

# In Memoriam

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KRYSTYNA KERSTEN

(1931–2008)

Without Krystyna Kersten it is difficult to imagine the historiography of Poland's most recent history, even of Polish humanities. Her works, especially *Narodźliny systemu władzy. Polska 1943–1948* (*The Birth of a Power System. Poland 1943–1948*) (1985) and *Jalta w polskiej perspektywie* (*Yalta in Polish Perspective*) (1989), as well as her essays and studies collected in the volumes *Polacy – Żydzi – komuniści. Anatomia półprawd 1944–1968* (*Poles – Jews – Communism. The Anatomy of Half-truths 1939–1968*) (1992) and *Między wyzwoleniem a zniewoleniem. Polska 1944–1956* (*Between Liberation and Subjugation. Poland 1944–1956*) (1993) became classics pointing out new directions of reflection on the past as soon as they were published. "The first lady of Polish historiography", "the queen of Poland's history", these words used by prominent scholars after her death were not an expression of sheer courtesy. What characterised her erudite wide-ranging writings was her innovative approach and the depth of her analysis of historical and social processes. No less important was her consistent drive to overcome stereotyped thinking and discuss difficult painful problems. In her view, a rational, critical approach was inseparable from a historian's ethos. This was not an easy task for, as she wrote herself, "my field of work is the history of that half of a century which is a traumatic, painful sphere subjected to falsifications, concealments, manipulations, sharp political and ideological passions by instruments of socio-technical, sometimes very brutal, practices". In the 1980s, when other historians focused on filling in the blanks, she warned against one-sidedness and simplifications, against replacing "the black legend" by a golden one. Remembering well her own involvement in the first half of the 1950s, she warned against subordinating historical research to temporary political circumstances. She wrote: "A historian, especially one dealing with recent history, should not don a judge's gown to condemn, excuse or praise, if he wants to be effective and act in accordance with the requirements of his ethics, not only professional ethics". She repeated this thought many times. In one of her essays devoted to Polish–Jewish relations she wrote at the beginning of the 1990s: "we must spare no effort to strive for that specific kind of imagination which Hannah Arendt, in her essay *Understanding and Politics*, defined as a gift of a comprehending heart. Sensitivity and openness to others who differ from us by their language, culture, tradition, religion, their ideological and political association or their experiences are indispensable to go beyond the limits of our own values, our own fate and our own sufferings. Without this we shall be doomed to experience mutual accusations, at best mutual misunderstanding".

Krystyna Kersten studied at Warsaw University in 1949–1954; she prepared her MA treatise in Marian Malowist's seminar. But she soon turned to Poland's recent history, especially the years 1944–1956. She linked her scientific life with the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1962 she presented her doctor's treatise *Rural Settlement in Western Pomerania 1945–1948*, two years later she brought out a paper on the Polish National Liberation Committee. In 1968 she left the Polish United Workers' Party in protest against the invasion of Czechoslovakia. She qualified as assistant professor in 1971, became associate professor in 1989, and full professor in 1994. In 1974 she brought out a pioneering monograph *The Repatriation of Polish Population after World War II. An*

*Historical Study.* Together with her husband, Adam Kersten, she established ever closer links with the opposition. From 1977 she participated in the activity of the Society for Educational Courses. In 1980–1981 she collaborated with “Tygodnik Solidarność” (“Solidarity Weekly”), later she published mainly in the underground press and émigré publications, strengthening her position as a solid, independent researcher. After 1989 she conducted an indefatigable research and educational activity. An unexpected illness interrupted her work in 1999. We all missed her voice during the most important debates held in Poland. Her death is an enormous irreparable blow to the whole historical community.

Dariusz Libionka

## JAN SEREDYKA

(1928–2008)

On 16 August 2008, Jan Seredyka died after a long illness on the eve of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was an eminent researcher into the system and culture of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the gentry and into parliamentarianism, especially of the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Aware that his end was near, with his characteristic systematic care he settled all the earthly affairs that usually absorb a scholar: they concerned his library and his commitments as an author.

Jan Seredyka was born on 8 October 1928 at Grajewo in Podlasie. He spent the period of World War II in the Polish eastern borderland at Pińsk, first under the Soviet, then under German occupation. As a teenager he had to work hard in the local river shipyard. Years later, he remembered those times with his characteristic philosophical calm which, however, concealed the horror and tragedies of those days, such as the death of his elder brother, shot by the Germans.

At the beginning of 1945 he found himself in Opole, which for over six decades became his new “small homeland”. During his studies at the University of Wrocław he met Władysław Czaplinski, the excellent researcher into the 17<sup>th</sup> century and at the same time splendid educator, and started working as a teacher (1951–1960) in vocational schools at Opole. In 1958 he wrote his master’s thesis on *Stosunki ukraińsko-rosyjskie w latach 1648–1651 (Ukrainian-Russian Relations in the Years 1648–1651)*, published in three articles, and five years later his doctoral dissertation entitled *Sejm w Toruniu z 1626 r. (The Sejm at Toruń of 1626)* which, published in 1966, ensured him a good position among the researchers into the old-Polish parliamentarianism.

From 1959 he worked in the newly-established Academic Pedagogical School at Opole. He went through all the levels of academic career from assistant professor to full professor (1991). A few years before retirement he saw this School change into the University of Opole. This was also his personal success, for he took a lively part in the endeavours aimed at its foundation, especially as the rector of the School in the extremely difficult and stressful years 1968–1972. He held three times the post of the head of the Institute of History (1971–1974, 1977–1978, 1987–1990), within its framework he was the head of the Institute of Modern History and the Chair of the History of Parliamentarianism, a department of national and even international rank. He was member of several national institutions, committees, learned councils and editorial boards. After retirement he was till the end of his life attached as permanent employee to the School of Management and Banking at Poznań, where he contributed substantially to the work of its Institute of Political History.

He was the author of analytic works perfectly documented by sources, but at the same time making full use of the work of his predecessors (whose findings he frequently corrected); he showed his predilection for a synthesis in another of his great dissertations: *Rzeczpospolita w ostatnich latach panowania Zygmunta*

III (1629–1632). *Zarys wewnętrznych dziejów politycznych* (The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Last Years of the Reign of Sigismund III, 1629–1632. An Outline of Internal Political History) (1977). His legacy also comprises many dissertations on systemic matters (the bibliography of his published works embraces 129 items) and on the borderland of culture and socio-economic relations. The most important were: *Sejm zawiedzionych nadziei* (The Sejm of Disappointed Hopes) (1981), *Sejm warszawski z 1618 r.* (The Warsaw Sejm of 1618) (1988), and *Parlamentarzyści drugiej połowy panowania Zygmunta III* (The Parliamentarians of the Second Half of the Reign of Sigismund III) (1989). In respect of their construction they are model works on old-Polish parliamentarism. His *Księżniczka i chudopacholek. Zofia z Radziwiłłów Dorohostajska — Stanisław Tymirski* (The Princess and the Pauper. Zofia Dorohostajska née Radziwiłł — Stanisław Tymirski) (1995) will certainly occupy a permanent place among the works on old-Polish customs.

His achievements were recognized by the academic and minister's prizes both of regional and state rank (including the Polonia Restituta Cavalier's Cross and the Medal of the Commission of National Education [KEN]). He was especially moved and pleased by the František Palacky Golden Medal granted to him by the Czech Academy of Sciences at Prague for his outstanding achievements in the social sciences (the decoration, on 8 October 2003, coincided with his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday). The same year the School of Management and Banking in Poznań published a volume of his works: *Rozprawy z XVI i XVII wieku* (Dissertations on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries). On his sixtieth birthday he received the memorial book *Z dziejów Rzeczypospolitej szlacheckiej* (From the History of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the Gentry) (1988), on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the volume *Stan i perspektywy biografistyki polskiej* (The State and Perspectives of Polish Biography), and on the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday *Studia Historyczno-Prawne* (Historical and Legal Studies).

Marcelł Kosman

## ANDRZEJ WYCZAŃSKI

(1924 – 2008)

Professor Andrzej Wojciech Wyczański was born in a white-collar workers' family on 13th April 1924 in Warsaw. After graduating from the Stefan Batory Secondary School in June 1942, he commenced his studies in the Department of History at the clandestine University of Warsaw, headed by professor Tadeusz M a n t e u f e l at that time. As a Home Army soldier, Andrzej Wyczański fought in the Warsaw Uprising, he was wounded and taken to hospital. After the collapse of the uprising, he moved to Cracow and continued his studies at the clandestine Jagiellonian University. His outstanding abilities were soon noticed by the prominent historians, professors Władysław K o n o p c z y Ń s k i and Józef F e l d m a n. In December 1945 Andrzej Wyczański was employed at Jagiellonian University as a junior assistant of professor Feldman, even before he was formally awarded his M.A. degree, which was a considerable distinction. On 30<sup>th</sup> August 1946 the Council of the Humanities at the Jagiellonian University awarded him an M.A. degree, based on his thesis *Ustrój Pomorza Zachodniego w czasach Wacławowa I* (The System of Government in Western Pomerania during the Rule of Wacław I), which was prepared at the seminar of professor Roman G r o d e c k i.

In September 1946 Andrzej Wyczański returned to Warsaw, where he took a job as a senior assistant in the then started Historical Institute of Warsaw University. In the academic year of 1948/1949 he went on a ten-month scholarship to France, where he collected materials for his Ph.D. dissertation entitled *Francja wobec państw jagiellonickich w latach 1515–1529. Studium z dziejów polityki zagranicznej w epoce Odrodzenia* (France towards Jagiellonian States

between 1515 and 1529. *The Study of the History of a Foreign Policy during the Renaissance*), prepared under professor Tadeusz Manteuffel. He defended his dissertation in 1949 and published it in 1954. Due to a hostile atmosphere at the turn of the 1940s in the Faculty of History at Warsaw University, Andrzej Wyczański, being a non-party member, was gradually separated from teaching. This resulted in his moving to the newly open Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) on February 1, 1953. Simultaneously, he worked in the National Library in Warsaw, where he headed, with great success, the Microfilm Station, between 1949 and 1959. There, a number of precious sources were microfilmed, which significantly facilitated their accessibility, especially when Wyczański edited the special *Catalogue of Microfilms* (volumes 1–7, 1951–1958). He continued his relations with the National Library also in a later period; between 1977 and 1992 he chaired its Scientific Council.

In the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences Andrzej Wyczański went up all further stages of his academic career. In 1959 he became assistant professor, in 1963 associate professor, and in 1971 full professor. For many years he was head of the Department of History of Poland and Its Culture before the Partitions, as well as the Sections: of History of the First Commonwealth, and History of Early Modern Poland.

In his scientific pursuits Andrzej Wyczański specialized in economic history. He took up pioneering studies on the distribution of royal estates during the reign of Sigismund the Old. The methodological conference held in Otwock at the turn of 1951 drew his attention to the problem of the functioning of manorial farms. As early as 1954 he published an article *O folwarku szlacheckim w Polsce XVI stulecia. Uwagi dyskusyjne* [On the Gentry Manorial Farm in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Poland. Discussion Remarks]. In 1960 his book was published, which is a classic in the Polish economic historiography — *Studia nad folwarkiem szlacheckim w Polsce w latach 1500–1580* [Studies of the Gentry Manorial Farm in Poland between 1500 and 1580], and four years later — another dissertation, entitled *Studia nad gospodarką starostwa korczyńskiego w latach 1500–1660* [Studies of the Economy of the Korczyn District between 1500 and 1580]. Both books received numerous reviews and provoked discussions. It is noteworthy that the Author tried to show the functioning of manorial farms based on serfdom in its different aspects. He proved — which was confirmed by later studies — that it was serfdom which effectively hampered the development of manorial farms, as the dues could only be increased to a certain degree. Of significance also seem to be his remarks regarding a growth of the 17<sup>th</sup> century economic crisis.

Scientific meetings held in the Department of the First Commonwealth in the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, headed by the Professor in the 1960s and 1970s, were the place of vivid academic discussions among the most renown scholars from all over the country, and a superb school for the youngest generation of historians, as well as an attempt to integrate the historical milieu. This prolific atmosphere bore fruit in the form of further works by the Professor. The two of them, namely *Polska Rzecz Pospolita Szlachecka 1454–1764* [Poland as the Commonwealth of the Nobles 1454–1764] (1965, the second, revised edition 1991, German edition 2001) and *Polska w Europie XVI stulecia* [Poland in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe] (1973, the second edition 1999) were syntheses, but at the same time showed the Polish Crown and the Polish-Lithuanian State in the context of Europe of the day. What is more, through his studies on the history of the Jagiellonian University (1964), and next within the synthesis of the history of the Commonwealth, which has already been mentioned, Andrzej Wyczański prepared and presented a new concept of the history of culture, based on the principle of the transformation of a human mind, whose structure (knowledge, interests, outlook on life and people, hierarchies of values, and aspirations), together with its material and social context, can become the major field of studies, whereas literature, art, music, and mentality are only its manifestations.

Another innovative work entitled *Studia nad konsumpcją żywności w Polsce w XVI i I połowie XVII wieku [Studies of Food Consumption in Poland of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and the First Part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century]* (1969) was the continuation of earlier studies and scholarly considerations within a broad spectrum of the economic history. On the basis of the accounts regarding food purchases and its distribution by the personnel of manorial farms, which had been poorly explored by historians before, the Author reconstructed a typical pattern of food consumption of the gentry and peasants. He not only established daily ratios of manorial farms personnel within the Polish territory, but also determined changes in their diet in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This pioneering study, published also in Paris several years later (1985), was a successful attempt to present the problem of social diversification of early-modern consumption, i.e. the differences between a nourishing structure of peasants as well as of the gentry.

There is no doubt that the study on food consumption was inspired by the meeting of great Fernand Braudel, Head of the school of "Annales" and the famous 6<sup>th</sup> Section of École Pratique des Hautes Études. This took place in the autumn of 1956, when Andrzej Wyczański was among the thirty one young Polish humanists who went on an academic expedition to France. During his later visits in 1961 and 1965, Wyczański intensified his relations with French historians and their methodological views. Especially during his lectures (1970/1971) in the École, the cooperation with French historians strengthened in Wyczański a tendency for integral research of social phenomena, economy, politics, and culture, the striving to build historical models, to use a simultaneous application of diverse scientific methods, including the quantitative ones. His academic visits to England, Spain, Italy, USA, helped him also to develop his scientific skills.

In the 1970s Andrzej Wyczański gave social history even deeper consideration, publishing the book written in an unconventional way, especially as regards methodology. It was entitled *Uwarstwienie społeczne w Polsce XVI wieku [Social Stratification in Poland in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century]* (1977), where he outlined the division of Polish society into eight major strata. In his view, the Renaissance was a period of significant transformations within Polish society, which were influenced both by territorial changes as well as by dynamic class shifts.

Aiming at more comprehensive and deeper understanding of the history of society and the family, economy and culture of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Andrzej Wyczański initiated the publication of a set of essays entitled *Spoleczeństwo staropolskie [Old Polish Society]*; four volumes were published between 1974 and 1986. The articles presented in *Spoleczeństwo...* showed the most recent research on social and property structure, the family seen by historians — demographers, studies on social awareness, on aspirations of people of those times including, among other things, the interpenetration of the gentry and burghers, the careers of royal clerks, the administration of great landed property, or the situation of the Jewish converts in old Polish society. To this set Andrzej Wyczański also included his own essays *Oświata a pozycja społeczna w Polsce XVI stulecia. Próba oceny umiejętności pisania szlachty województwa krakowskiego w drugiej połowie XVI wieku [Education and the Social Rank in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Poland. The Attempt to Assess the Writing Skills among the Gentry of the Cracow Voivodship in the Second Half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century]* (1976); *O kategorii społeczno-zawodowej „robotnik” w Polsce XVI wieku [On the Social and Professional Category of the "Worker" in Poland in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century]* (1979), based on different sources in order to ask new questions and depart from common opinions. These features of Andrzej Wyczański's scientific skills are to be found in his other books and dissertations, such as the study *Młędzy kulturą a polityką. Sekretarze królewscy Zygmunta Starego (1506-1548) [Between Culture and Politics. The Royal Secretaries of Sigismund the Old (1506-1548)]*, 1990, or in the work devoted to *Szlachta Polska w XVI wieku [The Polish Gentry in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century]*, 2001.

In addition to the problems mentioned above, Andrzej Wyczański paid much attention to methodological problems. In 1960 he published a dissertation entitled

*Mikrofilm — nowa postać książki* [A Microfilm — a New Form of a Book], where he discussed problems of modern scientific information. Between 1979 and 1986 he organized and headed a research team, which was established, following an agreement between the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and the Branch of Warsaw University in Białystok, with the presence of a representative of the Paris EHESS — Antoinette Fa u v e - C h a m o u x, whose aim was to apply information technology for the studies on old Polish family, based on Church registers of baptisms, weddings and funerals. In the Polish historical milieu he was undoubtedly one of the pioneers who successfully introduced information technology to the workshop of a historian — humanist (*Współpraca historyka z komputerem* [The Application of a Computer in Historical Research], 1976). In 1989, being aware of the importance of figures in historical studies, he supported, together with Andrzej Jezierski and Józef Łukasiewicz, the idea of establishing a team within the Central Statistical Bureau in Warsaw, which was to publish the book *Historia Polski w liczbach* [History of Poland in Figures] presenting statistical and historical problems regarding the Polish state and society from the earliest times (which would be possible to capture in figures) till to-day. In this team, where he worked till the beginning of this century, he was, together with Cezary Kuko, in charge of the studies of the old Poland period, and after the death of Andrzej Jezierski in 2002, he also became Editor-in-Chief. Between 1990 and 1999 this team issued 9 thematic collections of studies, plus 2 extra, including one in English on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Economic History Congress in Milan in 1994. The publishing of the last two very weighty volumes crowned the work of the team: the first devoted to the state and society (2003) and the other presenting economic problems (2006).

Even in the most extensive remembrance of Andrzej Wyczański, one would never succeed to present a wealth of scientific problems he dealt with during his work. His scientific achievements comprise almost twenty books and more than five hundred dissertations, essays, reports and reviews, published systematically in Poland and abroad. His broadmindedness linked to an unusual zeal to scholarly pursuits made the list of his works comprising practically most areas of the lives of old Polish society, ranging from the country court of benchers, its structure and functioning, crops in manorial farms, or the functions of the stronghold in Nowe Miasto Korczyn, to the investigation of careers of secretaries, deputies and senators in the Renaissance, not to mention all sorts of aspects of Polish culture of this period, and the functioning of the Sejm and local Diets, or old Polish diplomacy. It is noteworthy that in the course of recent years Andrzej Wyczański devoted much room in his works to the issues concerning the organization of research and the scientific policy (*Nauka — między przeszłością a przyszłością* [Research — between the Past and the Present], 1995; *Szkice z organizacji nauki* [Studies on the Organizational Structure of Research], 2007). During a bitter dispute over the Polish Academy of Sciences and its assessment, which broke out at the beginning of the Third Republic, when it was accused of the Stalinist origins and voices were raised to demolish the whole structure, Wyczański, while noticing its shortcomings (too much bureaucracy), did not hesitate to defend the institution and reminded others that it was the academics of the Polish Academy of Sciences who had become the bearers of critical attitudes and the social base for the anti-communist opposition.

The presentation of Andrzej Wyczański's professional life would be incomplete if his considerable services to the field of editing of sources were not indicated. He participated, right from the beginning, in a large-scale undertaking of editing the royal property surveys covering the period between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was among the first ones when he published in 1959 the book *Lustracja województwa lubelskiego z 1565* [The Survey of the Lublin Voivodship of 1565]. A couple of years later he published, together with Waclaw Urban, the 17<sup>th</sup> volume of *Acta Tomitana* (1966). Also in the last years of his busy life he was engrossed in editing the scattered minor works by Nicolaus Copernicus, which

finally were published in 2007 (M. Kopernik, *Dzieła Wszystkie*, t. 3: *Pisma pomniejszych* [N. Copernicus, *The Complete Works*, vol. 3: *Minor Works*]).

The Professor was also famous for numerous interventions he presented at congresses and international conferences, not to mention national ones, where his voice was always among the valued ones and found response among historians from all over the world. From the mid-1960s he participated regularly and actively in the activities of the nine respective International Economic History Congresses, beginning from the 3<sup>rd</sup> one in Munich in 1965 until the 11<sup>th</sup> in Milan in 1994, as well as in the activities of the International Congresses of Historical Sciences, among others in Vienna (1965), Moscow (1970), and Montreal (1995). His scholarly works and open-minded scientific approach were appreciated by the international academic community and in 2001 he was appointed Full Member of the European Academy of Sciences, Art and Literature, based in Paris.

Andrzej Wyczański also greatly contributed to the organization of scientific research. He was, among others, the Scientific Secretary of the Committee of Historical Sciences (*KNH*) PAN (1959–1969) and a member of its Executive Committee; he chaired the Committee of Economic History in *KNH* at PAN, while between 1984 and 1989 — the Scientific Council of the Institute of History of PAN. In his busy professional life he also performed the following functions: Vice-President of the Examination Board for Certified Librarians at PAN (1960–1968), Member and Vice-President of the Scientific Council at the PAN Library in Warsaw, Member of the Committee for Certified Documentalists at PAN. In the 1990s he actively participated in actions taken to set up and then maintain the Polish Chair at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

In 1986 Andrzej Wyczański was elected Corresponding Member of PAN, and in 1991 — Full Member. He rendered considerable services to the organization of learning all over the country. Between 1990 and 1992 he was Scientific Secretary in Department One of Social Sciences at PAN. He initiated an assessment of scientific research in institutes and departments of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and supported the solution the Institute of Socialist Countries and the Institute for Political Sciences be closed, the latter to be replaced by the Institute for Political Studies. In the election of the PAN authorities for the term 1993–1995 Wyczański was appointed Vice-President and Scientific Secretary of PAN. This three year period, filled with strivings, first of all, for research funds, bore fruit — among others, two scientific stations of the Academy were opened abroad: in Berlin and in Moscow. A comprehensive assessment, first of this type after World War II, of the whole Polish learning at Wyczański's suggestion, was performed by respective committees at PAN.

One would think that work far from university world did not facilitate making stronger bonds with academic teaching. However, in autumn 1974 Andrzej Wyczański began his job, which lasted as many as 30 years, as an academic teacher in the Department, and later in the Institute of History in the Branch of Warsaw University, what later became University of Białystok. There he lectured history of Poland and the world history of the 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and ran a graduate seminar, which according to students belonged to the most difficult ones (but also the most interesting). Wyczański required from his students independence of thinking, openness, and the proper professional skills. He taught them the principles of scientific discussion and the responsibility for one's own views. He always allowed the difference of opinions, first of all trying to notice positive aspects in the presented arguments, and only then spoke of possible deficiencies or errors. Those who attended his seminars were well prepared to take up further professional activities. Andrzej Wyczański supervised 15 Ph.D. dissertations and more than 100 M.A. theses. Moreover, he participated in tens of conferment procedures for doctoral and habilitation degrees; he was often asked to be a reviewer for professorships. Among the educational achievements of Andrzej Wyczański are two handbooks written by him: *Historia powszechna. Koniec XV w.–połowa XVII w.* [The World History. End of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century–Mid 17<sup>th</sup>

*Century, 1965]* and *Historia powszechna. Wiek XVI [The History of the World. The 16<sup>th</sup> Century]*, 1983, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1987, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1999).

In Białystok Andrzej Wyczański headed for many years the Department for the World History and History of Poland till the End of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and after the reconstruction of the Institute of History at the end of the 1990s — the Department of History of the 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. For two terms (1986–1991) he held the office of Director of the Institute of History at the Branch of Warsaw University, and between 1991 and 2000 chaired its Scientific Council. Following his initiative an Institute periodical was established — “*Studia Podlaskie*”; he was the member of its editing board until the last day of his life. Andrzej Wyczański's presence always influenced scientific activity and integration of the Białystok academic milieu, while his modesty and a winning way of behaving made him likeable and respectable. There is no doubt that Wyczański co-created the Białystok historical academic milieu and after years of its dynamic development was an advocate of establishing an independent university in Białystok. This happened in 1998, and the Senate of the newly established University of Białystok awarded Andrzej Wyczański, as one of the first ones, in June 1999, the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* in recognition of his important service.

Andrzej Wyczański was a member of the boards of editors and committees of editors in numerous academic periodicals: “*Acta Poloniae Historica*”, “*Kwartalnik Historyczny*”, “*Kultura i Społeczeństwo*”, “*Nauka*”, “*Odrodzenie i Reformacja w Polsce*”, “*Polish Population Review*”, “*Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*”, “*Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej*” and “*Studia Podlaskie*”.

Since 1949 he was a member of the *Towarzystwo Miłośników Historii* [The Society of History Lovers, *TMH*] and *Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne* [Polish Historical Society, *PTH*], he was its Secretary (1949–1958), Vice-President (1958–1970) and President (1971–1987). For many years he managed the National Committee of Historical Olympics, aimed at secondary school students. In 1997 he was awarded Honorary *PTH* Membership. He was also Member of Economic Historic Society and the *Towarzystwo Naukowe Warszawskie* [Warsaw Scientific Society]. He also belonged to the *Związek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego* [Polish Teachers' Union] (1946–1980), next to the “*Solidarity*” Trade Union (1980–1981).

He was awarded, among others, a Golden Merit Cross (1956), a Knight's Cross (1967), Officer's (1976) and Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2002), and also a Cross of the Home Army, a Warsaw Uprising Cross, and a Partisan Cross (1997–1998).

Andrzej Wyczański combined harmoniously the features of a great scholar, exquisite teacher, with an organizer and popularizer of learning. He was held in real high esteem and recognition both among his colleagues as well as among a younger generation of historians. No wonder that his friends, colleagues, and disciples offered him anniversary books as many as four times (*Studia nad gospodarką, społeczeństwem i rodziną w Europie późnofeudalnej* [Studies of Economy, Society and the Family in late Feudal Europe], 1987; *Andreae Wyczański professori Universitatis Varsoviensis...*, 1994; *Między polityką a kulturą* [Between Politics and Culture], 1999; *Cała historia to dzieje ludzi...* [All History is History of People], 2004). Despite suffering, he remained a cheerful man till the end of his life, caring about his closest and disciples. Following the death of Andrzej Wyczański science suffered an irreparable loss. His scientific achievements will remain in the collection of great accomplishments of the national historiography.

Cezary Kuklo