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**A History of ZAPEL Electrotechnical Porcelain Factory in Boguchwała vs. the
Situation of Electrotechnical Industry in Poland in the Years 1939-2012**

Summary

This PhD dissertation presents a history of ZAPEL Electrotechnical Porcelain Factory in Boguchwała, Poland comprising the period from its foundation in 1939 to the present day (2012). The company in Boguchwała was one of few factories in Poland that started production of electrotechnical porcelain accessories. The range of products manufactured in ZAPEL Factory included electrotechnical porcelain accessories such as high-voltage transmission line insulators, post insulators, bushing post insulators, and string insulators, porcelain tubes, special insulators for high-voltage apparatus (safety core type, spool type, hollow type, etc.). The assortment comprised low-voltage transmission line insulators: post, fuse and strain insulators, DC insulators, insulation rolls, sleeves, pipes, fuse holders, various installation accessories, and also porcelain apothecary accessories (mortars, cans and jars). The tableware manufactured in bone china included plates, mugs, bowls, white and decorated dinnerware, coffee and tea services, sets for cookies and fruit, vases and ashtrays.

The present dissertation is a monograph work divided into five chapters and a series of subchapters where economic, financial and technical issues concerning the functioning of the Company in the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century were discussed in detail. Chapter 1 presents the history of porcelain in Europe and that of ceramic (both faience and porcelain) manufacturers in Poland, for example in Korzec, Baranówek, Tomaszów Lubelski, Horodnica. It also includes ceramic traditions in Lower Silesia (which became part of Poland only in 1945) and a brief presentation of minor faience and porcelain manufacturers in Poland. The successive chapters describe various aspects of the Factory's activity that comprise the applied production technologies, financial situation, management systems of quality, promotion, marketing and export. Also its human resources management -

employment policy, salaries and social issues - were discussed. There is also a chapter that reviews the technological process of porcelain production. The dissertation divides the history of the Factory into three phases and discusses each of them: phase of private property, phase of the nationalized factory and joint-stock company called ZAPEL Electrotechnical Porcelain Factory S.A. The dissertation is complemented with rich iconographic materials (illustrations, photographs, graphs and tables) and an annex that contains interesting archival materials complementary to the main text.

The aim of the dissertation was to show that the Porcelain Factory in Boguchwała had come a long way from its foundation to the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century. The company underwent profound organizational and structural changes and introduced technological innovations. Due to the appropriate performance management, the Company developed progressively over the years. ZAPEL's actions were characterized by flexibility in adapting to evolving needs of domestic and foreign customers, which resulted in consolidating the company's important position in the domestic and international markets. The volume of exports grew consistently and so did the collaboration with Polish and foreign companies. ZAPEL received multiple medals and prestigious distinctions in various ratings and international trade fairs. In its long history, on the one hand, the company attracted highly qualified specialists, engineers and auxiliary staff, but on the other hand, it trained young people thus providing highly skilled workers to the electrotechnical industry. ZAPEL's policy and actions had an impact on the development of infrastructure in Boguchwała and the lifestyle and culture of the local community and not only.

This dissertation highlights the fact that ZAPEL – Electrotechnical Porcelain Factory in Boguchwała – is now a company with a well-established position in its branch of industry in Poland and abroad. The excellence of its products is confirmed by numerous quality certificates the company receives regularly. The company's policy is focused on dynamic growth in production capacity and early implementation of advanced technologies and constructive solutions to achieve the world's top standard.

Key words

ZAPEL, Electrotechnical Porcelain Factory in Boguchwała, insulators, history of porcelain, electrotechnical industry, Stanisław Syska