
MARYAM VULIS, Maryam Vulis

The Life and Work of Zygmunt Janiszewski (1888 -1920)

The 1918 influenza pandemic claimed the life of the Polish mathematician Zygmunt Janiszewski. Born in Warsaw in 1888, Zygmunt Janiszewski studied mathematics in Zurich, Munich, and Gottingen, and eventually in Paris, where he wrote his doctorate thesis *Sur les continus irréductibles entre deux points* (1911) in topology. At the invitation of Waclaw Sierpinski, Janiszewski came to Lvov and in 1913, right before WWI, obtained his habilitation at the University of Lvov. After spending time serving in the WWI with the Polish legion, Janiszewski returned to Warsaw as a professor at the University of Warsaw. Zygmunt Janiszewski's concern for the future of Polish mathematics was reflected in this article "On the needs of Mathematics in Poland" in which Janiszewski urged Polish mathematicians to concentrate on the narrow field in order to achieve excellence and establish a journal dedicated to one area of interest. Zygmunt Janiszewski indeed played a vital role in organizing mathematics at the University of Warsaw and put forth the journal *Fundamenta Mathematicae*. The Polish mathematician was a remarkable person - a mathematician and educator, who was concerned about mathematics education in Poland and donated his prize and inheritance money to public education