

Notice biographique

ROMAN KOZŁOWSKI (1889 - 1977) (*)

Professor Roman KOZŁOWSKI, an outstanding Polish scientist, Doctor of Palaeontology and a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, died on May 2nd, 1977. Professor KOZŁOWSKI possessed a profound knowledge, coupled with great modesty and intellectual culture. His contribution to the Sciences of Palaeontology and Zoology is beyond estimation. He contributed fundamentally to modern palaeontology.

Born on February 1st, 1889 in WŁOCŁAWEK, where he completed the High School of Commerce, he went in 1907 to Switzerland and later to France where he studied under Professor Marcellin BOULE at the Sorbonne, Paris. In 1913 the government of Bolivia offered Roman KOZŁOWSKI the position of Professor and Directorship of Geological Sciences at the Mining School in Oruro. Apart from administration and teaching duties, he conducted geological-mineralogical investigations in Bolivia on a large scale, exploring on horseback vast areas of the Andes not yet described before. In the course of his work in Bolivia, Roman KOZŁOWSKI published eight research papers, dealing with the natural resources of Bolivia, and with the Geology and Palaeontology of Devonian and Carboniferous rocks, focusing on brachiopods particularly. During the period of 1913 to 1921 Roman KOZŁOWSKI devoted himself entirely to his second country, Bolivia.

In 1921 he returned to Europe. After obtaining his doctorate in Natural Sciences at the University of Paris he was soon offered the post of professor of Palaeontology at the University of Warsaw. At that time he concentrated all his creative activity on the research of graptolites, producing the greatest monument of his life - a large monograph on these extinct colonial animals of great significance to stratigraphic studies. It is worthy of note that he dealt personally with the painstaking, very time-consuming preparation of the graptolites from Tremadocian chalcidone of the Holy Cross Mtns. Specimens recovered by careful etching were at that time a revelation to the world's

specialists. The three-dimensional specimens obtained made it possible to undertake very specific anatomical studies, and to carry out a complete comparative analysis of specimens and their affinity to lower organised invertebrates. Professor KOZŁOWSKI pointed out the inadequate systematic position of graptolites, which he assigned to the group of the Hemichordata. His further long-range investigations included the empirical verification of data, supported by experimental work and the full illustration of results. The scientific papers by Professor KOZŁOWSKI constituted a marked progress in World Science and established one of the bases of modern Palaeontology. Through his work on the graptolites he initiated a biological approach to Palaeontology. He was not concerned so much with taxonomy as with the interrelationship between fossil organisms, and the experimental evidence which he obtained was invariably related to biological notions which he established on living material. In this way Professor KOZŁOWSKI enriched and added a new dimension to Palaeozoology which had previously been developed only as an aid to stratigraphy.

In September 1939 the systematic terror bombing of Warsaw destroyed the university building housing the Department of Geology and Paleontology. During the hard times of the second world war Professor KOZŁOWSKI worked in Warsaw as a Curator in the Geological Institute, where the occupying forces did not allow him to do research work. However, he did his best to share his knowledge and experience with his younger colleagues, supporting them with his cheerful attitude, and sustaining them at the same time with his irreconcilable attitude towards the occupier.

After the War Roman KOZŁOWSKI started to organise the chair of Palaeontology in the University of Warsaw and later at the Polish Academy of Sciences. In a relatively short time he succeeded in creating a new research centre which he directed with authority and initiative. Simultaneously, he continued his research which remarkably influenced the study of fossil invertebrates. The number of researchers in Palaeozoology

(*) *Le professeur Roman KOZŁOWSKI était membre honoraire de la Société Géologique de Belgique depuis 1960.*

grew into a few dozen specialists and the method of etching fossils by acid was developed on a large scale. This chemical method revealed features which were impossible to observe otherwise.

With all his administration and research commitments Professor KOZŁOWSKI always made time available to his colleagues and doctoral students. He was easily approached, patient and understanding, even though he demanded a high degree of performance. He was one of the top authorities in the field of Palaeontology not only for his students but also for independent research workers.

The scientific activities of the late Professor Roman KOZŁOWSKI were both detailed and varied. Not only did he produce an impressive number of publications - over 40 original papers as well as about a dozen or so review articles - but their striking originality was perhaps most important. Each of his publications is a genuinely creative work. Four of his

papers are fundamental monographs on brachiopods and graptolites. Graptolites and their relationship with other fossils were the main subject of Professor KOZŁOWSKI's activities. His studies threw new light on such little known organisms as Conularia, Hydroida, scolecodonts, Chitinozoa, Polychaeta, Cephalopoda and others. Two papers dealt with fossil plants. Professor KOZŁOWSKI also described several Palaeozoic organisms of unknown systematic position.

Professor KOZŁOWSKI retired in 1960, but continued to do research as well as work for various scientific societies.

In appreciation of his merits and achievements Professor KOZŁOWSKI was awarded the highest distinctions at home and abroad. He received Doctor Honoris CAUSA degrees from a number of universities and was a Honorary member of seventeen international scientific organisations.

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