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PROFESSOR STEFAN KAROL KOZŁOWSKI (1938–2022)

The 2nd of September 2022 was the day when Professor Stefan Karol Kozłowski left us forever. He was an outstanding person – a world-renowned archaeologist specialising in the Stone Age, an academic lecturer of a unique didactic style, and a devoted friend. I was fortunate to know Stefan in all these dimensions, which makes me even more aware of how severe and grievous our loss is.

During the last years, we worked together on the monumental “Biographical Dictionary of Polish Archaeologists”, which we already managed to submit to the publisher. Stefan used to ask jokingly if he was going to live to see the printed volume – he would not. He will also not live to see the published versions of some future books and articles based on the manuscripts he left unfinished, including his memoirs.

Stefan Karol Kozłowski was born on the 4th of November 1938 in Lviv (Polish: Lwów; then part of Poland). In the years 1956–1961, he studied archaeology at the University of Warsaw, under the tutelage of Prof. Włodzimierz Antoniewicz. He obtained his doctoral degree at the same university in 1967, based on a thesis titled *The Mesolithic in Little Poland*, written under the supervision of Prof. Waldemar Chmielewski. Already four years later (1971), he was promoted to a university professor after presenting a monograph titled *Prehistory of Polish Lands from the 9th to 4th Millennium BC*, eventually published as a book (Warsaw 1972). He then went on to become an associate professor in 1982 and a full professor in 1988.

In the years 1961–1996, he worked continuously at the University of Warsaw, in the Department of Prehistoric and Early Medieval Archaeology (transformed into the Institute of Archaeology in 1975, after its integration with the Department of Mediterranean Archaeology). Afterwards, he accepted a professorship at the University Lyon 2 in France, where he spent the next seven years. He returned to Poland in 2002 to take two parallel professorships – at the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Centre, University of Warsaw, and the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. His definitive retirement in 2020 had little to no negative influence on his scholarly and writing activity.

The earlier stages of Professor Stefan Karol Kozłowski’s extensive professional career were devoted to

studies on the older sections of the Stone Age, especially the Polish and European Mesolithic. Back then, it was still an emerging field – the term “Mesolithic” had been accepted in the official archaeological terminology just about a decade earlier. He conducted fruitful field research on the important Polish Mesolithic sites in Kashubia and the Sandomierz Basin, writing dozens of papers on these problems along the way and making crucial contributions to the scholarly effort of drawing a comprehensive picture of the Central-European Mesolithic.

In 1973, he organised a seminal international conference “Mesolithic in Europe” which gathered the world’s top researchers and for many years determined the direction of the studies on this part of European prehistory. The final overview of Professor Kozłowski’s ideas in that field was published in Oxford (2009): the book titled “Thinking Mesolithic” contains an array of his most important texts.

In parallel, in the 1970s, Professor Stefan Karol Kozłowski penned a number of publications of fundamental significance, such as two authoritative volumes prepared together with Janusz Krzysztof Kozłowski: *Prehistory of Europe from the 40th to 4th Millennium BC* (Warsaw 1975) and *The Stone Age of the Polish Lands* (Warsaw 1977).

In the 1980s, Professor Stefan Karol Kozłowski initiated field research in the Near East (Iraq, then Israel), soon to concentrate on the problems of local early, pre-pottery, Neolithic. His excavations in Nemrik, M’lefaat, and Gilgal yielded outstanding finds. They resulted in numerous priceless publications, such as *Nemrik. An Aceramic Village in Northern Iraq* (Warsaw 2002), as well as a series of very important conferences. This way, Professor Kozłowski became a world-renowned and indisputable authority also in this prestigious speciality.

During the first decade of the 21st century, he turned much of his attention to the history of Polish archaeology, devoting about a dozen books to this subject: *Professor Leon Kozłowski* (Lviv-Warsaw 2010; with O. Sytnik), *So Much from So Few. Young Polish Archaeology 1905–1928*, (Warsaw-Łódź 2012), *Stefan Krukowski and His Adventure with the State Archaeological Museum* (Warsaw-Łódź 2014; with M. Karczewski, M. Przepałkowska, and

O. Sytnik), or *The Bloom of the Kingdom* (Warsaw-Lódź 2015), among others.

In general, Professor Stefan Karol Kozłowski authored about 280 scholarly publications, including more than a dozen books. In the course of his university career, he promoted 12 PhDs, some of which already obtained

their full professorships. For one term, he served as vice director of the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. His scholarly achievements were recognised also by the Polish authorities, earning him the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Professor, Stefan, we all miss you.