

OBITUARY

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PROFESSOR
JADWIGA WARSZYŃSKA
(18TH JULY 1925 – 19TH AUGUST 2011)



Polish academic life suffered an exceptionally painful and irreparable loss on the day Professor Jadwiga Warszyńska passed away. She was a retired full professor at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków; the vice-director of the Institute of Geography, and the head of its Tourism Geography Department; a member of the IGU Tourism Geography Commission, the Geographical Sciences Committee at the Polish Academy of Science in Kraków, and the Polish Geographical Society.

Jadwiga Warszyńska was born in Tarnów into a family of teachers. In 1947-52 she studied at the Mathematics and Natural Science Department, at the Jagiellonian University. She was granted a MPhil degree for her thesis entitled *Socio-Spatial Ties in Kraków*. In 1961 she was granted a PhD degree by the Biology and Earth Sciences Department at the Jagiellonian University for her doctoral thesis entitled

The development of the transport network in Kraków Województwo. She received her post-doctoral degree in 1983, and became a full professor in 1989.

In 1951-4 Jadwiga Warszyńska worked as a teacher at the Pedagogical Liceum in Tarnów, but from 1958 she had been inextricably linked with the Institute of Geography at the Jagiellonian University where she was employed after completing post-graduate studies at both this institution and the University of Warsaw (1954-8).

Her publications, including six original books, several others which she edited as well as over 100 articles, are the outcome of over 50 years of hard work as an academic, known for her exceptional meticulousness and erudition. Her research output also includes many unpublished works (studies, analyses, methodology papers), written for different research institutions and the state administration.

Initially, Prof. Warszyńska conducted research in the field of transport and service geography. She discussed these issues in a series of analytical regional studies, including her doctoral thesis, as well as in a number of works in which she attempted to build a spatial typology.

In the second half of the 1960's she became interested primarily in tourism geography. Her works in this field include methodological and theoretical studies, those dealing with quantitative methods in natural environment assessment for tourism purposes, as well as monographs of different areas in Poland, especially Kraków and the Carpathian Mountains. Jadwiga Warszyńska's theoretical-methodological studies deserve particular attention as they refer to tourism geography as a young geographical discipline and present some methodological ideas. The latter usually on the quantitative evaluation of the natural environment for tourism purposes. They also include her post-doctoral thesis in which she presented a method for using a mathematical model in the evaluation of the attractiveness of individual elements of the natural environment in a specific locality. A synthesis of her methodological and theoretical output is the book entitled *Podstawy geografii turystyki (The Rudiments of Tourism Geography)*, written jointly with Antoni Jackowski. Presented in the 1980's, her modified conception of tourism geography interested foreign academic centres who commissioned a report on this issue from the IGU Tourism Geography Commission (published in 'Geojournal'). A large part of Prof. Warszyńska's work includes comprehensive regional studies with a methodological study where she discussed the tourism function in the Polish Carpathians. Jadwiga Warszyńska was also the originator of many terms related to transport and tourism, included in dictionaries (WSP 1982, PWN 1983), and maps of some *województwos* (Krakowskie 1979, Bielskie 1981, Tarnowskie 1988) and the city of Kraków (1988).

A separate area of research activity was initiating and organizing research, as well as encouraging and supervising collective works, both in the form of monographs and student textbooks. We should mention here an extensive monographic study entitled *Województwo tarnowskie (Tarnów Voivodeship)* (Ossolineum, 1988), of which she was the editor and co-author, as well as a two-volume textbook, entitled *Geografia turystyczna świata (Global Tourism Geography)* (PWN 1994, 1995, 1997, 2000) – the first publication of this type covering such a wide range of issues in the world. Its writing was inspired by Prof. Warszyńska and she was its editor. She also supervised the writing of *Monografia turystyczna Karpat (Tourist Monograph of the Carpathian Mountains)*, the first part of which

concerned the Romanian Carpathians and was published in 1988. The first very large monograph on the Carpathian Mountains, entitled *Karpaty Polskie – przyroda, człowiek i jego działalność (Polish Carpathians – Nature, Man and His Activity)*, appeared in mid-1995. She also conceived the idea for this publication. It was undoubtedly the most important comprehensive study of the Carpathian Mountains published in the 20th century.

To complete the list of Prof. Warszyńska's achievements as an editor, we should mention *Atlas turystyki Polski (Atlas of Polish Tourism)* (a project abandoned due to financial reasons). She edited the periodical entitled *Zeszyty Naukowe UJ – Prace Geograficzne (seria Geografia Ekonomiczna)*. She took part in the editorial work of many publications, such as *Folia Geographica, Series Geographica-Oeconomica* (Geographical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Science in Kraków), *Turyzm*¹ (University of Łódź) and *Problemy Turystyki* (Institute of Tourism at the Jagiellonian University).

Prof. Warszyńska was a pioneer of tourism geography in Poland. The significance of her works, often quoted by other authors, has been recognized in other countries as well. She was the founder of the Kraków school of tourism geography and the first teaching specialization in Poland. She began her teaching career, which spanned more than 50 years, as a school teacher and finished it as a university professor, treating it not so much as an obligation but as a privilege and calling. She educated generations of undergraduates (about 300 master's theses) and postgraduates who wrote their PhD's under her supervision and kind care.

For ten years (1974-84) she was the vice-director of the Institute of Geography at the Jagiellonian University, including seven years (1974-81) when she was responsible for teaching. In 1979-94 she was also the head of the Tourism Geography Department.

She was a member of the Geographical Sciences Committee at the Polish Academy of Science in Kraków, of the Institute of Tourism Academic Council, as well as the advisory team at this Institute. She was also a member of advisory teams at the *Województwo* Statistical Office in Kraków, the Kraków Development Office and the *Województwo* Office in Nowy Sącz. She did voluntary work at the Polish Geographical Society as the leader of the Tourism Geography Commission (1977-93).

Four ministerial prizes and multiple Rector's awards (Jagiellonian University) were conferred on her for her research. She was honoured with the Order of Polonia Restituta (1984) and the Gold Cross of Merit (1976), while she received the Golden Badge for her merits at the Polish Geographical Association (1985).

Prof. Warszyńska was hard-working, extremely active, full of initiative, a good organizer who easily made academic contacts, and the author and animator of many research projects and collective undertakings. She was a commonly respected moral authority in academic circles.

We have lost an outstanding researcher and academic teacher, a wise, kind and noble person who was at the same time modest, friendly to others while demanding a lot from herself. We respected her, looked up to her and loved her. She will always be remembered by those who knew her.

FOOTNOTE

¹ Professor Jadwiga Warszyńska was an active member of the *Turyzm* Editorial Board from 1994 to 2008, and a reviewer of many articles published in this periodical. In 1995 the *Turyzm* editors dedicated a special issue (vol. 5, issue 2) to Prof. Warszyńska in recognition of her great merits in the development of tourism geography. The issue included her biography and the bibliography of her research up to 1995 [ed.].

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