



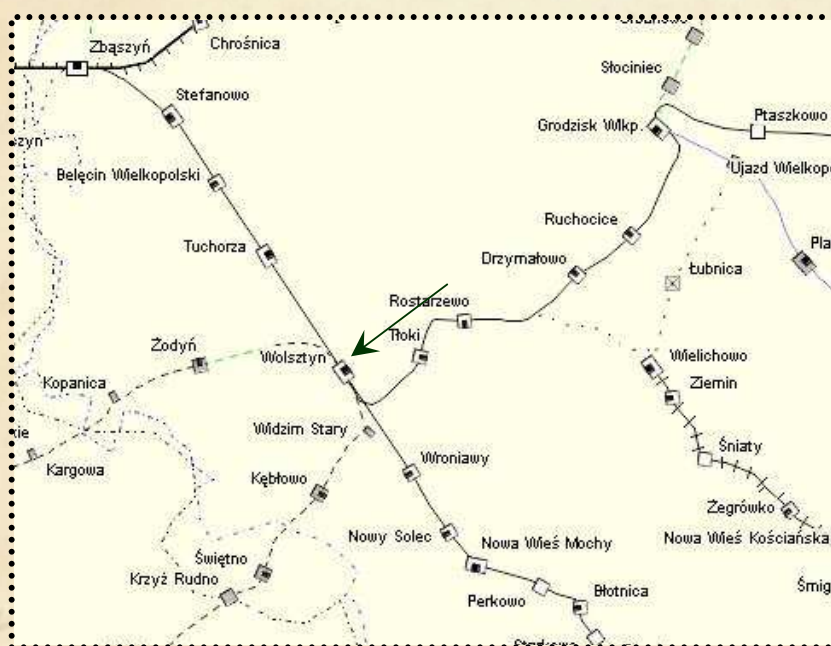
Photo by Olga Banaszyńska

## The Oldest Steam Locomotive Shed In Europe

The history of Wolsztyn's Steam Locomotive Shed is 124 years old. The first mainline was built in 1886. Because of numerous swamps the railway works were finished in 1915. Although we live in the world of high technology like fast cars and modern jumbo jets, Wolsztyn is still proud of its unique steam locomotive shed. The similar one is in China.

There were created five mainlines:

- to Zbaszyn in 1886
- to Leszno in 1896
- to Grodzisk Wielkopolski in 1898
- to Nowa Sól in 1908
- to Sulechów in 1915



source: <http://mapa.folej.one.pl>



To protect the steam engines and their facilities the Era Parowozów Foundation (the Locomotive Era Foundation) was established. The aim of this foundation was bringing to life the atmosphere of historical trains, therefore, people can travel by passenger 'retro' machines. The ticket prices are cheap enough, so everybody can afford it.



Photo by Anna Grześkowiak

There is also a museum where the arrays of rubber stamps, documents, original rebuilding plans, rail signal lanterns, and speedmetres can be seen.



Photo by Paulina Dużaj



The Steam Locomotive Shed in Wolsztyn is a real, working roundhouse. If you visit us, you will see thirty different kinds of locomotives. The most famous one is Pm 36-2 called 'Piękna Helena' ('Beautiful Helen') . It can reach a top speed of 130 kph. In 1937 it was awarded a gold medal at Paris International Fair.



Photo by Paulina Duszał

In 2006 Wolsztyn and its roundhouse gained the Certificate of the Best Tourism Product. In 2007 Wolsztyn's Locomotive Shed was announced as the one of The Seven Poland Wonders.

Wolsztyn's locomotives appear on a big screen. The Dk 1-359 locomotive is shown in 'Borderland on Fire' starring Cezary Pazura and Olaf Lubaszenko as well as in 'The Pianist' directed by Roman Polański.





Photo by Anna Grześkowiak

Every year, at the beginning of May, Wolsztyn becomes the centre for train lovers. Many foreigners: Japanese, German, Englishmen, Czechs, arrive to Wolsztyn to appreciate our heritage. The locomotive parade is the most attractive to tiny tots. When the trains pass you, you get goose bumps and feel the ground trembling.

**If you want to experience an unforgettable impression come and visit us!**



Photo by Natalia Kaczyk

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