

ROCZNIKI CHEMII – POLISH JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY 1921 – 2009

Roczniki Chemii, the primary title of the *Polish Journal of Chemistry*, was founded by Jan Zawidzki in 1921 as an organ of the Polish Chemical Society, which had been organized two years earlier in 1919.

Until 1952 *Roczniki Chemii* appeared as a monthly journal, later till 1962 it was published as a quarterly and bimonthly journal. Starting from 1962 *Roczniki Chemii* again became a monthly journal.

In the first volumes *Roczniki* reported the history of the Polish Chemical Society, published the list of Society's members and printed the lectures delivered in the Society's regional divisions in full or abbreviated form (from 1936 only the titles of such lectures were published). However, many of these publications were the original papers written by Polish chemists. The number of such papers increased from about 20 in the early years to a hundred and fifty in 1934. Until 1978 the majority of papers and information were published in Polish with summaries in French or English.

From 1921 to about 1960 Polish chemists used to publish the results of their investigations in Polish, only the most important achievements were translated and published in foreign journals. From the 1960s on more and more Polish chemists began to submit their papers to foreign journals.

Jan Zawidzki, the founder of *Roczniki Chemii*, was the editor-in-chief of this journal until his death in 1928. Later Wojciech Świętosławski served on this position until 1934 and Tadeusz Miłobędzki in the years 1935-1939. Alicja Dorabialska worked as the editor's secretary from 1928 to 1939.

During the Second World War, from 1940 to 1945 the Journal did not appear. After the war the first issue appeared in 1946 and it was edited jointly by Tadeusz Miłobędzki, Alicja Dorabialska and Włodzimierz Trzebiatowski. That issue contained a list of the names of Polish chemists who were murdered or assumed lost during the Second World War. The list was published in Polish and French. Later Alicja Dorabialska served as the editor-in-chief until 1949. In 1950 this duty was taken over by Wiktor Kemula, who held the position for 35 years, until his death in 1985. In the fifties and early sixties Józef Hurwic and Jan Świdorski cooperated with Wiktor Kemula as co-editors. In 1955 Jerzy Chodkowski started to work as the editor's secretary, and in 1969 he was nominated as the deputy editor-in-chief. In that year Osman Achmatowicz Jr., Bogdan Baranowski, Bolesław Bochwic, Henryk Buchowski and Barbara Serafinowa got the positions of editors. In 1978 Barbara Serafinowa was replaced by Wojciech Stec and in 1982 Henryk Buchowski – by Zbigniew Galus.

Starting from 1978 the journal *Roczniki Chemii* changed its title and became known as *Polish Journal of Chemistry*. Since then all papers have been published in English.

After Wiktor Kemula died in 1985, Jerzy Chodkowski became the editor-in-chief and held this post until 1992. He was then followed by Bogdan Baranowski, who worked with two editors: Zbigniew Galus and Janusz Jurczak. A year later Janusz Jurczak resigned and Jerzy Wicha took up the duties of the editor and held the post until 1997. From 1997 *Polish Journal of Chemistry* was headed by Bogdan Baranowski as the editor-in-chief with three editors: Zbigniew Galus, Krzysztof Wojciechowski and Sławomir Jarosz (who worked until 1999).

In 2005 Bogdan Baranowski resigned from this position and Zbigniew Galus was nominated as the editor-in-chief. He cooperated with two editors: Jolanta Bukowska (who joined in 2007) and Krzysztof Wojciechowski.

The journal *Roczniki Chemii*, later known as *Polish Journal of Chemistry*, published review articles, original papers (from various fields of chemistry with the exception of analytical and industrial chemistry), communications, and book reviews. The chronicle of the Polish Chemical Society, which appeared as a regular section in the early issues of the Journal, was moved in 1953 to *Wiadomości Chemiczne* (Chemical News), the Society's review magazine.

Starting from 1998, the researchers working in medicinal, macromolecular and supramolecular chemistry, as well as in molecular modeling, were invited to publish their papers in the Journal.

In recent years the average annual volume had about 2500 pages and about 200 original papers.

In 1993, to increase the international significance of the Journal, the International Advisory Board was organized. Nine prominent chemists from different countries, who cooperated with Polish chemists, were invited to join the Board.

In 1998 the Polish Chemical Society joined the Owners Board of *Chemistry, a European Journal* published by Wiley-Verlag Chemie, and in 2000 – also the Owners Board of *Physical Chemistry – Chemical Physics* published by the British Royal Society of Chemistry. The Wiley-VCh proposed the Executive Board of the Polish Chemical Society to join other European journals published by this publishing house, namely the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* and *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*. This proposition was however valid on condition that members of the Polish Chemical Society would publish their papers in the mentioned journals. This would mean the necessity of closing the *Polish Journal of Chemistry*. After several years of hesitation, in the middle of this year the Executive Board of the Polish Chemical Society accepted the Wiley's proposition. Thus in December 2009 the last issue of our Journal will appear.

We hope that Polish chemical academic community will accept the decision and that Polish chemists will submit their research papers to European Journals even more intensely than they do now.

Roman Mierzecki