

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF WITOLD MACIEJEWSKI

Professor Witold Maciejewski was born on October 1st 1951 in Poznań. It was also in Poznań that he was brought up, during his childhood he lived in the very centre of the town. He attended the Karol Marcinkowski Secondary School in Poznań, the so called “Marcinek”, from which he graduated in 1969.

After his high school finals, he studied at the Faculty of Polish Philology at Adam Mickiewicz University, which he finished in 1974. Immediately after his studies, he started working as a assistant at the Institute of Linguistics at AMU. He spent the years 1976–1979 in Sweden as a Polish language instructor at the Universities of Uppsala and Stockholm. He spent the academic year 1979/1980 also in Uppsala, at a scholarship.

In 1982, Professor Maciejewski obtained the PhD title at the Uppsala University for his thesis *Podstawy polsko-szwedzkiej kontrastywnej gramatyki tekstu* (*Fundamentals of Polish-Swedish text grammar*). In 1983 the diploma was recognized in Poland and the Professor was granted the title of Doctor of Humanities in the area of contrastive Polish-Swedish linguistics.

After the defense of his doctoral thesis, Professor Maciejewski began his job as a lecturer, firstly at the Institute of Linguistics at AMU, later at the Chair of General and Applied Linguistics, and from the year 1995 at the Institute of Linguistics at AMU. In the meantime, he once again travelled to Uppsala with his family, in order to work as a Polish language instructor at the University in the years 1985–1988.

In 1996, the Professor was granted the postdoctoral degree in the area of general linguistics. His postdoctoral dissertation was entitled *O przestrzeni w języku* (*Language and space*). During the years 1997–1999 he worked as an associate professor at the Institute of Linguistics at AMU, from 1999 he is an associate professor at the Chair of Scandinavian Studies at AMU. Since 2005, he has concurrently been working at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, where he holds the position of the director of the Chair of Scandinavian Studies.

Professor Maciejewski does also perform many organizational activities. He is one of the founders and main activists of the Baltic University. He has

been the mentor of the international educational program *Peoples of the Baltic* since 1998, which organizes courses and conferences for students and scholars from the Baltic countries. The main result of these activities is the book *The Baltic Sea Region. Cultures, Politics, Societies* (2002), of which the Professor was the main editor and co-author. This volume has also been published in its Belarusian and Ukrainian versions.

In 1999, released by the Kurpisz publishing house, Professor Maciejewski's book *Świat języków* (*The world of languages*) was published (as volume XIV of the series *Wielka encyklopedia geografii świata* (*The great encyclopedia of world geography*)). This book is a great scholarly and didactic help to anyone who gets in contact with linguistics.

In the field of Professor's Scandinavian interests lie also the runes. In 1990 his work *Wczesne zabytki runiczne* (*Early runic inscriptions*) was published, and at the moment he is working on the publishing of the book *Runy* (*Runes*) as a co-author.

Since 1975, Professor Maciejewski has been an active member of the Polish Linguistic Society, and since 1983 – of the Poznań Society of Friends of Learning. He has taken part in numerous assemblies and conferences organized by both of the Societies.

Moreover, the Professor has also got a great experience in editing scholarly periodicals. During the years 1975–1976 he was the secretary of editorial staff of the *Biuletyn Fonograficzny*. Later (1992–1999), he was the secretary of editorial staff of *Lingua Posnaniensis*, and since 2004 he is the co-editor of *Folia Scandinavica Posnaniensia*. In 2006 the journal *Acta Sueco-Polonica* was handed over by the Uppsala University to the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities. Professor Maciejewski is one of its co-editors.

Professor Maciejewski's interests go far beyond the field of pure Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics. The Professor has also dealt with African studies, from 1997 he was a member of the Polish Africanist Society, where he held the position of the secretary of the Society's Poznań section. He has also always been attracted by the East, which can be proved by his numerous trips and lectures at the universities of Arkhangelsk, Lviv, Saint Petersburg. He is also familiar with history, literature, ecology, which is verified by his participation in conferences concerning all of these domains.

In May 2011 Professor Maciejewski received The Order of the Polar Star from the king Carl XVI Gustaf. The order is one of the most important rewards presented to foreigners for exceptional merits for Sweden and its culture in the world.

Professor Maciejewski is very proud of his students. Throughout all these years he has managed to bring up a large number of people, with many of whom he has sincere contact. His PhD students are of particular value for him.

Privately, Professor Maciejewski is very devoted to his family. He loves to spend time with his children and grandchildren. He spends his free time work-

ing in his garden, in the winter he likes to go skiing, in the summer – fishing. He especially enjoys travelling (usually together with his wife and at least some of the grandchildren) to different parts of the world. He has been to many countries and he keeps finding new destinations. Just like in his scholarly life – he keeps looking for new challenges.

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