



With deep regret we would like to inform you that

prof. dr Stanisław Darski

a man whose work and personality have contributed so much to the development of the Polish marine industry, died on December 22, 1983.

Polish science has thus lost an eminent scholar, an expert on practical and theoretical problems of shipping, an author of numerous scientific papers, a teacher and educator of many generations of specialists for the marine industry.

Professor Darski was the founder and chairman of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, deputy rector of the Economics Academy in Sopot, Minister of Shipping, director of the 'Żegluga Polska' Shipping Company, director of the Gdynia-America Line in Gdynia, and honorary consul of Finland.

Professor Stanisław Darski, the founder of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences was born on November 17, 1891 in Lwów.

In 1917, he obtained the doctor of law degree at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów. In 1920, he began to work in an export-import company in the Free City of Danzig. His work there (1920–1928) was connected with shipping and related fields, such as functioning of the harbour, work of longshoremen, manipulations in harbour, marine insurance *etc.*

In 1929–1930, Stanisław Darski was a syndic of the Harbour Shipping Agents' Association. In 1930, he began to work at the 'Żegluga Polska' Shipping Company in Gdynia, becoming in 1936 a director for trade matters and a member of the board of trustees. By organizing in 1929–1939 shipping lines to the Scandinavian countries, Hamburg, Antwerp, and Rotterdam, as well as the Levantine and Italian lines in the Mediterranean, he contributed to a considerable increase in sea trade. In the 1930's, he was a member of boards of trustees of such companies as 'Paged' and 'Polish Maritime Agency', and the 'Union of Polish Shipowners' in Gdynia. He was also an honorary consul of Finland.

In 1939, as a member of the Transport Committee, he took part in operations connected with the evacuation of Polish ships to British ports. As a director of the 'Polish Steamship Agency Limited' (PSAL), he managed the Polish fleet sent in convoys by the British Ministry of War. During the war, he held numerous responsible posts in the 'Polish Maritime Mission' in London, taking care of all matters related to repatriation and revindication of vessels, and the return of the Polish fleet to Poland.

After his return home in the years 1946–1949 he held responsible posts in the Ministry of Shipping and Foreign Trade—shipping advisor in the Maritime Department, director of the General Inspectorate of Harbours and the Coast, director of the Shipping Department, and director of the Harbour Department. In 1949–1950, he was the state supervisor and chief director of the 'Gdynia-America Lines' (GAL) in Gdynia.

Professor Darski was also a distinguished teacher and educator of many generations of specialists for the marine industry. Being for many years (1950–1956) a lecturer at the Sea Trade Academy and the Economics Academy in Sopot, he held, among others the posts of head of the Institute of Organization and Technology of Sea Transport, deputy dean, dean, and deputy rector.

Professor Darski is the author of numerous scientific papers, including books: *Oplaty za przewóz morski (Fees for Sea Transport)*, Warsaw 1955; *Organizacja i technika transportu morskiego (Organization and Technology of Sea Transport)*, Poznań—Gdańsk 1964; and *Elementy techniki statku morskiego (Elements of Technology of a Sea-going Vessel)*, PWN, Łódź 1957; and other publications. He is also the co-author of the book *Rozwój i perspektywy gospodarki morskiej w Polsce (Development and Perspectives of Marine Industry in Poland)*, Gdynia 1968.

Another aspect of the scientific activities of Prof. Darski involves his work on the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR). The Polish Academy of Sciences established the Polish National SCOR on April 25, 1961 and appointed Prof. Darski its chairman for two terms of office, that is until 1965.

At the end of 1956, Prof. Darski was appointed Minister of Shipping: he held this post until the end of 1964. This was a period of a very dynamic development of the Polish marine industry, especially shipping, for which the credit goes to Prof. Darski.

Stanisław Darski was awarded many state decorations. In the period between the wars, he was given the Independence Medal and the Cross of Merit (twice). After World War II, he received the Chivalry Cross of the Order of Poland's Rebirth (1947), the Commandery Cross with the Star of the Order of Poland's Rebirth (1959), the Order of the Banner of Labour (First Class, 1964), the Medals of the People's Poland's 10th and 30th Anniversaries (1955, 1974), and other decorations, including foreign ones.

It may be said with full conviction that the industrious life of professor Darski, outstanding expert on practical and theoretical problems of shipping, was a significant contribution to the development of the marine industry in Poland.

Peace to his memory!