

## IN MEMORY

## Professor Jerzy Kłapciński

April 18, 1925 – February 22, 2001



Professor Jerzy Kłapciński was born on the eighteenth of April, 1925, in Olkusz, where he attended primary school. In autumn 1939, he entered a secondary school, which was to be closed by the German occupying forces in January of 1940. During the occupation, he worked as a labourer in the Olkusz Enamel Vessel Factory, and after the war he had to complete two years of military service. From 1947 to 1950, he continued his education in a secondary school in Trzebnica, a town near Wrocław. In 1950, he graduated, and entered the University of Wrocław to study Geology in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. It was during his studies in 1953 that he began work as a substitute tutor in the Department of Stratigraphy of the University of Wrocław under Professor Józef Zwierzycki. He graduated with a Master's degree in Geology in 1955, becoming first a full tutor, and then, in 1956, a senior tutor at the University. The title of Doctor of Natural Sciences, along with a nomination for the position of lecturer, was conferred on him in 1960, after his dissertation "The Triassic to the Northeast of the Fore-Sudetic Trough", which he wrote under the supervision of Professor Zwierzycki. His next dissertation was to be "The Lithology, Fauna, Stratigraphy and Palaeogeography of the Permian of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline", given in 1969. He received the title of Professor in 1984, and was nominated as Professor Emeritus in 1995.

The main topic of Prof. Kłapciński's interest was the region of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline, and he published a wide range of papers on the stratigraphy and palaeogeography of the Permian and Triassic of that region. Over 60 publications detail his scientific achievements, and he was the author or co-author for around 90 geological papers and reports on the basis of drill core material. It was thanks to his initiative that "The Atlas of the Copper-Bearing Regions of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline" was published. He served both as its co-ordinator and editor-in-chief.

He gained his in depth knowledge of the Permian and Triassic over many years of research of numerous drill-core profiles of the Fore-Sudetic monocline and West Pomerania. He also performed comparative studies in this field in eastern and southern France, and in Germany, Russia and England. He shared his findings at national and international scientific gatherings and conferences, including at 1991's International Permian Congress.

Professor Kłapciński actively took part in the educational and organizational aspects of life at the Institute of Geology. He supervised ninety Master's degree theses, and six PhD theses, and reviewed five post-doctorate dissertations. Between 1982 and 1984, he was the director of the Institute of Geology at the University, and from 1984 to 1995, he oversaw the Department of Stratigraphy.

For his achievements in scientific research, Prof. Kłapciński was honoured twice with the Minister of Education Award, and also received the Ludwik Zejszner Scientific Award of the Polish Geological Society. On numerous occasions, he was awarded by the rector of the University. He was also awarded the Gold Cross of Merit, the Polonia Restituta Chevalier Cross, a Silver Medal for Service to Polish Geology, and the National Educational Committee Medal.

When we recall Professor Kłapciński now, our first thought will always be of his hard-working nature. Right up till the end, he led an amazingly active life, doing field-work, gathering many, many specimens, despite his ailing health, and then carefully working on those samples. Just a few months before he fell ill, he discussed his plans for new research, articles, and his project to publish a new text-book for students. The fruits of his interest in his work were his papers, articles and books, particularly numerous in recent years. He put a lot of effort and care into each and every one. He often said that they would be a reminder of him and of his activity after his passing.

It is also important to remember how the Professor's interest in his former and current students' work never waned. In the last decade, he was supervisor to four theses, and he put many months of intensive work into each and every one. He read and re-read each chapter, advising how they could be improved.

That life, so active and full of plans for the future, was suddenly and unexpectedly interrupted by an attack of an illness which forced Professor Kłapciński into inactivity atypical for him. We still expected to see him again, as he had come back from illness before, thanks to his limitless energy; we were sure he would return to full health and to work among us. With deep pain and sorrow we learned it was not to be so.

But in many ways the Professor will live on, in our memories, in his work, in the articles he left behind him.