

**Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen. W stulecie wielkiego odkrycia**

**Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen. The hundredth anniversary of the great discovery**

SUMMARY

On 8th November 1895 Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen unexpectedly observed a fluorescence of barium platinocyanure excited by unknown rays originated in places of a vacuum lamp irradiated by electron stream. During six following weeks he determined principal features of new rays. The 28th December 1895 the Roentgen's report was delivered to publication. The 2nd January 1896 Roentgen sent the copies to different scientists. One exemplar fell into hands of the editor of the Viennese journal PRESSE. The information about "a sensational discovery" appeared in this journal on 5th January. The Viennese correspondents of Polish journals transmitted the information to Warsaw, Lwów and Cracow.

On the 8th January the information appeared in GAZETA LWOWSKA and in Warsaw SŁOWO. The next day it is repeated by KURIER LWOWSKI and Warsaw journals GAZETA POLSKA and WIEK with some reservedness. On 10th January a very short note is found in the Cracow journal NOWA REFORMA. A vast own correspondence from Vienna entitled "The miracles" was published on 11 January in KURIER WARSZAWSKI. The judgement of the known physicist Boltzmann is cited in this correspondence. On the same day the Lwów journal GAZETA NARODOWA repeated the news from Viennese PRESSE, but described the discovery as a modification of photography. The 23rd January a lecture was held in Lwów by prof. Ignacy Zakrzewski, who has presented the results of his own repetition of Roentgen's experiment. It was reported the next day by a Cracow conservative journal CZAS. A similar lecture with demonstration was held on 25th January in Warsaw by Wiktor Biernacki.

Polish magazines related the Roentgens discovery with more details. E.g. the weekly magazine WSZECHŚWIAT published his first information the 19th January and nine more within the first half-year. In May in a publication of 160 pages entitled "Dark Rays of Light, Particularly Roentgen Light" published in Lwów, Zygmunt Korosteński criticised the explanation given by Roentgen that new rays consisted on the longitudinal oscillations of ether.

The studies on Roentgen rays in Polish laboratories between 1919-1939 are reported.