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Cover story

On 19th April 2010 in a lecture room on the sixth floor of SuperC - the new central service building for students, opened in 2008 together with the Main Building of the Rheinisch-Westfaelische Technische Hochschule and seen on the cover - RWTH Aachen University in Aachen in Germany organised a discussion meeting of the representatives of the Polish scientific society with the Authorities and Professors of RWTH Aachen University. On 25th January 1858, prince Frederic William of Prussia, the later German emperor, was presented a donation of 5,000 talers for charity, and in March, the prince chose to use the donation to found the first Prussian institute of technology somewhere in the Rhine province. Aachen finally won in the competitions. Groundbreaking for the new Polytechnic took place on 15th May 1865, so exactly 145 years ago, and lectures started amidst on 10th October 1870. In the small pictures the Aachen Cathedral seen from the windows of the lecture room is presented and on the next picture seen among the early spring flowers of magnolia as the first German building listed in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage in 1978. In 794-801 on Charles the Great's recommendation the chapel in the form of the octagon probably coming from Master Odo of Metz was built. The octagon forms the core of many buildings added later to the Chancel. In the 14th and 15th century the Gothic choir, a high tower and several side chapels were added. In 1719 Carolingian mosaics were replaced by stuccos. In 1756-1767 the reconstruction of the Hungarian Chapel, built in 1367 adjusting it to the chapel of baroque style, was carried out. In 1879-1981 stucco decorations were replaced by parts covered with mosaics. The City Hall, presented in the third photo was built in 1349 in the Gothic style on the foundations of the former imperial Palatine Charlemagne. Some elements of this building coming from the Carolingian times were integrated in the City Hall. On the western side of the tower it includes the parts of a fair tower and on the eastern Granus Tower. During the two great fires (1656 and 1883) the City Hall was greatly damaged and in the 18th century it was rebuilt in the Baroque style and became an urban palace. During the Second World War the next almost complete destruction of this building took place. Today's City Hall is decorated by 50 statues of German kings, out of which 31 were just crowned in Aachen.

