

JAN WILGA , Chemical Engineer, Doctor of Chemistry .

I was born in Russia in 1895, of Polish parentage.. I am single, of Roman Catholic Faith.

I graduated from the Polytechnic School of Warsaw (Poland) as Chemical Engineer. I took my post-graduate work at the Institut Chimique of the University of Nancy, France in 1923-1924, specializing in research work in the domain of catalytic reduction of organic compounds.

I have been employed by the following firms and academic schools :

1924-1925 : chief laboratory engineer at the oil refinery works " Limanowa " in Poland.

1926-1929 : chief laboratory engineer at Giesche-Harriman concern in Upper Silesia - coal and zinc mines, plumb, cadmium ; manufacture of sulfuric acid.

1930-1933 I was in business, in the sales of automobile oils (Wing- oil) in Warsaw, Poland.

In 1933 I was appointed Assistant Professor of Technology of sugar, and Technology of organic compounds at the Polytechnic School of Warsaw. I also made reserach work in Technology of cellulose, synthetic rubber, synthetic resins, plastics, compounds received by way of polymerisation or condensation. In this research work I was collaborator of Professor K. Smolenski. During these years I also worked as Assistant in the laboratory of technical analysis (analysis of water, coal, oils, fats, chemicals, etc).

In 1936 I was transferred to the Chemical Research Institute of Warsaw, as Assistant in Technology of synthetic rubber. My research included work on obtaining synthetic rubbers of the German type : Buna S , Buna N (Perduren), thioplasts, work on polymerisation in water emulsion of butadien, and mixed polymerisation. Also organic synthesis for synthetic resins, and studies on emulsion and colloid chemistry.

During the years 1936-1939 I have completed my work entitled : " Polymerisation of butadien 1-3 in water emulsion ". This work has been approved by the Polytechnic School of Warsaw, and accepted as my Thesis for the degree of Doctor of Chemistry. I also have published several articles on plastics (methods of testing tyoes of artificial resins, as for ex. thicol) in the scientific publication "Przemysl Chemiczny " .

I have obtained, jointly with Prof. Smolenski, several Patents in Poland : two Patents concerning polymerisation in emulsion (method, catalisator), one Patent concerning mixed polymerisation, and one

Jan Wilga (continued)

Patent granted in Roumania, concerning methods in obtaining thioceal plastics.

During the same years 1936-1939, together with other members of the staff, I have been working on plans for construction of a new chemical plant for synthetic rubber in Debica, Poland.

I know Polish , French, German and Russian, and I know English sufficiently for scientific purposes. It would take me but a few months to master conversational English.

At present time I have a temporary position at a sugar refinery in Eskisehir, Turkey.

My present address is :

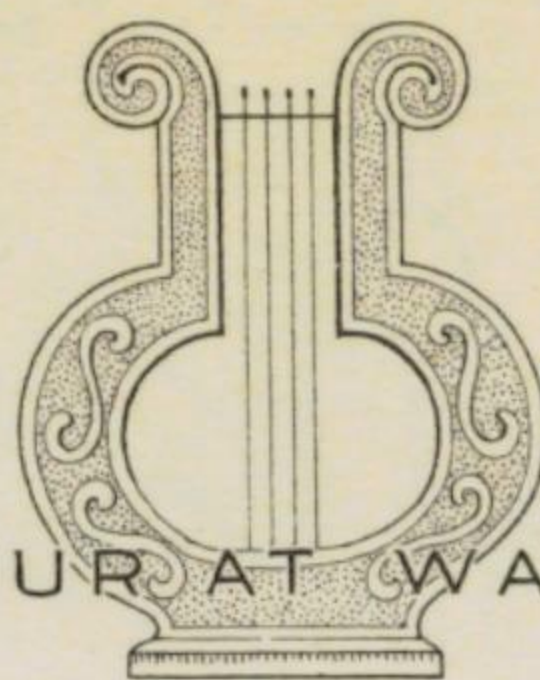
Jan Wilga
Seker Fabrikasi
Eskisehir, Turkey

The letter from President Clarence
R. Becker, Kansas City, Aug. 26,
which accompanied this letter
of J. Labunski, is filed under

Jobs

Dr. Wiktor Labunski

THE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC



ARMOUR AT WALNUT

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

August 23, 1940.

Dr. Alvin Johnson
Director, New School for Social Research
New York City.

Dear Sir ,

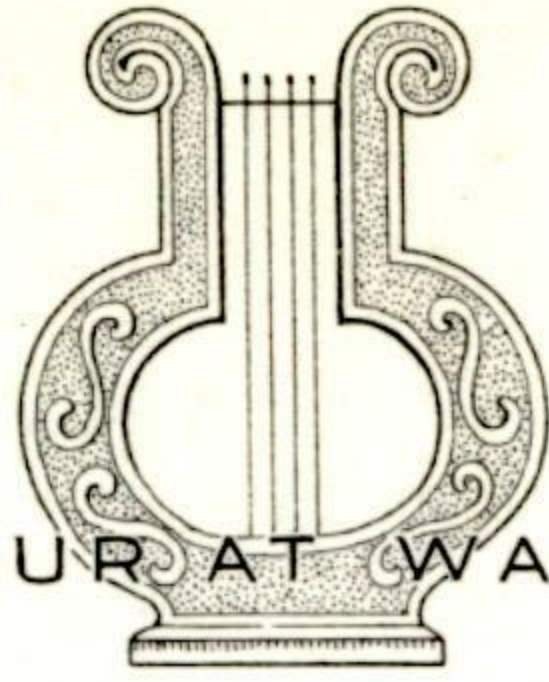
Knowing of your interest in outstanding scientists coming to the United States from countries involved in war, I wish to call your attention to a brilliant Polish chemist, one of the outstanding researchers in synthetic rubber and other organic compounds. The enclosed biography of JAN WILGA, which I have compiled from data he sent me, will give you a factual summary of what he has done during his many years of investigation in Poland. All the facts enumerated in the biography I know to be accurate. In addition, Mr. Wilga is a person of such extreme modesty as far as his accomplishments are concerned - a man whose sole interests in life are scientific research - that there is much more than the bare facts he thought worth mentioning.

I think I should say at once that Mr. Wilga is a second cousin of mine, but that my interest in him extends beyond this family connection. It is primarily a concern for a brilliant scholar and person - one who may prove of great value to our country.

Mr. Wilga, an Aryan of Catholic faith, was known in Poland as one of the brilliant men in his field. The government entrusted him with the planning of its new synthetic rubber plant at Debice, Poland, and appointed him head of its research laboratory. This plant was considered of vital importance to the Polish government.

The invasion of Poland in September 1939 cut short his work in that country. Like so many others, he emigrated from his native country to Roumania and then to Turkey where he was appointed a research man in a large sugar refinery. He desires to come to the United States, if he can obtain a visa.

THE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC



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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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I should very much appreciate any suggestions from you, concerning Mr. Wilga's possibilities in this country, and ways in which I could be instrumental in bringing him here. I am convinced that he will prove a brilliant addition to any research staff working within his field of competence.

Thanking you in advance, I am ,

Very sincerely yours,

Wiktor Labunski

Wiktor Labunski
Doctor of Music
Head of Piano Department
K.C. Conservatory of Music.

August 29, 1940

Dear Dr. Labunski:

I received your letter of August twenty-third in which you present the case of Jan Wilga. He is a man we ought to bring into the country, but at present the obstacles to bringing him in are very great.

Under the immigration law non-quota visas may be granted to scholars who have been regularly employed as university or academy teachers in the last two years prior to application for visas. This qualification Dr. Wilga cannot meet. The only other possibility is a visitor's visa. The general rule is that a visitor's visa can be granted only to a person who can return to the place from which he came as visitor. In view of the transportation difficulties the possibility of return has all but disappeared, and so in the ordinary case consuls are not granting the visitor's visa.

There has been a recent relaxation of these conditions for distinguished scholars who are in peril but the State Department has its own definition of "in peril". Refugees in such regions as Holland, Belgium and the occupied parts of France are conceived to be in peril, but persons living elsewhere are not in peril.

I am taking up a special case with the State Department with the hope of broadening the scope of this provision. If anything comes of my effort, I shall let you know.

Sincerely,

Alvin Johnson
Director

AJ:EW

Dr. Wiktor Labunski
The Conservatory of Music
Kansas City, Missouri

ES file

Sept. 3, 1940
3525 Central Str.
Kansas City, Mo

Dear Dr. Johnson ,

Just a short note to thank you for your kind letter of August 29, and for your interest in Dr. Jan Wilga.

It may be an unfortunate coincidence that he ended his connection with the Chemical Research Institute (which is an institute of higher learning after all) just a few months before the invasion of Poland. But as I understand the Immigration rulings, this clause which you mention in your letter was made to avoid giving non-quotas to persons who either are not sufficiently experts in their fields, or who become fictitious members of teaching staffs in order to obtain such non-quota visas. In the case of Dr. Wilga, it is quite evident that he is a person of learning and of wide experience in the teaching field. However, the ^{Imm}igration Office may take a different point of view.

With very much appreciation for your inte-

rest, and with kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Wiktor Labunski

Wiktor Labunski

Dr. Alvin Johnson , Director
The New School for Social Research
New York City