

## Summary.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, there was hype on cycling in Europe. The first "iron horses" on the Polish lands were brought from the World Industrial Exhibition from Paris in 1867. Soon we had to wait, because already in 1869, the first bicycle race was organized in the Krasiński Garden in Warsaw. The first games with the bicycle over time took the organizational forms. A breakthrough date in the history of cycling on Polish lands was the establishment of the Warsaw Cyclists' Society in 1886. The WTC ranks were being recruited by men from the emerging intelligentsia. Apart from the Warsaw club, this entertainment was also begun by women, including Karolina Kocięcka.

She was born in 1875 in Warsaw. She was the daughter of Julian Kocięcki and Karolina from the house of Mikulska. Her family from the father's side was of noble origin and identified herself with the Nieczuja coat of arms. The family homes of the Kocięcki family were connected with the village of Kocięcín, from which the family's surname was derived. When she was only half a year old, her mother died. Her father remarried to Michalina Jasińska, with whom he had two sons: Waclaw and Henryk. Karolina Kocięcka grew up in the company of stepbrother completely masculine. In her childhood, she spent a lot of time on Dynasy watching races of masters. When she gained the skill in the possession of the machine she wanted to compete.

Karolina Kocięcka started riding a bicycle at the age of several years. For the first time on a large scale, Miss Karolina Kocięcka tried her strength in races organized on Dynasy in 1896 under the name "Babie lato". The whole event was original not only from the name itself, but especially from its course. Karolina Kocięcka in the "women's run" took the second place. In 1897, the first women's racing race won over a distance of 25 verses. The women's race of 1897 was a breakthrough stage in Kocięcka's sporting career, hence she finally has chosen the "path of professionalism" in cycling. In her next performances Karolina Kocięcka presented herself as a rugged cyclist with temperament. In 1898, she was not admitted to the competition for the title of the Master of the Kingdom of Poland for 100 versts, as part of the opposition, she started outside the competition. In the years 1898-1899 she broke records on the tracks of many cities such as Wilno, Piotrków Tryb., Łódź, Kalisz or Lwów, where WTC consulates existed. In 1900, she competed with men in the Moscow-Petersburg section of the race, which was considered extreme in these times. In the same year she went cycling to Paris for the World Industrial Exhibition. In 1901 in Moscow and St. Petersburg she broke records for 50 and 100 versts. The most admirable achievement was the crossing of the Petersburg-Warsaw-Moscow-Petersburg route with over 5527

vistas. In addition, she sought to establish a cyclist club in Warsaw in 1897. Unfortunately, this topic, repeatedly called in the second half of the nineteenth century, has not been implemented. At the time when Kocięcka was the most successful in the field of contemporary cyclists in the pages of the specialist press "Sport", she wrote about it: *She is a Warsaw champion, sportsman in every inch, the best Polish cyclist*. Despite her successes, she was forgotten by the posterity.

Karolina Kocięcka was a well-known sportswoman at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Although she noted the greatest successes in cycling, which she dealt with professionally, she ran amateurlly and skated on ice. The final choice of "wheel sport" was not accidental. Her actions in the field of physical activity were supported by emancipation efforts, and cycling was good for flaunting these slogans, because she was fashionable and controversial at the same time.

Keywords

***Karolina Kocięcka, cycling, at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries, emancipation.***

*A. Szwedowicz*