

WŁODZIMIERZ STANISŁAW TRZYWDAR BURZYŃSKI
(1900–1970)



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "W. Trzywdar Burzyński". The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

Was born into the family of a secondary-school teacher of physics in Przemyśl on the 29th of April 1900. His father Marian Jan Tomasz Trzywdar Burzyński graduated in Kraków from the Cracow University in physics and astronomy and received the PhD degree in physics, his mother Wanda (her maiden name Rutkowska) passed away prematurely when Włodzimierz was only three years old. Przemyśl, a town near the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was

converted into a “Przemyśl fortress”. It didn’t help much since in the Spring of 1915 the fortress was besieged by the Russian Army and the whole Austro-Hungarian garrison was taken into the Russian captivity. In November 1918, after 123 years of partition, Poland regained freedom. However this was not given for granted. The 18 years old Włodzimierz, still a student of the secondary school, was not accepted by a commission of the Austrian-Hungarian Army due to his weak health. However after a couple of months, already as a student of the Lwów Polytechnic, he joined the Polish Army as a volunteer and took part in the fights with Ukrainians (1st November – 16th December 1918). Next he studied at the Lwów Polytechnic, Faculty of Civil Engineering, and joined the Polish Army for the second time (4th – 22nd August 1920) to fight the bolsheviks. For the third time he joined the volunteers and took part in the Silesian Uprising (3rd May 1921 – 26th of July 1921 in Upper Silesia). For his courage and activity in fight Włodzimierz Burzyński was honoured with an “Upper Silesian Ribbon of Courage of the First Class”.



Włodzimierz Burzyński defended his civil engineering diploma with distinction on 12th of June 1925, in the next year he married Irena Wanda Walkowicz on 16th February 1926. The married couple had two sons. In 1922 student W. Burzyński became an instructor at the Lwów Polytechnic. In 1925 he became an assistant. Under the supervision of the famous professor M.T. Huber, who then held the chair of mechanics, he prepared his doctoral thesis on the strength hypotheses [1] and obtained the Ph.D. degree in February 1928. After years, we have arrived at the conclusion that the results of Burzyński’s thesis are of lasting value and should be translated into English and published in [2]. This is so since after eighty years, there appear some papers devoted to the same topic using W. Burzynski’s ideas.

A LA GLOIRE DE LA PATRIE



POUR LA GRANDEUR DE LA SCIENCE

EN VERTU DE LA LOI VOTÉE PAR LA DIÈTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE POLONAISE

LA HAUTE ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE DE LÉOPOL

SOUS LE RECTORAT DE SA MAGNIFICENCE

MONSIEUR LE DOCTEUR JULIEN TOKARSKI

PROFESSEUR DE MINÉRALOGIE ET DE PÉTROGRAPHIE

ET SOUS LE DÉCANAT

DE MONSIEUR LE DOCTEUR ANTOINE WERESZCZYŃSKI

PROFESSEUR DE DROIT, DOYEN DE LA FACULTÉ DE GÉNIE CIVIL ET HYDRAULIQUE

CONFÈRE

à MONSIEUR L'INGÉNIEUR WLADIMIR STANISLAS BURZYŃSKI

NÉ À PRZEMYSŁ PALATINAT DE LÉOPOL

LES GRADE, TITRE, DIGNITÉ ET PRIVILÈGES DE DOCTEUR ÈS SCIENCES TECHNIQUES

CERTIFIANT QU'IL A TEOIONÉ CONFORMÉMENT AUX RÉGLEMENTS DE SA PRÉPARATION SCIENTIFIQUE PAR LA PRÉSENTATION D'UNE THÈSE INTITULÉE:

„ÉTUDE SUR LES HYPOTHÈSES DE LA TENSION“

ET SUBI LES EXAMENS DE RIGUEUR AVEC LA MENTION TRÈS BIEN, EN FOI DE QUOI LE PRÉSENT DIPLÔME LUI EST DÉLIVRÉ.

FAIT À LÉOPOL CE 5-ÈME JOUR DE MAI DE L'AN 1928.

LE RECTEUR

Prof. Dr. Julien Tokarski

LE DOYEN

Prof. Dr. Antoine Wereszczyński

LE PROMOTEUR

Prof. Dr. Lucien Grabowski

A postdoctoral grant from the Polish Culture Fund enabled him to spend eight months in Göttingen and Zurich and to get acquainted with many distinguished scientists in the field of the solid body mechanics: L. Prandtl (Göttingen) and M. Roš (Zürich) as well as with Th. v. Kármán (Aachen), K. v. Sanden (Karlsruhe) and R. v. Mises (Berlin). His paper “Über die Anstrengungshypothesen” was published in Schweizerische Bauzeitung [3]. W. Burzyński obtained the D.Sc. degree for his habilitation thesis entitled “On an expansion of the elastic potential and its applications” [4] in 1932 and received the title of professor at the Lwów Polytechnic from the President of the Republic of Poland on the 29th September 1934. As a result of an open competition, W. Burzyński became the successor of Professor M.T. Huber at the chair of mechanics. In 1938 Professor W. Burzyński was elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Technological Sciences in Warsaw, and a member of the editorial board of the “Zentralblatt für Mechanik”. In the same year he was elected the dean of the mechanical faculty. When Poland was in 1939 partitioned again and Lwów was occupied by the Soviets, Burzyński kept his post of the dean, moreover he became, by a decision of Polish professors who trusted him, the main adviser to entire staff in the case when they didn't know what to do in new circumstances.

Inż. WŁODZIMIERZ TRZYWDAR BURZYŃSKI

STUDJUM NAD HIPOTEZAMI WYTEŻENIA

(Z 104 RYSUNKAMI W TEKŚCIE)

Praca niniejsza została przedstawiona, jako podstawa do uzyskania stopnia doktora nauk technicznych, Komisji Doktorskiej Politechniki lwowskiej w składzie następującym:

Przewodniczący: *Prof. Dr. Antoni Wereszczyński.*
Referenci: *Prof. Inż. Dr. Jan Bogucki,*
Prof. Inż. Dr. Maksymilian T. Huber,
Prof. Dr. Włodzimierz Stożek.

Data przedłożenia pracy: 7. I. 1928.

Data egzaminu ścisłego: 20. II. 1928.

NAKŁADEM AKADEMJI NAUK TECHNICZNYCH

After almost two years, the German troops and Gestapo overtook the town. All the universities were shut down together with secondary schools in Polish language. A number of professors from Lwów's academic schools, together with many family members, were shot. Another year has passed before the Germans decided to organise the Fachkursen. Professor W. Burzyński accepted the position of the deputy director of the Technische Fachkursen. The representative of the Polish Government on Exile advised to accept the decision. After mobilization of the Ukrainian students (1943) to SS division "Hałyczyna", the programs of the courses could resemble those of the polytechnic.

In July 1944 the town was overtaken by the Red Army (with the help of the Polish Home Army). The Polytechnics was reopened under a new name and new Soviet orders. W. Burzyński was appointed the deputy director of the school for scientific matters. On the fourth of January 1945 he was arrested with a number of the other distinguished professors and spent in prison over 7 months. After release from prison he spent another year in Lwów teaching students and doing the research. Professor W. Burzyński left Lwów in July 1946 and went to the Silesian Institute of Technology where he became the chairman of two chairs, namely that of the Technological Mechanics on the Faculty of the Mechanical Engineering and that of the Strength of Materials in Civil Engineering Faculty. In August of 1946 W. Burzyński was elected by an assembly of teachers and students, the new Rector of the school. Unfortunately the regulations have changed and for over thirty years there were no elections of the rectors, deans etc. any longer in all the academic schools in Poland.

Suddenly, in October 1949, his scientific career was abruptly terminated by an incurable disease. In spite of this he was elected a member of Cracow Polish Academy of Letters, a member of the Warsaw Scientific Society, and an honorary member of the Polish Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. Professor W. Burzyński died in Gliwice on July 17, 1970. In 1982 the Polish Academy of Sciences published, in two volumes, his “Collected Papers” [5].

Zbigniew S. Olesiak
and the Editorial Committee

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