

**Profesor Waclaw Werner (1879-1948)**

**The life of Professor Waclaw Werner (1879-1948)**

SUMMARY

Waclaw Henryk Bonawentura Werner (1879-1948) was the son of (August) Teodor Werner, goldsmith, co-founder and managing director of the “Norblin, B-cia Buch and T. Werner” Metal Plant Company, and Albertyna nee Norblin. In 1896 he finished his secondary education in Warsaw and went to study engineering at Darmstadt. In 1902 he passed his half-stage diploma examinations, gave up his engineering studies, and went to study mathematics and physics at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, and at the universities in Göttingen and Freiburg. He received a doctorate in 1909 for his dissertation on *The impact of permanent strain on the thermal and electric conductivity of metals*. When he came to Warsaw, he began to work as a teacher in grammar and vocational schools. Since 1915, he also worked as a teaching and research assistant at the Warsaw Polytechnic (the Warsaw Technical University). In the 1920s he was head of an inter-school physics laboratory. In 1925 he became a junior lecturer (adiunkt) and Deputy Professor at the Division of Physics. In the years 1925-26 he worked at the International Institute of Low Temperatures at Leiden. He published two studies jointly with the head of the Institute, W.H. Kesom, and became a member of the International Cryogenic Institute. In 1928 he presented his *Habilitationschrift* on *The dielectric constant of liquefied and solidified gases* on the basis of which he was granted *veniam legendi*. He was co-founder of the Physical Society (1919) and until the outbreak of World War II an active member of the Society’s Board. He used his experience as a teacher in work on the physics syllabus for secondary schools that he conducted in the Committee for the Assessment of School Aids and in the Syllabus Committee. He published several textbooks of physics, as well as scientific papers in the field; he also made a number of radio programmes popularising physics. For many years he was also a member of the Supervisory Board of the “Norblin, B-cia Buch and T. Werner” company, in Warsaw and Głowno. During World War II, he kept concealed in a brick which formed part of a wall of his home at Brwinów, a radium preparation belonging to the Warsaw Learned Society, whose activities were banned during the war.

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