Tadeusz Kotarbiński

(March 31, 1886 – October 3, 1981)



Tadeusz Kotarbiński was born in Warsaw on March 31, 1886 into an artist family. He studied mathematics and physics in Cracow, and architecture in Darmstadt and Lvov (1907–1912). At Lvov University, Kotarbiński studied philosophy and classical philology under the guidance of Kazimierz Twardowski. He received his PhD in 1912 with his thesis titled "Utilitarianism in the ethics of Mill and Spencer". After his university studies, Kotarbiński taught classics at a Warsaw high school. In 1919 he was appointed Temporary Professor of Philosophy (Full Professor in 1929) at the University of Warsaw. During World War II, he took part in underground teaching. After the war, he became the founder and first rector of the University of Łódź (1945–1949). In 1951, he returned to Warsaw where he lectured at the University. Kotarbiński was the president of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1957–1961). He also served as the president of the Polish Philosophical Society (1948–1978), and as vice president and president of Institut International de Philosophie (1957–1968).