

The summary in English

In Poland as well as in the whole Europe swimming through the centuries had first of all utilitarian character and constituted an important part of the knight education. The ability of swimming was useful during common Middle Ages wars. In the 16th century there were some statements about the educational, recreational and health benefits of swimming and in the 17th century diary notes concerning swimming achievements of soldiers. In the 18th century at noble colleges as well as military schools swimming constituted traditional knight practices. A trial of making swimming popular was made by the Commission of National Education and it was conducted only at some schools. At the beginning of the 19th century the first schools and the swimming pools were created in Poland. The school of swimming which was situated at the Jagiellonian University Ludwik Bierkowski's Cracovian Institute of Save Swimming on the Vistula river as well as two schools in Warsaw - the school of Teodor Mathes and the Military School of Swimming on Marymont. The schools made swimming popular especially among the youth as well as organized the first safe swimming pools. As a result of growing interest at swimming in Cracow was the opening of the swimming pool in 1885 in the Cracovian Park very famous well-deserved in the history of Polish swimming. Here, the first swimming competitions took place with the participation of stationing in Cracow soldiers coming from different towns of the empire. Making swimming popular was made by "Sokół" Cracovian Rowing Society the society was also responsible for organizing swimming contests on the Vistula River as well as AZS conducting regular swimming practices. The first well-known Polish swimmers were the swimmers of AZS in Cracow: Rudy, Łoś, Baszkoff, Cepturski, Ferens, Popielówna, Lubańska. The swimming centre in Cracow was the predecessor of swimming sports in Poland. After 1919 all Cracovian sports clubs created swimming sections and YMCA distinguished at the swimming pool. A swimming pool was also in Lwów since 1820 where the biggest merit in making the sport popular had also the army. The town was famous for fabulous spectacles on water, there were two huge swimming pools. The swimming pools of a sports size and the first in Poland water sports section also swimming section. Warsaw was also a crucial swimming centre with its military schools as well as Mathes, Graff and Kozłowski institution. Swimming was also organized on the Vistula River. WTW organized swimming races and since 1884 multi-discipline sports events with many contests as well as running through the Vistula river. The well-known Rau's gardens made swimming popular among children. There were also good swimming conditions in Poznań. Swimming traditions in the city have its origin at the beginning of the

XVI century. The swimming pools and baths were also created there. Its swimming pools were also made public to the citizens and the youth by the army. In 1866 the first indoor swimming pool was created. In 1876 the first swimming competitions in Poland on the Warta river took part. At around 1890 swimming education was created at schools. In 1910 with the creation of Erste Schwimmverein Posen was created. Taking into account the development of swimming Silesia took the first place where since the 70's of the 19th century modern swimming pools were created they were built by the cities and the steelworks. Gliwice became the crib of swimming. Among many well – known Silesian clubs EKS as well as Hakoah Bielsko distinguished since 1912. After gaining the independence the crucial moment connected with the development of Polish swimming was the creation of Polish swimming society on the 30th of April 1922. Stanisław Wyżykowski (PhD) became the first manager of the Polish Swimming Society.

The society concentrated mainly 10 clubs and registered 65 swimmers including 13 women. In 1924 Silesian clubs were admitted.

The main aim of the society included coordination of the activities among the institutions propagating swimming, organizing statutory matters, the assertion of the financing clubs as well as organizing championship contests, education of coaches, gaining abroad coaches, the development of the swimming base, building objects, organizing international meetings as well as abroad travelling of the swimmers. The ages of the crisis weren't beneficial for the development of the sport, many clubs stayed outside the society and wrestled with the financial problems. Still swimming infrastructure wasn't sufficient. Developing number of clubs and sections in huge centres inclined the management to the creation of the Country Swimming Associations in 1926. Since 1926 the further development of swimming was created. The development of the clubs by the society as well as the clubs made swimming popular among the youth brought fruits with the creation of a huge number of talented juniors – the development of their career was stopped by the outbreak of the World War II in 1939. Since 1922 the swimming championships were created every year since 1923 regional championship. Polish swimmers took part in the European championship as well as the Olympics. The most popular swimmer of the interwar years was Kazimierz Bocheński as well as Jan Kot, Szajbman, Matysiak, Roupert, Dette, Karliczek, Heidrich, Jędrysek, Kummant. The best swimmers among women were Schreibówna, Nowakówna, Tratowa, Kajzerówna, Kratochwilówna, talented juniors Dawidowiczówna, Kandlówna as well as Bollówna and Izycka. During the first years Cracovian clubs were in the lead, next Silesian teams and finally

Warsaw TP Giszowiec, Dab Katowice, Hakoah Bielsko. Polish swimming despite the fact it didn't reach the European level within the 1922 and 1939 made a huge progress as well.