Institute of National Remembrance

https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/8375,What-you-need-to-know-about-the-quotGiants-of-Sciencequot-project.

19.04.2024, 23:09

24.06.2021

What you need to know about the "Giants of Science" project

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First of all,

the Institute of National Remembrance wants to remind the world just how much Polish scientists and inventors changed the world, and how big their contribution to the development of several nations was.

Secondly,

the last two and a half centuries have been marked by endless struggle for free and independent Poland, and it was combatants who

captured the society's attention. However, that picture must be completed with Polish contribution to the development of technology and scientific research. Our fellow Poles laid the foundations for a number of process technologies used today, were pioneer developers of oil, electronic and chemical industries, as well as wireless communication – and yet, they didn't make it to the national hall of fame. That's what the IPN is trying to correct, because, as the Institute's President Jarosław Szarek says, "They are the chisel that we'll carve a complete new international image of Poland with."

Thirdly,

Polish Contribution to Natural Sciences and Technology. Dictionary of Polish and Poland-Related Explorers, Inventors and Pioneers in Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology is a five-volume work penned by researchers associated with the Institute of the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and co-published by the Institute of National Remembrance. The authors have put together over 1,300 entries on the leading Polish scientists who contributed to the world's technological development. What you get is five volumes, more than 2,400 pages, 1,300 biographies – many of them compiled for the first time – and rich sources. Each of these life stories is will send your mind on a journey into unexplored corners of Poland's history.

Fourth,

Professor Bolesław Orłowski, the book editor, claims that Polish dictionaries and encyclopaedias burst at the seams with soldiers, politicians and authors, while scores of outstanding natural scientists, inventors, engineers and economy leaders – especially those whom twists and turns of fate forced out of the country – have been pushed into oblivion.

And fifth,

Not only did the IPN set about digitising the *Dictionary* and making it available to the public in both Polish and English language versions, but it also launched an extensive media campaign to promote both the book and the scientists it profiles.

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