

The famous people associated with the Ciechanów Land

With the Ciechanów Land eminent Poles, politicians, artists of national culture are associated. Among them, those whose deserve for acknowledgement, among others, are Zygmunt Krasiński, Ignacy Mościcki, Bolesław Biegas, Bruno Kiciński, Maria Skłodowska-Curie, Stefan Żeromski, Francisz Rajkowski, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Aleksander Świętochowski, Maria Konopnicka. Zygmunt Krasiński (1812 - 1859) was born in Paris, worked closely with the Ciechanów Land, which he considered his family land. The poet grew up in Opinogóra, where he spent his most beautiful moments as a boy and young man. The first work created in Opinogóra, not taking poems written as a child into account, was fantastic "Lord of Three hills" (1828).

Ignacy Mościcki (1867 - 1946) was born in Mierzanów nearby Grudusk on the Ciechanów Land, and grew up in a family with patriotic traditions. Already in the youthful age he showed ability in mathematics and natural sciences. Ignacy Mościcki graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at the Technical University in Riga. For fifteen years (1897-1912), he lived in Switzerland, where he established himself as a scientist, inventor and researcher.

At the University of Freiburg, he made important discoveries, that brought him notoriety and fame in the field of electrochemistry and electrophysics. He had a significant influence on the development of the Polish chemical industry, opened a modern plants in Jaworzno, Tarnów and Mościce.

In 1926, he became the president of the the Republic of Poland. During his presidency, he repeatedly visited his homeland: Płock, Grudusk, Klice and Ciechanów. He died in Switzerland in 1946. In 1993, his ashes were brought to Poland and buried in the crypt of the Basilica of John the Baptist in Warsaw.

Boleslaw Biegas (1877 - 1954) - a talented sculptor and painter, and author of 16 plays and several treatises on art. He spent his childhood in a family town Koziczyn. His works can be found in museums, mainly these of Płock, Paris and Chicago. In 2012, the Gallery District Culture and Art Center in Ciechanów was given the name of Boleslaw Biegas.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie (1867 - 1934) - two-time Nobel Prize winner, "the daughter of Mazovia plains". Mazovia played a decisive role in shaping her indomitable character, a strong personality and fortitude, and gaining in-depth knowledge (including knowledge of four languages), and even the love of nature.

All her ancestors descended from the land of Mazowsze, both the mother and father. Both families were of impoverished nobility, of Catholic and patriotic traditions.

An old-Mazovian village Skłody, in Zaręby Kościelne parish, in the county of Ostrów Wielkopolski, was the cradle of the family Skłodowski, of the Dołęga coat. Maria's parents - teachers by profession, also connected with Mazovia - but firstly - with its capital, Warsaw.

Bruno Kiciński (1797 - 1844) a deserved activist for the Polish culture, tied his life to the Ciechanów Land in the first half of the nineteenth century. He wrote prose and verse, was eulogist of the November Uprising, his patriotic songs were by the insurgents. Bruno Kiciński is considered the father of Polish journalism. He was staying on the Ciechanów Land, in Ojrzeń since the end of the uprising until his death in 1844. His Tomb with a modest obelisk is placed in front of the church in Kraszewo.

Stefan Żeromski (1864 - 1925) in 1887 was staying in Szulmierz for several weeks as a teacher at the manor. He described his stay in his scrupulously written "Diaries". Dozens of their pages concern the Ciechanow Land, especially beautiful are descriptions of its nature and landscape. He admitted himself that "the past left in Szulmierz would belong to the best that I had left behind. A good life it was."

Maria Konopnicka (1842-1910) was a frequent guest in Ciechanów.

At the beginning of the twentieth century her youngest, the most beloved son Jan ,settled in Ciechanów. Therefore, she loved the city and had interest in its cultural life. The memory of her life, her activities in Ciechanów, her relationship with the local society is still alive. She was the patron of the District Centre of Culture and Art and the Gymnasium No. 3.

Franciszek Rajkowski (1848 - 1908) was born in Jarłuty Wielkie. He started education in Lekowo, and the next step was school in Mława. He graduated A-level exam in Warsaw, as one of the best students. The next stage of his education was the medicine faculty in the General School. Rajkowski spent one of his first holiday in Ciechanów, where he began his medical practice. He was a brilliant doctor and also an outstanding social activist.

Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846 - 1916) was born in Wola Okrzejska. Polish novelist, novelist and journalist. Winner of the Nobel Prize in literature in 1905, and one of the most popular Polish writers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. His important historical novels are: "With Fire and Sword," "Deluge," "Sir Michael," "Quo Vadis", "Teutonic Knights". In the novel "Teutonic Knights", he often mentions Ciechanów - duels of heroes were located in the courtyard of the Castle of the Dukes of Mazovia. Henryk Sienkiewicz died in Vevey, Switzerland.

The precursor of positivism, Aleksander Świętochowski (1849-1938) involved a large part of his life and activity in the Ciechanów Land. There, he conducted educational activities, built an agricultural school "Bratne" in Gołotczyzna,

He influenced the establishment of Ciechanów branch of the Society of Polish Culture. "The History of Polish peasants", "The Genealogy of the Present", the novel "Nałęcz", "Twinko" and hundreds of journalistic articles.

Aleksandra Bąkowska, founder of the school's household for rural girls (1909), played a great role in his life. The writer's last wish was to sit in the Ciechanów land, with his face turned toward the school, to which "he offered his heart" and which he considered

his greatest work. He died in Gołotczyzna on April 25, 1938 year.

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