Poland

North of Tarnow, where Dunajec and Vistula rivers meet, resides one of the most interesting ethnographic micro-regions in Poland with the village of Zalipie at its center. Its fame has resulted from a region specific tradition that involves the painting of cottages. This custom of decorating both the exterior and the interior of houses originated at the end of the 19th century when old-fashioned furnaces were replaced with new furnaces with chimneys. In order to cover blackened walls, women and girls tried to brighten the interior of their dwellings by decorating the walls with brightly colored spots made of lime. Later these round spots were shaped into simple flowers and finally they evolved into the detailed flower bouquets still visible today.



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Camping facilities: kitchen, laundry, fireplace lounge

Number of bungalows/beds at campsite: 18/70

Disabled friendly.

Credit cards: accepted

Parking: cars and coaches, guarded

Pets permitted

Local amenities: The campsite is located c.a. 1 km from the Tarnów Old Town, close to the City, Park with general Józef Bem's Mausoleum and sport facilities: indoor swimming pool, tennis court, football stadium. Campsite recommended by PFFC, each year earns honorable mention in “Mister Camping” competition.

Jan Szczepanik - „Polish Edison”

Jan Szczepanik (Born on April 13, 1872 in Rudniki – died on April 18, 1926 in Tarnów, Poland) was Polish inventor. He held several hundred patents and made over 50 discoveries, many of which are still used today, especially in motion pictures industry, photography and television. Because of the amount of the invention and their importance he is known as “Polish Edison”.



Tests of a bullet - proof jacket

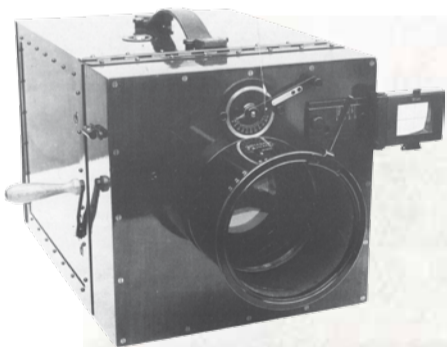
Most of his interests focused on two fields textile and photography. Before World War I, Szczepanik carried out experiments with photography and image projection, as well as with small format color film. He holds patents for a new weaving method, a system of obtaining tri-color photography rasters and equipment for sound recording and playback. Following the discoverer's idea, Agfa corporation produced its

Agfacolor reversible paper; color films were also made for the first time, projecting 24 frames per second. Szczepanik's more significant discoveries include also colorimeter - a color control tool, an electric rifle and a color image weaving method, together with the automation of their production.

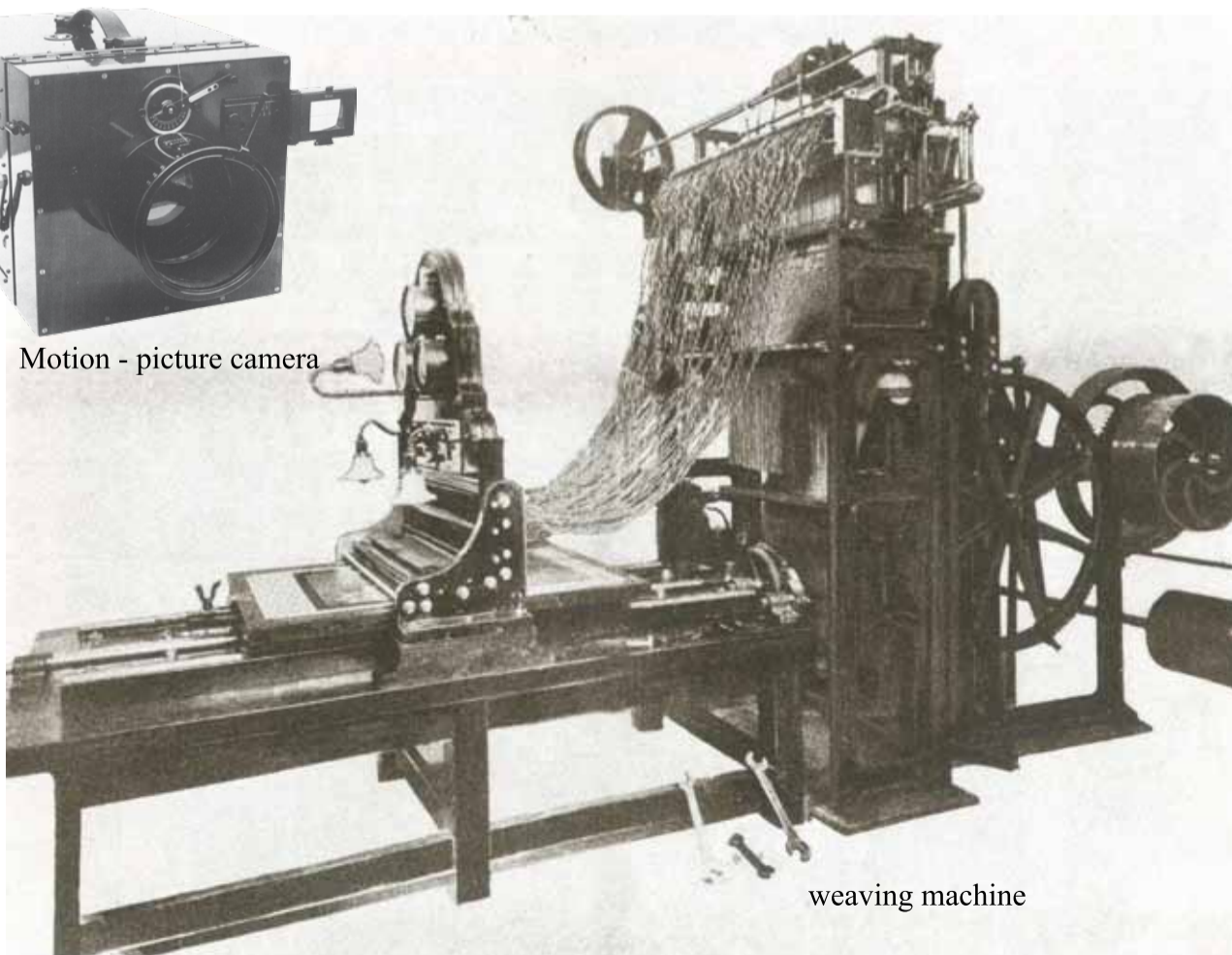
Some of the ideas influenced the development of television, such as telectroscope (apparatus for tele-reproduction of images and sound using electricity) or the wireless telegraph, which greatly influenced the development of telecommunication.

His works with textile resulted in new inventions that allows to perform complicated patterns on textile with lower cost and much faster then before 9with his method it took several hours insted of several days to get final textile). He has also invented bullet-proof fabric, thanks to that he was granted awards by royal courts. Spanish ruler Alfonso XIII awarded him an order for creating a bullet-proof fabric, which saves his life during one of the assassination attempt. Austrian-Hungarian emperor Franz Josef I relieved him from the mandatory military service, and, fascinated with a photosculptor (apparatus for copying sculptures), gave him a pair of pistols as a souvenir.

Hoever Szczepanik spend most his life in Tarnów, where he has his laboratory in which one of the first color photography was taken, he was well known in those days. Mark Twain claims to be Szczepanik's friend and he had written a novel based on Szczepanik's inventions. Jan Szczepanik has died in Tarnow April 18th 1926 after a long hard cancer dieses. Year 2006 according to Tarnow's City Council announcement is in Tarnow a Year of Jan Szczepanik “Polish Edison”.



Motion - picture camera



weaving machine

Michał Heller



The birthplace of the first Polish laureate of Templeton Prize

Tarnów is the birthplace of Fr. Michał (Michael) Heller, Professor in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, the first Polish laureate of Templeton Prize.

Michał Heller was born in Tarnow on March 12th 1936. He was awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities.

Professor Michael (Michał) Heller is the graduate of Major Catholic Seminary in Tarnów and the first dean of Theology Department in Tarnów. He is world-renown physicist, cosmologist, philosopher and theologian. He is an active member of the Vatican Observatory, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Polish Physical Society, the Polish Astronomical Society, the International Society for General Relativity and Gravitation, the European Physical Society, the Center for Theology and the Natural Science. He has published several hundred publications both as the author or co-author. He is the lecturer in the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow.

Wilhelm Sasnal



Born in 1972 in Tarnów, Poland. He attended the faculty of architecture at Krakow University of Technology and graduated Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. „Flash Art” magazine voted Sasnal world's most relevant artist in 2006. The same year, in October, he was awarded Vincent van Gogh Biennial Award for Contemporary Art in Europe.

Wilhelm Sasnal is one of a few Polish artists displayed at world's most recognizable galleries such as Tate Modern, Saatchi, Centre Pompidou, New York Museum of Modern Art or Guggenheim Museum.