



**The History of the Secondary School
Number 1
in Tomaszów Mazowiecki**

**Compiled by
Zdzisław Laskowski**

The History of the Secondary School Number 1 in Tomaszów Mazowiecki

In 2002 our school celebrated the 20th anniversary of naming it after Tadeusz Kościuszko. On the 27th of November 1982 the celebration took place; as a result, the school ceased being an anonymous one acquiring its own name and banner. Let`s reminisce some momentous events in the history of the school, which in turn influenced the history of the town itself.

In the period between the two World Wars, there existed no technical school in the city and its neighbourhood. Young people acquired apprenticeship and education at various workshop and factories. In 1922, to meet the young people`s requirements - to study and train simultaneously, a technical school was created at 57 św. Antoni street. Jan Piotrowski was a promotor and manager of the school. Pupils, who had to pay for the study, had the apprenticeship at the school which did not have its own teachers – they usually came from other schools in Tomaszów.

During the period of the Nazi occupation the school was closed. Only secret courses, especially in Polish language and History, took place.

After the Second World War it was Stefan Kielbasiński who started organizing the school anew. In 1947, for the first time, girls began to attend the school, studying at tailor`s specialization and general lines. Besides the above-mentioned options, metal and electrical lines came into existence.

In that period the school was named “Public Technical Secondary School” (Publiczna Średnia Szkoła Zawodowa). Endeavours were taken to find room for school workshops on mechanical lines. They resulted in finding the building at 19/23 Farbiarska street where later tailor`s workshops were also set up.

In the years 1948-1949 the further improvement of the material base was continued, which resulted in gaining two other buildings at 57 św. Antoni street.

The importance of the school in the region was increasing. Consequently, Stefan Kielbasiński, the headmaster of the school was given the award of School Superintendent's Office in Łódź. Simultaneously, the number of pupils was rising steadily, reaching 378 students in 1946 (including 119 schoolgirls).

In the 1950 some new structural changes were undertaken, resulting in widening the range of educational offers. The school changed its name to "Technical Secondary School" (Państwowa Szkoła Zawodowa) and altered its localization. The school was placed in an old two – storey manufacture at 12 Armia Czerwona street. Due to the changes all the pupils were able to have their apprenticeship and schooling in the same building, which facilitated the study, making it more convenient and efficient. In 1952 Jan Gajda succeeded to the post of the headmaster.

In 1955 the school changed its name once again to "Technical Metal School" (Zasadnicza Szkoła Metalowa). Young people could acquire the profession of an ironworker, turner and a salesman. Over the years the school was equipped with modern didactic facilities; new technical classrooms were also established. Unfortunately, the school still lacked the gym hall where boys and girls could practise physical exercises and **organize** various sports events. Students were compelled to have PE lessons in the club room, which was quite inconvenient.

In 1964 Ireneusz Gałęcki became the headmaster of the school. At that time the school moved to 29 św. Antoni street. Due to parents' committee fund the old gym class was renovated, thus providing pupils with better conditions for physical as well as intellectual development.

On the 1st of June 1965 the school was renamed "Technical School No 1" (Zasadnicza Szkoła Zawodowa Nr 1). Two years later school leavers after a five – year technical specialization took their final examinations for the first time. The school kept developing the variety of its lines, attracting more and more students.

In 1970 the school had 29 classes with the total number of 925 pupils. At that time personal changes also took place – educational authorities appointed Jan Dorociak to the post of the headmaster who had held the post of the vice – headmaster at a building craft school. Since the very beginning he endeavored to gain financial means to renovate the old classrooms and expand the school. His efforts were fully successful; as a result, the second floor in the main building was built up and the second edifice, with a library, reading – room, club room and school canteen, was erected.

In 1976 a sports hall started being built. It is worth mentioning that school has boasted numerous sports achievements, winning many cups, trophies and awards. For example, Wanda Panfil, a pupil of a technical class became a World Marathon Champion. Zieliński, Jarzębski, Komoski, Pawelec, Olczyk, Barcenowicz and Sokołowski were famous volleyball players. Radke was a Polish representative of race skating at Olympic Games. There were also many others who, provided with favourable conditions at school, were able to develop their talents and score a success.

It was widely believed that pupils studying at this school were the best sportsmen in the region. Jan Dorociak, a great fan of sports activities and a mentor for young people, together with magnificent PE teachers, contributed to the habit of practicing sports in the school community as well as to many sports victories. Due to his endeavours the raising of a new sports hall continued successfully and, taking into account a difficult economic situation, advanced without any serious problems. In 1982 the erection was completed and the school received a new, modern and well-equipped sports hall.

The school tried to accommodate student's needs and to keep abreast with demands of the job market. In the face of the increasing interest in the field of electronics, the school opened an electronic line which enjoyed an enormous popularity and attracted students from the whole region. The school has become even more popular since then and its pupils have been awarded many a time by

Łódź School Superintendent and Chief Technical Organisation. On the 27th of November 1982, the school community celebrated the naming the school after Tadeusz Kościuszko, a great Polish hero. It is worth stressing that the patron of the school was chosen deliberately after the plebiscite among the students. The Parents' Committee founded a banner with the embroidered effigy of the new school spiritual guardian. At the same time the new modern sports hall was officially handed over to a school community. During the celebration the headmaster, Jan Dorociak, quoted the following Kościuszko's words: "A citizen who wants to become a good Pole ought to be ready to devote everything to his motherland, and should be always fair and human." This motto has become pupils' guiding principle since then, contributing to a rise in the prestige of the school. As a result, more and more pupils have wished to acquire knowledge and practical skills at this school and the number of students considerably increased.

Over years the school life went on according to the same school routine, including school events, celebration days, excursions and extracurricular activities. Unfortunately, in 1989 this quiet school routine was suddenly broken by Jan Dorociak's death, an excellent educator and schoolmaster, who was held in high esteem by both teachers and pupils.

For the next 9 years, the post of the school headmaster was held by mgr inż. Andrzej Szymczak. During his tenure the school **opened** a new specialization – a line of hotel management. This fact undoubtedly contributed to the embellishing of the school visage since the school once again directly responded to the changing job market and thus aroused a great interest among students, especially girls who enrolled in the new line in great numbers. Despite the fact that hotel management was a new specialization, it soon granted the school even more prestige. The future hotel managers started achieving success, gaining more and more awards during numerous conquests and regional competitions.

In 1999 the post of the headmaster was taken over by Grażyna Haraśna, a maths teacher. Due to her endeavours the school enriched its offer with a new option – a secondary school with a military specialization of study.

In 2000 school authorities diminished considerably the recruitment to the mechanical line which used to be an essential part of technical education. The school has started to change its profile. The change resulted from the transformation of the labour market which was becoming more orientated toward social and human educational lines.

In 2002 the first junior high school leavers started learning at our school, marking a new stage of the educational reform which took place in Poland. The school changed its name again to “Secondary School No 1” (Zespół Szkół Ponadgimnazjalnych Nr 1).

In December 2002 mgr inż. Andrzej Szymczak was offered the post of the school headmaster. In 2003 information technology and mechatronic lines were introduced. They became quite popular among the pupils, supplying the increasing demand for the modern professions. The new specialization entailed opening of two new classrooms, equipped with numerous modern computers and IT facilities.

In 2004 mgr inż. Ryszard Rupeniewski was chosen a new school headmaster. The school also introduced another line of computer science and consequently a new modern computer classroom was soon given at the student's disposal. Nowadays the school policy is becoming more and more orientated towards modern lines connected with informatics and data processing.

In the year 2009 design and building works started which aimed at the extension of the school premises and by the year 2012 a new building complex was completed. It contains specialist technical classrooms, an assembly room and an after school club. An additional, new sports field was also built outside the school. All the building and renewal works lasted till 2013 and comprised thermal insulation as well as redecoration of the old buildings. On the east side

of the school a new street was built, which allows a glimpse at the new building complex, connected with the main school edifice. At present ZSP no 1 is one of the most modern schools in Tomaszów Mazowiecki.

Despite the fact that it is over 90 years that have passed since the school was established in 1922, teachers have to answer the same questions anew: How do they want to bring up young people? What kind of men ought they to be?; and finally: What knowledge should be taught in order to rear responsible and creative citizens of Poland as well as European Union who “are always fair and human”?

