

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR DOCTOR STANISŁAW LASKOWSKI (1933–2018)

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Professor, Doctor Habilitated Stanisław Laskowski who died on 19 May 2018. All of us, His alumni, used to call him “Our Professor”. He was our Master and Teacher. His extensive knowledge easily won the favour and respect of those who knew Him. Our Professor was gifted with eminent personality and he forsook many students, alumni and colleagues at two Polish universities: Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences and University of Łódź. We will remember Him as the outstanding Scholar, great Teacher and reliable Friend.



Professor Stanisław Laskowski was born on 30 January 1933 in the village of Zagórze Konkolnickie, the district of Rohatyn, the province of Stanisławów. He changed places of residence time and again until He finally settled in Wrocław.

He graduated high school, which was Middle School and Technical Institute of Agriculture in Bojanów, the district of Rawicz, and took His school leaving exams in 1952. He was a student at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Higher School of Agriculture in Wrocław in the years from 1952 until 1957. He was awarded the Master’s Degree in Agriculture in the field of agricultural chemistry and soil science. He was happy to be able to write his master’s thesis under the supervision of world-famous Polish soil scientist Professor Jan Tomaszewski.

His PhD thesis supervisor was Professor Stanisław Kowaliński. Professor Laskowski was awarded the Doctor’s Degree at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Higher School of Agriculture in Wrocław in 1969. His PhD thesis was published in *Soil Science Annual*, volume 24, issue 1, 1973.

He was habilitated with the postdoctoral degree in 1986 by the Higher School of Agriculture in Wrocław renamed the Agricultural University of Wrocław. His postdoctoral dissertation was published in *Scientific Journal of the Agricultural University of Wrocław*, Treatises 56, 1986.

In 2001, while He was working at the University of Łódź, He received the title of Professor of Agricultural Sciences at the recommendation of the Council of the Faculty of Agriculture of the Agricultural University of Wrocław.

Professor Stanisław Laskowski began His professional career in 1957 in the Soil Erosion Lab of the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation in Puławy holding the position of junior assistant. Between 1958 and 1964, He worked in the Regional Chemical and Agricultural Research Laboratory holding the position of senior agrochemist and then, Head of Pedological Lab. In the years 1964–1968, He completed PhD studies at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Higher School of Agriculture in Wrocław. Then, in 1968, He was given the position of senior assistant at the Soil Science Department and between 1970 and 1989, He worked there as the associate professor. In 1989, He was offered the position of docent at the Agricultural University of Wrocław and Head of Environmental Protection Department at the Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Environmental Protection.

Since 1961, Professor Laskowski was a member of the Polish Soil Science Society holding the positions of treasurer, secretary (Wrocław) and department chairman of the board (Łódź). In the years from 1994 until 1996, He was a member of the Committee of the Environmental Protection of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Department of Łódź. Since 1998, He was a member of Scientific Society of Łódź (during one term he was also a secretary of the Geographical Committee) and since 1996, He was a member of Scientific Council of Botanical Garden in Łódź. He was an editorial reviewer of three textbooks and three academic handbooks as well as a couple of research projects in the field of soil science.

Professor Laskowski was a supervisor for thirty Masters of Science (at both Wrocław and Łódź universities) and four PhDs at the University of Łódź. He reviewed nine PhD theses, two postdoctoral dissertations and one professor degree.

While in Wrocław, Professor Laskowski focused on research of humus in soils of the Sudety mountains. He also researched sorbent properties of the soils in question as well as of mobile iron, aluminum and active manganese oxide. In 1971, Professor started individual and team research on alluvial soils in the Central Odra Valley. The research concerned the nature of alluvial process and its results in the form of different subtypes and types of fen soils. Professor Laskowski did also some significant research in the field of environmental protection. Most of them concerned the influence of copper smelter (Głogów, Legnica) upon soil and plants.

While in Łódź, Professor Laskowski researched contents and distribution of Cu, Pb, Zn, Fe and Cd in soils depending on their exploitation, distance and

direction from the city centre as well as evaluation of concentration of these elements in soils based on assumptive limit values, the so-called geochemical background.

Professor Stanisław Laskowski left considerable research output of 87 publications, both individual and teamworks. For His scientific, research and didactic achievements, Professor was honored with many prizes: Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology Team Prize, Minister of National Education Team Prize, ten individual and team prizes of the Rector of the Agricultural University of Wrocław, three prizes of the Rector of University of Łódź, the Golden Badge of the Polish Soil Science Society, Silver Cross of Merit, Badge of Honor for contribution to Zielona Góra district development, Golden Cross of Merit and Medal of the National Education Commission.

Professor adored sightseeing and mountain hikes, He was also interested in cynology. He loved dogs and always had them around Him. One of His pets, Polish Lowland sheepdog named Kuba, starred alongside Zbigniew Cybulski in Tadeusz Konwicki's film *Salto* (1965). Professor was sensitive to the beauty of the world, marvelled at the landscape of Poland, appreciated concerts of philharmonic orchestra, collected paintings, attended dog shows and often relaxed during walks in the Botanical Garden in Łódź.

Polish science lost a great authority and a valuable person of huge merits. Professor Stanisław Laskowski shall remain in memory of many people. Those who knew Him, those who were taught by Him and those who worked with Him – they all will remember Him for a long time. Our Professor shall not be forgotten.

Wojciech Tołoczko, PhD
Sub-Department of Environmental Dynamics and Soil Science
Department of Physical Geography
University of Łódź