

Antoni Rosikoń 1907–2013

SUMMARY

Antoni Rosikoń was born on June 10, 1907 in Grodków Siewierski near Będzin. He attended popular primary school in Choroń, and from 1919 Wincenty Szudejko's secondary school and the Romuald Traugutt secondary school in Częstochowa, where he passed final examination in 1925. In 1926-1932, Rosikoń studied at the Department of Civil Engineering and obtained a degree in civil engineering.

After graduation, he worked as a trainee at the District Administration of State Railways in Katowice, then as a road inspector at the Road Department in Tarnowskie Góry, where he designed a makeshift load-bearing track and also a device for measurement of track irregularities. In 1939, he became head of the Cieszyn-Zachód Road Department. After Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939, Rosikoń supervised evacuation train taking out of the country Polish railroad men and documentation from the lands occupied by German troops.

During occupation he worked at the iron ore mine in Żarki. After liberation, as deputy of the head of the Polish State Railways in Katowice District, he supervised the reconstruction of damaged railway infrastructure. From September 1945, he was a lecturer at the College of Advanced Technology in Katowice. In 1948, he returned to work on the railways. He gradually obtained more and more experience and became a specialist in damage of railway infrastructure caused by mining.

He was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and of the Committee on the Protection of Surface at the State Mining Authority. In 1961, he was appointed Director of the Office of Railway Planning in Katowice; he designed road and railway infrastructure for the Rybnicki Mining District. In 1964, Rosikoń defended a doctoral exam at the Silesian Technical University.

After going into railway retirement in 1967, he began his work at the Silesian Technical University, where he founded Railway Construction Department. For some time he worked at the Industrial Transport Department. Shortly before reaching retirement age, he became the Director of the Road and Bridge Institute at the Construction Department of the Silesian Technical University.

In 1977 he retired but he was still professionally active and was giving lectures until 1982. In the years 1979-2000, Rosikoń was Deputy Director for technical affairs at the New Technologies and Implementation Department of Gomex company, and then Polon and Armex companies.

In 2001, he was appointed to the professorship of technical sciences and in 2007 received an honorary award „Człowiek roku – przyjaciele kolei” (“Man of the Year – Friends of Railways”). In 2009, Rosikoń was honoured with a title and medal “Osobowość Budownictwa Śląskiego” (“Personality of the Silesian Construction Industry”). In 2008, he was decorated with the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. On October 2, 2012, he was awarded by the University’s senate a title of the Honorary Professor of the Silesian Technical University.

Antoni Rosikoń died on August 17, 2013 in Mysłowice. At the moment of his death he was the oldest professor in Poland. Keywords: railway technician, mining damage, communication construction

Analecta – Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki
[Analecta – Studies and Materials on the History of Science]
XXVI, 2017, 1, 69-85