

Vocational School of William Lindley in Hamburg

The School, 14 November 2012

The school is housed in a grand building from 1909 located on the Bundesstraße 58 in the prestigious district of Eppendorf.



The Preliminaries

The Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg on the 17th of April 2012 approved the request of the Vocational School of the Technical Installations (G2) to rename it and make William Lindley – the famous English civil-engineer – the patron of the school. The decision to rename the school went into effect on the 1st of May, 2012.

The official ceremony associated with the renaming of the school was scheduled for the 14th of November this year. Among the honorary guests were representatives of the city authorities - Senator Ties Rabe, the Guilds Chairman Fritz Schellhorn and of the companies employing and teaching pupils practical skills. A special invitation was sent to the descendants of William Lindley and the president of the Societas Lindleiana. During the renaming ceremony the direct line of the Lindleys was represented by Mr. Eugen Deubner, who came to Hamburg with his

wife Karin. An invitation went also to Katrin Lindley from Cologne, but health problems prevented her from coming to Hamburg. The ceremony started at 1.30 p.m. and lasted until 4.00 p.m.

Because on this day the organizer planned to unveil the head sculpture of William Lindley and a board with the new name of the school, which was to be placed above of the entrance to the building, we were greeted only by posters informing us about the ceremony taking place here.



The Ceremony

The ceremony began with refreshments prepared by the pupils of the culinary school and the music of a guitar duo from the Vocational school in the background, welcomed the guests.

Official opening began with a slight delay, but the program was implemented in full by the School Director, Mr. Jörn Buck, who gave a warm welcome to the honorary guests, the teachers and the pupils. Official speeches were delivered by Senator Ties Rabe, the Chairman of the Guild of Installers and Plumbers Mr. Fritz Schellhorn, and Mr. Bottländer, head of personnel at e.on-Hanse.

Dr. Ortwin Pelc, from the Museum of Hamburg History, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the achievements of William Lindley in Hamburg. His lecture was illustrated with many great photographs from the collections of the Museum. The final touch was a photograph from the Warsaw waterworks and kind remarks concerning the President of Societas Lindelaina.

After a number of excellent presentations prepared by the pupils, which aroused the enthusiasm of young people gathered in the auditorium, there was a time for a major act. Eugen Deubner and Rainer Schulz, Chairman of Hamburger Institut für Berufliche Bildung (which is the organizational unit managing all the vocational schools of Hamburg) were asked to unveil the sculpture and the sign with the new name of the school.



The head of William Lindley is modeled after the sculpture made by Hansjörg Wagner to be seen at the Baumwall in Hamburg (complete monument dedicated to W. Lindley was unveiled on 27 June 1993).



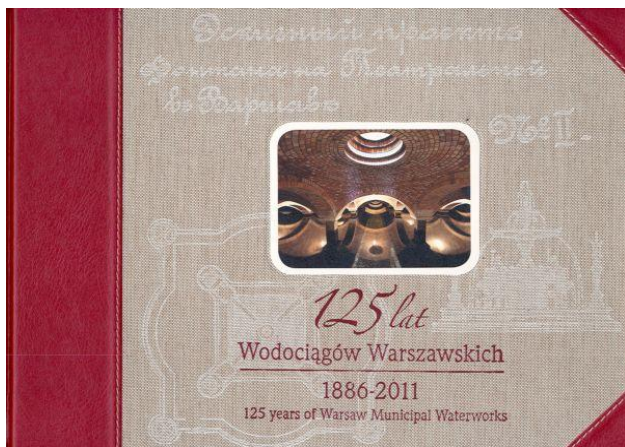
Eugen Deubner, on behalf of the family, thanked the school for the kind invitation to the ceremony and shared with us some thoughts about his great ancestor. Eugen Deubner's short speech ended with handing over a gift to the headmaster - a framed copy of the picture of the famous section of the sewage canal designed by William Lindley for Warsaw. The design was made in the workshop of William H. Lindley in Frankfurt am Main and included a bilingual description in German and Polish.



Eugen Deubner hands over the gift to Mr. J. Buck, the School Director. Below Mr. Buck with the print



Then came Ryszard Żelichowski's turn to take the floor. The president of Societas Lindleiana congratulated the Director on the perfect organization of this event and the excellent idea of giving the school the name of William Lindley. He also passed on to Mr. Buck a letter of congratulations from the chairman of the board of the Water Supply and Sewage Company in Warsaw, together with a copy of the album "125 years of Warsaw Municipal Waterworks 1886-2011". It is a reminder of the fact that William Lindley has done great works in Warsaw as well, and in this sense the capital of Poland is the younger sister of Hamburg.



Speeches by Eugen Deubner and the President of SL were received very well by the Board of Directors and the audience.



Eugen Deubner was in top form that day!

After the ceremony the audience could visit the small exhibition on William Lindley's activity in Hamburg arranged by the pupils. Later on they could also enjoy delicacies prepared by the pupils of the culinary school from a grill in the teacher's room.

Actually, we liked the monument and the new name of the School so much that we performed as a Lindley Honorary Guard for a while!



It was a very successful and pleasant ceremony. Since the 15th November the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg has a "Vocational School William Lindley" (*Berufliche Schule William Lindley*). Maybe in the future its pupils will follow the steps of their great patron - William Lindley – and will make the city even more beautiful and attractive to all Europeans.

