

Andrzej Zaborski
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Between 1960 and 1965, Andrzej Zaborski studied Arabic philology, Semitology and African linguistics at the Institute of Oriental Studies at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. He completed his studies by successfully defending his master's thesis *Medieval History of the Beja Tribes according to Arabic Sources* (cf. 1964a). In 1969, he rounded off his doctoral studies at Jagiellonian University with the thesis *Biconsonantal Verbal Roots in Semitic* (cf. 1971a) written under the supervision of prof. Jerzy Kuryłowicz. Among his other teachers were the significant Polish linguists and orientalists prof. Aleksy Klawek, Tadeusz Lewicki, Zenon Klemensiewicz and Tadeusz Milewski.

Already at the beginning of his doctoral studies (1966), he became an assistant at the Institute of Oriental Philology at Jagiellonian University. For the academic year 1974-1975, he gained a postdoctoral scholarship for the Institute of Arabic Language at Cairo University. In 1976, he habilitated with his work *The Verb in Cushitic* (1975a). His examiners were professors Jerzy Kuryłowicz, Karel Petráček and Robert Hetzron. It is noteworthy that this thesis is with great probability the first such extensive work on Afro-Asiatic languages which served for habilitation purposes anywhere in the world.

His academic career continued by obtaining the position of associate professor at Jagiellonian University in 1978. At the turn of 1978-1979, an opportunity for a research stay in Damascus opened for him. Then in 1982, he spent a quarter of a year studying in Algeria. In 1982-1983, a stay at the University of Vienna as a visiting professor followed, where he taught linguistics and two of the most significant Cushitic languages, Oromo and Somali.

Meanwhile he received a Humboldt scholarship for the Institute of African Studies at the University of Cologne, where he worked in 1983-1985. In the course of his stay in Cologne, he managed to gain a second habilitation at the University of Vienna (1984) and he spent two months in Northern Kenya in order to conduct field research on the Dahalo ethnic group. In addition, he taught Afro-Asiatic and Cushitic linguistics in the summer semester in 1985 at the University of Heidelberg.

After his return from the University of Cologne, Zaborski worked for many years in the Department of African Studies, where he led courses on Somali, Oromo, Beja, Amharic, Tuareg, Masai and other languages. He was simultaneously employed at the Institute of Oriental Philology at the Jagiellonian University of Cracow during this time. In the summer semester of 1986 he also taught at the Institute of Oriental Studies at the University of Torino and a year later at the Institute of Linguistics at the University of Udine.

In 1989 he was appointed an extraordinary professor at the Department of Oriental Philology of the Jagiellonian University based on his work *Nominal Plural in the Cushitic Languages* (1986c). A two-month journey to Sudan (namely Khartoum, Port Sudan and Kassala) which he undertook in 1989 provided him with an opportunity to perform field research on Beja, Nubian and other languages. For the academic year 1990-1991, he was invited to the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem by the research group The Living Semitic Languages and Comparative Semitics led by prof. Gideon Goldenberg.

From 1999 Zaborski led courses of Semitology in the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Vienna. In 2000 he was appointed a full professor of the Jagiellonian University. During the winter semester 2000-2001 he worked as a visiting professor at the Institute of Oriental Studies at the University of Mainz, teaching comparative Semitic and Afro-Asiatic linguistics. From 2000 he led the Department of Afroasiatic Linguistics at the Jagiellonian University and delivered lectures on Arabic, Semitic and Afro-Asiatic linguistics.

In 2013, when he celebrated his seventy-first birthday, he retired. The Jagiellonian University, of which he was a dignified representative, paid him no pension allegedly due to an administrative mistake. Even as professor emeritus, Andrzej Zaborski was extraordinarily active and retained his position as the chief editor of the journal *Folia Orientalia* devoted to oriental studies. He retained this position until late September 2014 when he was preparing for major heart surgery. In his last e-mail from September 21, 2014, he wrote to one of the authors of this obituary that he still needed to finish some more reviews for *Folia Orientalia* (finally he wrote eight reviews!). On October 2, 2014, the tragic news was brought by prof. Tomasz Polański that his former teacher and later close colleague Andrzej Zaborski had died on the preceding day.

Assessing Zaborski's work is an extremely difficult task. Over more than half a century of publishing, he embraced such a wide variety of disciplines that the results of his work seem more like the outcomes of a team of researchers. Let us summarize how the individual languages and language groups are represented in his work:

Afro-Asiatic: 1974a, b, 1977a, 1983a, 1984b, 1992a, 1994a, 1995d, 1996c, 1997b, 1998a, b, 1999a, b, c, d, 2002a, b, 2003a, b, c, d, 2005c, d, 2006a, b, 2007a, b, c, e, 2009a, 2011a, 2012a, b, 2013a, 2014i;

Semitic: 1969b, 1970b, 1971a, 1973a, b, d, 1974c, 1977a, 1980b, c, 1991a, 1994b, c, 1994e, 1991g, 1995b, f, 1996a, 1997c, d, f, 1998h, 2001f, 2005a, b, h, 2007c, f, h, 2008e, 2009d, 2010d, e, 2013b, c, g, k, 2014a, b, d, g;

Arabic: 1967a, 1975f, 1982a, b, 1983e, 1988d, 1994b, i, 1995a, c, g, 1996b, f, g, 1997e, 1998d, 1999e, g, 2000a, 2001a, 2002c, e, 2003e, 2004e, f, 2005g, k, 2006c, d,

2007d, k, 2008a, 2010c, 2011c, f, g, 2013d, e, f, h, i, j, 2014e, f, and a translation from Arabic 1998f;

Cushitic: 1970a, 1975a, b, c, d, 1976a, 1979a, 1980a, 1981a, 1983b, c, 1985a, 1986b, c, d, 1987a, b, c, 1988b, 1989b, 1991b, c, 1996d, 1997b, 1998c, 2001c, 2004b, 2005e, f, 2009b;

Beja: 1964a, 1966a, 1967b, 1968b, 1970c, 1975e, 1983b, 1987d, 1988a, 1989a, e, d, 1992c, 1997a, 1998e, 2008d, 2011b;

Central Cushitic: 1972e, 1977c, 1983b, 2001b;

East Cushitic: 1967a, 1968a, 1969a, 1983b, 1984d, 1985b, 1987d, 1990a, 1992b, 1996e, 2001b, 2009c;

Omotic: 1983d, 1984a, 1986a, 1990b, 2004a;

Chadic: 1983f, g, 1986f;

Berber: 1988c, 1993a, 1997b, c, d, 2009b, 2010f, 2014c, h;

Egyptian: 1994d;

Saharan: 2000b;

Kurdish: 1961a, 2004g.

Besides the above-mentioned topics, Zaborski devoted his attention to general questions of translation studies, especially to the so-called Biblical languages (1977b, 2002d, 2004d, e, f, 2005 i, j, 2008c, 2009e), and also to the analysis of texts by Arabian historians and geographers (1964a, 1965a, 1968c, 1972a, b, d, 1973c, 1984c, 1986e, 1994b, 1995a, 1998e, g, i, 2001d, e, 2008b, 2011d, 2012c). Slavists will also find inspiration in Zaborski's work. He occupied himself, for example, with words which might have originated in West Slavic and appeared in the writings of the Arab geographer al-Bakri (1014–1094) who lived in Spain (2012c). His 13-page-long review (2002e) of the monograph by Waclaw Przemysław Turek on Arabic loanwords in Polish from 2001 is a valuable contribution to the study of mutual influences between Arabic and Slavic languages in the Middle Ages.

Andrzej Zaborski's universal linguistic and historic knowledge, excellent language skills, brilliant judgment and rigorous argumentation made him one of the best linguists, orientalists and historians. Fortunately, his work remains with us even after he is gone, although it is scattered across six monographs and approximately 230 articles, reports and reviews. To bring his writings together into a thematically-order collected works becomes an urgent desideratum.

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