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## **Beyond Borders: A Surprising History of Ebstein's Anomaly and the Wilhelm Ebstein Monument**

On June 28, 1864, Joseph Prescher was admitted to All Saints Hospital (Allerheiligen-Hospital) in Breslau. He suffered from dyspnea, cyanosis, cachexia and palpitations. Systolic murmur was present. Eight days later, Joseph Prescher died, and the next day, 28 year old dr. Wilhelm Ebstein M.D. performed the autopsy. One and a half years later (1866), he published his case report „Über einen sehr seltenen Fall von Insufficienz der Valvula tricuspidalis, bedingt durch eine angeborene hochgradige Missbildung derselben“ (A very rare case of tricuspid regurgitation caused by a congenital defect). After World War II, the German town Breslau became the Polish town Wrocław, and Allerheiligen Hospital changed its name to Jozef Babinski Hospital.

Wilhelm Ebstein was born on November 27th, 1836 in Jawor (formerly Jauer), a small town in the Lower Silesia region, to a German-Jewish family. At the age of 19, he started his medical studies at the University of Breslau, in the capital of Lower Silesia. After a few months of study in Breslau, he transferred to the medical school in Berlin, where he met the esteemed pathologist Rudolf Virchow. Wilhelm Ebstein graduated from his Berlin Alma Mater in 1859 and he began working at All Saints Hospital in Breslau. In 1874 he moved to Göttingen where he was offered a Chair of Internal Diseases. He died in 1912. Despite his distinguished career, he was seemingly forgotten in his own birthplace. There were no memory traces of a man whose name was immortalized in three medical eponyms: Ebstein Anomaly, Pel-Ebstein fever and Armani-Ebstein cells.

In 2017, a Polish cardiologist wrote an article devoted to this German-Jewish doctor. It was published in the American peer-reviewed Texas Heart Institute Journal and was read in Belgium by an advisor of the Belgian Minister of Public Health. An international committee, chaired by Prof. Marian Zembala (Polish cardiac surgeon and former Minister of Public Health) was established. As a result of their collaborative efforts, an international conference devoted to Wilhelm

Ebstein and Ebstein's anomaly was organized in 2019 in Jawor. It was entitled: "From Jawor to Göttingen, from Lower Silesia to immortality. Tribute to Wilhelm Ebstein." A short documentary dedicated to the life-story and heritage of Wilhelm Ebstein was broadcasted. A bronze bust of Wilhelm Ebstein was unveiled in the Regional Museum of Jawor. The history of the life, work and legacy of Wilhelm Ebstein has come full circle. It has passed through borders and epochs.

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