

First of all, on behalf of the Polish Mathematical Society and the entire Polish mathematical community, I would like to express our deep thanks to all the people and organizations due to which this **commemorative plaque** has been created.

Let me mention Prof. Żylinski, whose article founded the idea, next unfortunately not present here Prof. Jackowski, who pointed our attention to it, Prof. Weron who passed this idea to his German colleagues in Göttingen, Dr Stefan Leykun, next the authorities of the town of Göttingen with the mayor Rolf-Georg Köhler. I should mention all the people from the Georg August University of Göttingen who helped with its arrangement: Professor Rainer Kress, the Dean of Faculty of Mathematics Prof. Stefan Halverscheid, and of course the President of Uni Göttingen Prof. Ulrike Beisiegel. Finally, the German-Polish Society at Göttingen and DMV, represented here by Adam Harm and Prof. Volker Bach respectively, effectually took part in this action.

I do not need to emphasize how important are the roots and continuity of tradition for any cultural, and thus scientific activity. Hugo Steinhaus was one of the founders, with Stefan Banach, of the Lvov Mathematical School, but he was also an inventor and patron of applied mathematics in Poland and the popularization of mathematics there. Consequently he was one of originators of mathematical life in Poland. But he did not appear out of nowhere. His mathematical roots are here - pointing once more to the importance of Göttingen for the European culture.

To say something about the main character of the event I would like to recall perhaps the most known and popular of his statements, called "the Steinhaus principle". It says "a mathematician does it better".

Another of his official declarations, showing Steinhaus' sense of humor and distance to himself, is the claim that his best achievement was the discovery of Stefan Banach at a bench in the Planty Park in Krakow in 1916. The latter is commemorated by a bronze memorial sculpture there. Another memorial will be here from now on.

Thank you very much, Danke schoen, Dziękuję bardzo.