

Tom poświęcony pamięci Profesora Stanisława Gerocha

A tribute to Professor Stanisław Geroch

This volume, initiated and edited by Michael A. Kaminski and Krzysztof Bąk, is dedicated to the memory of Professor Stanisław Geroch, who passed away suddenly on June 21, 1995 in the prime of his professional life.

For more than 40 years, Stanisław Geroch taught Micropaleontology at the Jagiellonian University, Chair of Paleontology, first occupied by Józef Grzybowski. For a long period of time he served as Treasurer of the Polish Geological Society and Deputy Editor in-chief of the present Journal. Through his kind and humble nature, his personal magnetism, and his deep love for his work, he inspired a whole generation of Polish Micropaleontologists. He was a leading world specialist on deep-water agglutinated foraminifera, and has made monumental contributions to the field of Carpathian biostratigraphy.

This volume presents 19 contributions written by his personal friends, colleagues and former students. Most of the papers in this volume deal with foraminifera (especially agglutinated foraminifera) from the Carpathian flysch and other Tethyan deep-water deposits. However, several papers contributed by friends of Professor Geroch deal with foraminifera from areas outside the Carpathians. The diversity of topics presented in this volume reflects his own vast interest in the field of Micropaleontology.

The editors sincerely thank the authors of all contributions.

Editor-in-chief



S. J. ...

STANISŁAW GEROCH

May 2, 1920 – June 21, 1995

Professor dr. Stanisław Geroch passed away suddenly on June 21, 1995, in Kraków. For many years he was the Head of the Department of Paleozoology of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Jagiellonian University, Kraków. He will be long remembered as a world-reknowned micropaleontologist, a dedicated educator, and role-model to his students.

Stanisław Geroch (affectionately known as "Stan" to his foreign friends or as "Mistrz" or "Maestro" to his students) was born on May 2, 1920, in Jasło, Poland, the son of Błażej and Magdalena. In that town he spent his youthful years, and completed his primary and secondary education. He graduated from the King Stanisław Leszczyński High School (Gymnazjum) in 1938, and in that same year commenced his undergraduate studies in Pharmacy at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lvov.

During the war years, he was employed as a technician, first in the Geological Survey in Jasło, then at the Petroleum Research Station in Boryslaw. Here he had his first contact with the field of Micropalaeontology while working on samples from the Carpathian boreholes.

After the war he found himself in Kraków, where he continued his pharmaceutical studies at the Jagiellonian University and obtained his M.Sc. degree in Pharmacy on March 10, 1948. At the same time, he also attended courses in Geology in the Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. The Geology Department was in the process of being reorganised at the time, and after Prof. M. Książkiewicz returned from the United Kingdom to set up the new Institute of Geological Sciences, he earned a second M.Sc. degree in Geology and Palaeontology. Even before earning his M.Sc. degrees, he was employed first as a Junior Assistant in the Cathedra of Palaeontology (from Nov. 1, 1945 to Aug. 31, 1946), which was then headed by Prof. F. Bieda (who had been a student of J. Grzybowski). In 1946, he was working in the team that produced a geological map (1:100,000 scale) of the Częstochowa–Woźniki region. From Aug. 31, 1946, he was permanently employed in the Cathedra of Geology (presently Institute of Geological Sciences of the Jagiellonian University), working as an Assistant under the supervision of Prof. M. Książkiewicz. Documents from those days reveal that he taught "Historical Geology". On Sept. 1, 1950 he was promoted to Senior Assistant, and over the years he eventually rose through the ranks to become Professor.

From the beginning of his scientific career and throughout his entire later life, Prof. Geroch mainly carried out stratigraphical studies of the Carpathian flysch deposits, documenting the age and stratigraphical relationships of the units by means of foraminifera. His Ph.D. thesis, carried out under the supervision of Prof. Bieda, was entitled "Cretaceous and Paleogene foraminiferal assemblages of the Silesian Unit in the Beskid Śląski Mountains" was successfully defended in 1960. He defended his "Habilitation" thesis in 1966, on the basis of his studies of Lower Cretaceous smaller foraminifera from the Flysch Carpathians, and in the same year was awarded the title of "Docent". This was an especially busy and productive time in his scientific career. He was co-organisor of the 10th European Micropaleontological Colloquium held in 1967, and edited an comprehensive guidebook to the Stratigraphy and Palaeontology of the Carpathian Flysch to accompany the field excursion. During the Prague Spring of 1968 he travelled to Bucharest together with his young family to work with his long-time colleague Theodor Neagu. At this time he also edited the first thematic volume of this journal (*Rocznik Polskiego Towarzystwa Geologicznego*) which comprised a collection of micropalaeontological papers commemorating the 100th birthday of Józef Grzybowski, published in 1969.

From 1974 until his retirement in 1991, he headed the Department of Paleozoology of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Jagiellonian University. In the 1978-1981 academic years, he held the position of Vice Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences. In 1981 he was awarded the title of Professor.

Prof. Geroch is the author or co-author of approximately 60 scientific articles published in Poland as well as in international scientific journals. He co-edited two books, the second of which was published posthumously. He additionally wrote numerous notes, communications, and unpublished consultant's reports. For many years he served on the editorial board of this journal. He was named Corresponding Member of the PAU (Polish Academy of Knowledge in Kraków) in 1992.