

**JERZY GŁAZEK**  
(1936 – 2009)



Jerzy Głazek, professor emeritus of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, member of the Polish Geological Society, died in Poznań on July 3rd, 2009.

The son of school teachers, Jerzy was born in Warszawa on July 10th, 1936. He went to secondary school in Wrocław, and there he started his higher education in geology, but continued it and graduated (in 1959) at the University of Warsaw (UW). He obtained his Ph. D. degree at the Department of Geology of the same university in 1966; his thesis was entitled "Geology of the Lang Khuan area in northern Vietnam in relation to the structure of southeastern Asia". His degree of Dr. Hab. was received at the same department in 1990 based on the thesis "Palaeokarst of Poland". He was still a student when he got his first job in teaching at the Department of Geology UW, and, subsequently, he moved to more senior positions before accepting, in 1991, the position of assistant professor of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (UAM), and head of the Department of Dynamic and Regional Geology.

The interests and research of Jerzy Głazek embraced a wide scope of geological subjects including regional geology, dynamic geology (especially the processes related to karst), stratigraphy, palaeogeography and the issues related to mineral resources. He carried on his research in the Tatra Mountains, Holy Cross Mountains, Kraków-Wieluń Upland, Lublin Area, Wielkopolska Area, and, moreover, some regions of Vietnam, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and Bulgaria. The results of his research had major implications for geology and methodology of research. The list of his achievements is long, here only some are presented.

He demonstrated (in the publication with J. Kutek, 1972) that during most of the Mesozoic, the area of the present Holy Cross Mts. was not emerged – as previously thought – but was located in the Danish-Polish Trough, was subjected to subsidence, and became covered with sediments a few kilometres in thickness. These were eroded after the uplift only by the close of the Mesozoic.

The studies by Jerzy Głazek on the brown coal deposit at Bełchatów enabled recognition of very complicated tectonics of that

area. These results were of importance for the interpretation of other structures in the Polish Lowland. The studies at Bełchatów were also the base for the hypothesis on suberosional origin of other brown coal deposits in Poland. He also presented the hypothesis on the halotectonic-transpressive origin of the Wieluń Structure.

Owing to his research in the Tatra Mountains, Jerzy Głazek demonstrated that in the Neogene, the deformation in these mountains was much stronger than it was assumed before. Of considerable importance was the discovery of the tuffite layer in the Eocene conglomerate. He demonstrated that the red conglomerate at the base of the Tatra Eocene is of karst origin. Together with E. Zastawniak, he revised the Eocene macroflora from the Tatras (2000).

One of his main interests was karst. He studied these phenomena for many years. At first these studies were focused on Tatra caves, however, soon they embraced other areas of Poland. He concentrated on fossil karst of various ages and on utilizing the karst phenomena for palaeogeographic and palaeotectonic reconstructions. Jerzy Głazek worked either by himself, or was a part of research groups of specialists of various fields. In most cases he was the initiator of a given research, and, as a rule, the first author of publications. Of his numerous publications, I should mention "Karst of Poland" section of the Elsevier monograph *Karst, important karst areas of the northern hemisphere* (1972), and *Paleokarst of Poland*, section in the volume *Paleokarst, A Systematic and Regional Review* (1989), published by Elsevier and Academia. It must be added that he was one of the four editors of this volume.

The introduction by Jerzy Głazek of physical methods for dating of karst deposits was pioneering in Poland. Most of all, this method was used for dating of speleothems by the U-series method. These investigations, carried on together with Dr. R. S. Harmon, started during his stay in Glasgow in 1978, and were later introduced in Poland. Owing to his research and publications on karst, Professor Jerzy Głazek was considered the top Polish specialist in that area; he was also highly valued by the international community of geologists.

Publications authored or co-authored by Jerzy Głazek amount to nearly 400; of these some 50 are original scientific papers, some of them are sections of international monographs, more than 20 are comprehensive articles in proceedings of international congresses and symposia. Other publications are conference abstracts, reviews, sections of academic handbooks and excursion guides. The impact of his papers was very high, as they were cited not only in articles, but also in international handbooks and specialist volumes.

For many years, Jerzy Głazek participated actively in international scientific meetings, and was often invited to give key-note papers and to lead scientific sessions. He was also a successful organizer. He organized many, wider and smaller meetings, was active in the Polish Geological Society and in Section of Speleology of the Polish Copernicus Society of Naturalists, and, since 1981, he was the leader of this section. Owing to his initiative and effort, Poland was included, in 1973, in the International Union of Speleology (UIS). For a few years, he was the adjoint secretary to this union, and in the years 1977–1986 he became the secretary to the Commission of Paleokarst and Speleochronology within UIS. In Poland, he was a member of various commissions, committees and scientific boards. His lectures and other teaching activities were very popular and highly valued. He conferred 30 B.Sc. degrees and 7 Ph.D. degrees, and he was highly valued as a referee in various academic procedures. He received various awards and distinctions. Among others, he was twice (in 1977 and 1991) the recipient of the Maria Markowicz-Łohinowicz Award, and three times he received awards of the Minister of High Education and Scientific

Research, a few times the awards of the Dean of the University of Warsaw. He also received some medals in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Italy.

Professor Jerzy Głazek was an eminent geologist, highly valued by the scientific community, a scientist of deep and comprehensive knowledge and a man full of energy and initiative, kind to colleagues and pupils. His unexpected, grave illness distanced him, in the final few months of his life, from research and other activities, but he will not be forgotten by those who knew him.

Ryszard Gradziński

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