

Konrad Jażdżewski (1908–1985) – Pupil and Friend of Professor Dr Józef Kostrzewski

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Abstract: Konrad Jażdżewski was a student and friend of Józef Kostrzewski. He graduated from University of Poznan and worked in State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw since 1931. He became a director of Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum in Lodz in 1945. Konrad Jażdżewski was also an organizer and director of the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Lodz. Professor, initially interested in the problems of Neolithic and Bronze Age, subsequently was a great connoisseur of ancient history and modern times Polish, European and world history. Konrad Jażdżewski was a member of the archaeological scientific societies and participated in international congresses on archaeology. A special volume of the journal *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi* released on the occasion of the 70th birthday jubilee was evidence of Professor's international contacts. Wishes and congratulations were expressed in the publication by more than 120 people, including 46 foreign archaeologists. Professor was honored with numerous awards. He became a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1983 and received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Lodz in 1985.

Keywords: Konrad Jażdżewski, researcher and academic teacher, history of archaeology, museology, Lodz

Youthful fascination with archaeology

Konrad Jażdżewski (1908–1985) was born in Kluczbork in Upper Silesia. He attended school in Chociebuż (Cottbus) in Lusatia, in Berlin, Kluczbork, Trzemeszno (Gniezno district), Poznan, Grudziądz and Gniezno, where he completed his secondary education. When still in school in Gniezno he began to take interest in the past and to collect archaeological artefacts. In 1924 he brought his early finds to professor dr Józef Kostrzewski (1885–1969) in the Greater Poland Museum in Poznan. The professor was delighted with the enthusiasm of the young man and wrote in his *Memoir*: 'seeing the keen interest of the youngster in archaeology I gave him the second edition of my *Wielkopolska w czasach prehistorycznych* [Greater Poland in Prehistory] and a few other archaeological publications. Thus in the person of Konrad Jażdżewski the Museum had recruited a most eager co-worker' (Kostrzewski 1970: 140). The visit to the Museum was also described by Jażdżewski in his *Memoirs*: 'How vividly I remember the meeting with my beloved Master with whom I had been most closely bound by the ties of friendship for the next 45 years until his death in 1969. Standing at the window of the Museum room (...) the good Professor started to explain the nature of the finds brought by me, when I – then a greenhorn of fifteen years, who had recently passed from the 5th to the 6th form, already knew that the finds included flint blades, chips and scrapers as well as sherds of Neolithic collared flasks and funnel beakers, having just read about it in *Przegląd Archeologiczny*. How astonished the Professor was!' (Jażdżewski 1995: 34). Jażdżewski also mentions how pleased he was with the publications received: 'With this gift my dear Master

'bought me over' for good. I had no doubt that after completing secondary education I was going to study prehistory and will become a prehistoric archaeologist' (Jażdżewski 1995: 34).

The inevitable outcome of the first contact with professor and archaeology was that after completing his secondary education, in 1926, Konrad Jażdżewski entered the University of Poznan where he began to study under the direction of Józef Kostrzewski. In 1926–1930, apart from prehistory as his main subject, he studied the history of the Middle Ages, anthropology and ethnology.

In his *Memoir* Kostrzewski writes: 'From the small group of my students Jażdżewski stood out because of his great enthusiasm for knowledge, high intelligence and unremitting diligence. He was interested neither in parties nor in café life, but lived for his beloved archaeology alone' (Kostrzewski 1970: 141). He mentions that on Jażdżewski initiative an Academic Circle of Polish Prehistoric Society was formed in 1926. Under the supervision of the professor its members carried out several surface surveys and excavations, helped with cataloguing archaeological finds and put collections in order. In all these works his favorite pupil was very active: 'Considerable services were rendered by Konrad Jażdżewski who put hundreds of boxes with Stone Age finds into order, sorting flint artefacts by types and describing in detail the content of each box on its top' (Kostrzewski 1970: 142–143).

Noticing the enthusiasm of his pupil professor Kostrzewski entrusted him many times with demanding

tasks both in Museum and during fieldwork. Owing to this, Jażdżewski acquired practice in excavation methods and in dealing with archaeological finds.

Kostrzewski also noticed in his *Memoir* that Jażdżewski when still an undergraduate wrote his first article (Jażdżewski 1927), 'which was not a mere report on his own excavations, but included the first list of the so far known sites of the Pit-Comb Ware culture in Greater Poland' (Kostrzewski 1970: 143).

Jażdżewski took his MA degree on the basis of his thesis *Dwa cmentarzyska lużyckie na Górnym Śląsku* [Two Lusatian cemeteries in Upper Silesia] (Jażdżewski 1932a) and in 1935 he presented his PhD thesis *Kultura pucharów lejowatych w Polsce Zachodniej i Środkowej* [The Funnel Beaker culture in West and Central Poland] (Jażdżewski 1936). Both his dissertations were highly rated and Jażdżewski was twice awarded silver medals by Poznan University. In early 1939 he gained a post-doctoral degree and title of a Reader. Later in the same year he was appointed Professor of Prehistory at Stefan Batory University in Vilnius. The outbreak of the war thwarted these plans.

This stage of scholarly activity of Konrad Jażdżewski was summed up by Józef Kostrzewski as follows: 'Already before World War II K[onrad] Jażdżewski rose to a leading position in the generation of young Polish prehistorians' (Kostrzewski 1970: 144; Fig. 1).

The first period of scholarly activity

As mentioned above, Konrad Jażdżewski wrote his first article in 1926 and published it a year later. This paper was the result of his own excavations and of his work in the Prehistoric Department of the Museum where between 1926–1939 he was employed as an unpaid trainee. Besides, in 1928–1930 he was a deputy assistant at the Chair of Prehistory at Poznan University. At that time he was primarily interested in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of Europe, notably Poland. He planned to prepare a monograph of particular Neolithic and Early Bronze Age cultures in Poland and neighbouring countries. However, he managed to fulfill his plan only in relation to the Funnel Beaker culture (Jażdżewski 1995: 110), which became the subject of his PhD thesis, published in 1936.

To enrich his knowledge of Neolithic cultures he travelled from early October 1930 to the end of February 1931 to various German and Danish museums. For that purpose the National Culture Fund granted him an award. His objective was to collect materials which would illustrate ties of the Funnel Beaker culture in Poland with finds of this culture in eastern and northern Germany and Denmark, and to try to explain



Fig. 1. Konrad Jażdżewski (1908–1985). 1936. From the collection of the the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Lodz.

its origin, its development, its relation with other cultures and its final phases. The travel was profitable in more than one respect as the young scholar in the course of visiting various archaeological institutions had the opportunity to meet their directors and staff, e.g. a scholar of great renown Sophus Müller (1846–1934) in Copenhagen and Wilhelm Unverzagt (1892–1971), director of Staatliches Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin (Jażdżewski 1995: 77–91). These contacts have been sustained for many years. The results of the studies performed during that travel were published in *Praehistorische Zeitschrift* (Jażdżewski 1932b, see 1995: 69–90).

After leaving the University Konrad Jażdżewski was employed with the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw as an assistant. The change in its life he described thus in his *Memoirs*: 'In early 1931 I began a new chapter in my life being employed by the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw of nation-wide scope. At that time its archaeological collections were housed in the building of the former Cadet School in

close neighbourhood of the royal Łazienki Palace and near a pretty pond. This building, from which the cadets set off to start the November uprising of 1830, was not a place, where a museum which should satisfy the needs of prehistoric archaeology nation-wide, could function properly. It contained several rooms and 2 wide corridors on the ground floor, housing museum offices, living quarters of a janitor, a library, the director's study and a conservation room. The conditions were very cramped ...' (Jażdżewski 1995: 91–93). The Museum director, dr Roman Jakimowicz (1889–1951), like Józef Kostrzewski, was very friendly towards the young archaeologist. Jażdżewski settled in Warsaw, where in 1936 he married Stefania Jasnorzewska (1911–1998), a graduate of the Jagiellonian University where she had studied German and English philology.

In 1933, having received information about archaeological finds in Brześć Kujawski, Włocławek district, Jażdżewski embarked on explorations in Kujawy. He had been surveying this region till 1938. In the course of these studies, dropped only by the outbreak of World War II, he had revealed traces of several archaeological cultures, ranging from the end of the Paleolithic through the Mesolithic until the Middle Ages (11th–12th century): the Neolithic finds, particularly those of the Linear Pottery and the Lengyel-Polgar cultures, being by far the most abundant (Jażdżewski 1933, 1936, 1937). In the area in question Jażdżewski had revealed and studied vast numbers of settlement traces. Of exceptional interest was the large fragment of a settlement site discovered at Brześć Kujawski, Włocławek district, with well-preserved remains of numerous long houses and graves. These discoveries have thrown light on the character of the first Neolithic settlement in Kujawy and on the settlement of characteristic assemblages of the Lowland Neolithic which has been recognized by several scholars as a separate unit called the Brześć Kujawski group.

Thanks to Konrad Jażdżewski and his co-worker Stanisław Madajski (1908–1998) the post constructions of that type have been for the first time recognized as houses (Niesiołowska-Średniowska 2007: 74). Other features investigated by Jażdżewski in this region are represented by the so-called Kuyavian graves – megalithic long mounds triangular in plan, built of stone and earth, over 10 m high and occasionally more than 100 m long. These graves, assigned to the Funnel Beaker culture, occur at Gaj, Koło district, Wietrzychowice and Sarnowo, Włocławek district. The years of investigations in Kujawy and its neighbourhood have been exactly described by Jażdżewski in his *Memoirs* (Jażdżewski 1995). The results of his fieldwork in Kujawy concerning later periods (from Hallstatt through Roman period to medieval times) are presented

in the *Kujawskie przyczynki do zagadnienia tubylczości Słowian na ziemiach polskich* [Kuyavian's contributions to the problem of Slavic origin in Polish lands] ready to be published in vol. XVI of *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* (Jażdżewski 1939/48).

Because of his research experience, his scholarly achievements and many important publications to his name, he was appointed professor of prehistory at Stefan Batory University in Vilnius. Yet on 1 September 1939 the situation in Vilnius, in whole Poland and the fate of Konrad Jażdżewski himself drastically changed – World War II broke out.

Activity during World War II: 1939–1945

The first months of war and German occupation of Poland were marked by the demolition of cultural and academic institutions. The same fate was encountered by the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. On 9 November 1939, during the absence of dr Jakimowicz, three German archaeologists arrived at the Museum: dr Ernst Petersen (1905–1944), professor of Rostock University, in the uniform of an SS-officer, dr Hans Schleif (1902–1945) of Berlin University and Günther Thaeringen, all members of the SS-Ahnenerbe organization. Threatening Konrad Jażdżewski with a gun, they demanded from him to hand over those archaeological objects which were unique on account of their scientific and material value (Lech and Piotrowska 2007: 134). Moreover, they destroyed a large part of *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* ready for publication. After this act of vandalism, they sealed the Museum and forbade entry. In January 1940 the German authorities appointed Jażdżewski keeper of the Museum. He was to work there alone with only a janitor to help him. He learned later that the director, dr Jakimowicz was dismissed and forbidden to enter the Museum premises, and on the demand of German authorities pointed to Jażdżewski as his deputy. Jażdżewski began his job by putting things in order after the plundering of the collections and damage done to the Museum building. Thanks to his excellent command of German and good knowledge of the mentality of German officials he managed in the course of time to increase the staff to 20, including a few archaeologists, a zoologist, anthropologists and physical labourers. In this way he protected them from persecution and forced labour in Germany, offered them the possibility to earn a living and obtain ration-cards. In the autumn of 1940 the Museum was transferred to the building of the National Museum at 3 Maj Avenue.

During the war Jażdżewski carried out some rescue excavations. In May 1941 he investigated a cremation cemetery at Stara Wieś, Węgrów district on the Bug river, discovered by accident during the construction

of a military airfield. He revealed there numerous cremation graves of the Venedian culture of the Late La Tène and the Early and Late Roman period. Of great interest was the discovery there of a hoard of golden Roman coins of the 3rd century A.D. The coins (cut up into quarters) were deposited in several small pits. The fieldwork was interrupted by the outbreak of German-Russian hostilities on 22 June 1941.

Further rescue works were conducted by Konrad Jażdżewski and Kazimierz Salewicz (1907–1993) at Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski where they revealed remains of a Funnel Beaker settlement and fragment of a settlement of the Late Roman period, which yielded a pit filled with grain. Jażdżewski repeatedly visited the well-known mine of banded flint at Krzemionki Opatowskie to see if the site was not threatened with destruction and robbery of the valuable flint. He also visited many other well-known or recently discovered sites to check on their safety.

Other tasks performed by Jażdżewski included writing applications to various authorities and institutions for Poles who had no knowledge of German. Besides, he taught secondary school pupils giving clandestine classes and private lessons. He also delivered lectures on Slavic culture to young people of the working class. During these lectures an idea arose to prepare an atlas to the prehistory of the Slavs. Jażdżewski writes in his *Memoirs*: 'I don't remember exactly how I did establish contact with a group of young people who conspiratorially debated about the future shape of the eastern part of Central Europe. They dreamed about some union of the Slavic countries, such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Byelarus and Ukraine, which would form a counterbalance to the hegemony of Moscow. From this group a Slavic committee had emerged (...). Being an archaeologist, I was asked to write a work on the prehistory and early history of the Slavs. Thus the idea was born to write by me an Atlas to the prehistory of the Slavs. Both the English and the Polish versions of the Atlas were published in Lodz in 1948 and 1949 respectively' (Jażdżewski 1995: 154). In the *Atlas* Professor expressed his view in favour of the autochthonous origins of the Slavs in the Oder and Vistula river basins (Jażdżewski 1948a, 1948b, 1949, 1950).

Through all these years Konrad Jażdżewski remained in contact with his Master, who – threatened with arrest and certain death – lived in hiding in various villages of Lesser Poland (see Prinke 2018), where he taught local children and helped his host with some jobs. Besides, he applied himself to archaeological problems, writing books which were published after the war: *Prasłowiańszczyzna*, *Kultura prapolska*, *Pradzieje Polski*, *Wielkopolska w czasach przedhistorycznych* and *Pradzieje*



Fig. 2. Konrad Jażdżewski and Józef Kostrzewski (1885–1969). July 1956. From the collection of the the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Lodz.

Pomorza Gdańskiego (Kostrzewski 1946, 1947, 1949, 1955, 1966; Fig. 2). Very helpful in this matter was Konrad Jażdżewski who supplied him with scholarly literature and financial aid from the Mianowski Fund which supported scholars (at the time functioning illegally).

The rhythm of life in occupied Warsaw was disrupted by the Rising that broke out on 1 August 1944. The whole town became a battlefield (Davies 2004). Like many other residents of the capital, who did not take active part in the battles, Konrad Jażdżewski hid himself in a cellar. His contact with his wife and children who lived outside the town was very restricted. When the Rising collapsed, the Germans put the survivors into a temporary camp and then hurried them westward. Jażdżewski managed to run away and after several days fraught with danger joined his family living then in a village near Sochaczew. Early in November he was asked to return to Warsaw to participate with other representatives of culture in saving the Museum collections as on Hitler's order Warsaw was to be totally destroyed. The operation was organized by the Polish director of the National Museum, dr Stanisław Lorentz (1899–1991), who won the agreement of the German military authorities to evacuate the most valuable objects, archive records and documents.

On 17 January the Soviet Army, accompanied by the Polish Army units entered the ruins of Warsaw. After returning to Warsaw Jażdżewski found the town in ruins and his apartment and all property destroyed. Moreover, there was no place for him in the Museum. The new authorities were far from friendly, and his colleagues accused him of collaboration. Because of this difficult situation he had to look for a new place to live and work. On learning that a system of higher

education was being created in Lodz, he arrived there to make a fresh start.

Lodz – new phase in life and new job 1945–1985

In February 1945 Konrad Jażdżewski set out for Lodz. It was a strenuous and weary journey as the only means of transport were open goods-vans, the tracks were damaged and it was very cold. In Lodz he was offered help by his former fellow-student, professor Jan Dylak (1905–1973; geographer, creator and director of the Geographic Institute of Lodz University). Thanks to him Jażdżewski was admitted to the circle of academic teachers who arrived in Lodz from ruined Warsaw, and from Vilnius, Lvov and other towns now incorporated into the Soviet Union. This group began to organize the university.

Lodz University was formally established on 24 May 1945, but Konrad Jażdżewski began to lecture on prehistoric archaeology already in March. On 1 April he took the chair of prehistoric archaeology. He was made an associate professor in 1946, full professor in 1957. On 28 March 1985 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Lodz.

In March 1945 Jażdżewski occupied himself with museum collections housed in the building at 14 sq. Wolności, but dispersed during the war. On 1 April he was appointed director of the Museum. This was for him a period of very intensive work both in the Prehistoric Museum and at the Faculty of Humanities of the University where he established a Prehistoric Department from scratch. Both institutions were located in the building at 14 sq. Wolności and as both were headed by the professor, they formed – to use his expression – ‘a personal union’. This arrangement was satisfactory to both parties which shared libraries and equipment. In the course of time they augmented considerably their staff, equipment and funds. Nearly all students educated at the University were employed by both institutions.

Since the early months of his activities at the University professor Jażdżewski had tried to recruit co-workers. The first assistant was Janina Kamińska (1899–1992), graduate of Warsaw University, who arrived in April 1945. Later, certain tasks were entrusted to two brilliant students: Aleksander Gardawski (1917–1974) and Andrzej Nadolski (1921–1993) who rapidly developed their respective academic carriers to make up for time lost during the war. Gardawski was made professor in 1973, and Nadolski in 1970. The first small group of students took their MA degree in 1948–1953. In 1951–1956 the enrolment of archaeology students was suspended in Lodz. In the academic year 1956/57 the Prehistoric Department was reactivated and renamed

Department of Archaeology. It was headed by professor Jażdżewski until 1972 and later by his pupils, made professors: Andrzej Nadolski, Jerzy Kmiecński (born in 1927) and Leszek Kajzer (1944–2016). Of the professor's students 49 took MA degree, 10 doctorate and 13 were made professors. His students included those from the USA, Germany, England and Japan.

Professor's activity in the Prehistoric Museum was likewise intensive as here, too, he had to organize it from scratch. In 1950 the Museum was renamed ‘archaeological’, and in 1955, after its fusion with ethnography, it became Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography. Professor's aim was to create a modern, well equipped research and educational institution with research facilities, well-stocked library, conservation laboratory and spacious exhibition rooms. Owing to his tireless efforts a new wing of three floors was added to the old building. It housed a library, a photographic studio, archives and rooms for numerous staff members. The old building, too, has been modernized. During the war the Germans staged there an exhibition showing mainly those objects which would prove that the environs of Lodz had been settled by Germanic tribes. On 8 May 1945, which date marks the capitulation of Nazi Germany and consequently the end of the war, Konrad Jażdżewski with a small group of co-workers managed to open an archaeological exhibition, the first to be staged in post-war Poland. This was his response to the opinions spread by the Nazis that the Slavs were a primitive people with no initiative and that their presence in the basins of the Vistula and the Oder rivers was the result of the pressure of Asiatic nomads – the Avars and the Huns. The next exhibition, a bigger one and including numismatic objects, was opened in 1950. In 1951 a *Guide* to the exhibitions was published (Jażdżewski 1951).

The Museum exhibits were shown abroad (in Paris, Goteborg, Cuba) while the Museum in turn hosted exhibitions from Mecklenburg, Berlin, Czech, Moravia, Leningrad (Petersburg), Siberia and other places abroad. In the course of the first decade the Museum obtained a well-equipped research and conservation laboratory and an apparatus for radiocarbon (C14) dating, the first to be installed in archaeological institutions of Poland. In 1956 on the initiative of the Professor the first volume of the Museum journal *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi*, edited in two series: archaeological and ethnographical, was published. Since 1948 until his final years he had been co-editing a publication series *Acta Archaeologica Universitatis Lodziensis* later renamed *Acta Archaeologica Lodziensia*, published by the Lodz Scientific Society. Besides he edited or co-edited several international publications i.e. the Polish series of *Inventaria Archaeologica* (together with professor

Witold Hensel [1917–2008] from Warsaw), launched by the International Union of Pre- and Protohistorical Sciences as well as a multilingual illustrated *Glossarium Archaeologicum* and *Archaeologie Urbium*.

Professor Konrad Jażdżewski supervised archeological investigations carried out in the Lodz province, in Kujawy and Gdansk, Pomerania. The long-term excavations of numerous sites have been yielding vast amount of archaeological materials, which should be properly housed and studied. Owing to professor's initiative and energy museums have been established in Włocławek, Pabianice, Sieradz, Piotrków Trybunalski, Rawa Mazowiecka and in other towns in Poland (Grygiel 2007: 17).

The study of the Neolithic, commenced by professor in Kujawy in the interwar period, was continued by his pupils after World War II at Brześć Kujawski, Wietrzychowice, Koło district and Sarnowo, Włocławek district.

In 1948, when the Committee for the research on the Origin of the Polish State was formed in order to celebrate the Millennium of the Polish State, professor and his staff engaged in the ambitious project designed by the Committee. In the years 1948–1955 he organized and supervised long-term, large-scale excavations in Gdansk, Łęczycza, Lutomiersk, Pabianice district and Czeremo-Czerwień, Hrubieszów district. In 1954–1961 he headed the Lodz Branch of the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Results of all these investigations were of major importance for the study of the formation of urban settlements in Poland and of the early contacts of the Polish lands with the neighbouring countries in the Middle Ages.

The excavations of Roman period sites at Łęg Piekarski, Turek district and Przywóz, Wieluń district, where large barrows had been discovered and examined, were important for the professor's studies on the prehistory of the Slavs. They have been called 'princes' graves' as the assemblage of features characteristic of these barrows seems to suggest that the personages buried there were perhaps tribal chieftains. These investigations were connected with professor's interest in the early ruling centers. Two barrows found at Przywóz, Wieluń district, might indicate the principle of ruling by succession. The discovery in the late seventies of four barrows at Łęg Piekarski, Turek district, with the time-sequence of 25 years, corroborate the existence of the dynasty of princes (Jażdżewski 1984: 3–4).

After many years of intensive research and with an impressive list of publications to his name, he embarked on writing syntheses of a wide chronological and spatial

range. The first was *Poland*, published in London in the *Ancient Peoples and Places* series (Jażdżewski 1965), and outlining the prehistory of Poland from the Paleolithic to the Middle Ages. Another book of still wider range was *Pradzieje Europy Środkowej*, published in 1981, while its German version *Die Urgeschichte Mitteleuropas* (translated by the author himself) appeared in 1984 (Jażdżewski 1984). In the opinion of several archaeologists only professor Jażdżewski was able to write a work of such magnitude as he was doubtless the last representative of the generation of scholars who could master such vast subject and with consummate skill cope successfully with the most complex problems.

His scholarly achievements are thought of highly both in this country and abroad. He was given many prestigious state awards (among others the Order of *Polonia Restituta*), for his valuable contribution to the development of archaeology as an academic discipline, of museology and the protections of archaeological relicts. He received prizes and medals for the services to Polish archaeology, including a medal commemorating 50 years of the Polish Archaeological and Numismatic Society and a number of prizes awarded by municipal authorities. In 1966 Pope Paul VI gave him medal *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*. A medal in bronze and silver bearing his portrait was issued by the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography to commemorate 50 years his scholarly activity. Professor was an active member of several learned societies – the Polish Archaeological and Numismatic Society, the Scientific Society of Lodz, the Poznan Society of the Friends of Science, the Gdansk Scientific Society, a member of the Conservation Council of the Ministry of Art and Culture and of the Polish committees of the International Council of Museums, of the International Union of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences and of the executive committee of the Permanent Council of the Union. Besides, he was an honorary member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a member of Jysk Arkaeologisk Selskab in Aarhus. In 1983 he was elected a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In March he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Lodz University (Fig. 3). It was fortunate that his pupils and friends had just enough time to organize this celebration as a few weeks later, on a fine Sunday afternoon, 21 April 1985, professor Jażdżewski died suddenly.

International contacts of Konrad Jażdżewski

Throughout his career Konrad Jażdżewski maintained contacts and fostered cooperation on archaeological problems with scholars all over the world. This ease of communication was also due to his excellent knowledge of German and French, and a good knowledge of Czech, Russian, Danish, Swedish,



Fig. 3. Professor Konrad Jażdżewski, Doctor *Honoris Causa* University of Lodz in 1985. From the collection of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Lodz.

English as well as Latin and Greek. His early travel to Germany and Denmark has already been mentioned. An occasion of meeting a larger circle of European archaeologists was presented by the Second Congress of Baltic Archaeology held in Riga in 1930. He read there a paper *Die östliche Trichterbecherkultur in Nordwestpolen*, published in the Congress materials (Jażdżewski 1931). The contacts established with Latvian archaeologists were maintained and as a result an article devoted to professor Józef Kostrzewski to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his scholarly activity appeared in a Latvian journal (Jażdżewski 1938: 157–163). In 1937 he was again granted an award to visit museums in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia in order to study copper objects housed there and compare them with copper finds from Kujawy.

After 1945, despite Poland's isolation resulting from the domination of the Soviet Union in this part of Europe, the Museum in Lodz was frequently visited by professor's friends from abroad, while new visitors kept coming attracted by the success of the millenary researches. One of the first was professor Holger Arbman (1904–1968) from Lund. In the course of time the contacts with Scandinavian archaeologists increased. The Soviet archaeologists included Borys Rybakow (1908–2001)

and Tatiana Sergeevna Passekova (born in 1903) and the Czech archaeologists were represented by Jan Filip (1900–1981), Josef Poulík (1910–1998) and Rudolf Turek (1910–1991). Jan Filip, who at that time was preparing a two-volume encyclopedia of archaeology, received great help from professor Jażdżewski (Filip 1966, 1969). Filip's articles were often published in Polish journals, and his hand-book on the prehistory of Czechoslovakia was translated into Polish by Józef Kostrzewski and published in 1951 (Filip 1951). In turn, articles written by Polish archaeologists appeared in Czechoslovakian journals. Archaeologists both from Deutsche Demokratische Republik (East Germany) and West Germany and those from Yugoslavia came frequently. Besides, Konrad Jażdżewski conducted correspondence with professor Vere Gordon Childe (1892–1957) of the Institute of Archaeology in London, who appreciated so highly Jażdżewski's scholarly achievements that he suggested an exchange of students. Unfortunately because of the obstinacy of Polish authorities the plans had to be abandoned. However, the correspondence and exchange of publications between the two partners lasted till Childe's death (Niesiołowska-Śreniowska 1999). The international contacts of the Lodz archaeological center included also an exchange of publications with several hundred institutions all over the world.

Professor Jażdżewski took active part in international congresses organized by the Union Internationale des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques in various countries every few years. At the congresses he always presented a paper of considerable interest to the audience. Attention should be paid to the symposium on the theory and methodology of archaeology held in Flagstaff, Arizona (USA) in September 1968. Flaying there professor Jażdżewski stopped for a time in Japan to visit his Japanese friends. It was a veritable trip around the world.

The wide range of his contacts is shown by his extensive correspondence, only a small part of which is known at present. Another proof of the approval he enjoyed is the volume of essays published by the Museum in honour of his 70th birthday (16 November 1978). The list of his colleagues and friends from various countries who contributed to this volume, is quite impressive (*Prace i Materiały... 1978*).

Professors hospitality and generosity shown to all who visited him knew no bounds. These qualities, though admirable, were the cause of unexpected events. Perhaps the most unexpected was his friendship with a Japanese professor Ryochu Umeda (1899–1961). In 1953 he asked professor Jażdżewski to write an article to the Japanese journal *Paleologia*. Interested in Polish history (before the war he spent some time in Poland), he asked

for the *Atlas to the Prehistory of the Slavs*. Thus began a long-lasting friendship as a result of which Umeda's pupil, Jiro Hasegawa, arrived in Lodz and after several years of study under the supervision of professor Jażdżewski wrote a doctoral thesis. Umeda's love for Poland must have been contagious, as Jiro Hasegawa did not return to Japan and settled in Warsaw. Noticeable is also the fact that before his death Umeda was baptized and took the name Stanisław after the Polish saint. Besides, in 1964 his ashes were buried at the Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw. In his letter he asked professor Jażdżewski to take care of his family. The final outcome of the friendly correspondence between the two professors was the arrival of Umeda's son Yoshiho, who became a member of the Jażdżewski family with professor as his guardian. Yoshiho finally settled in Warsaw where he established a family.

To conclude I should sum up professor's achievements. However, despite the passage of time, my great admiration and deep respect prevent me from attempting this. Therefore I will refer to the opinion expressed by professor Andrzej Nadolski – 'I see three reasons owing to which Professor Konrad Jażdżewski was successful in all fields of his activity. The first reason was his great and sincere kindness towards people, his readiness to do them good, ignoring if the favour rendered would be returned or not. The second was his absolute dedication to his vocation (to say 'profession' would not be enough). The third – a natural outcome of the former two – was that whatever activity, scholarly or other, Professor Jażdżewski engaged in, he always took into account the good of the cause itself, and never the enhancement of his own status. There was no need for that' (Nadolski 1993: 211).

Translated by Maria Abramowicz

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