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Our Masters

Professor Maria Brykowska won the National Jan Zachwatowicz Prize

In previous issues of our magazine we presented the laureates of the Professor Jan Zachwatowicz Prize. The presentation of this prize awarded by the Polish National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (PKN ICOMOS) for excellent achievements

in the field of protection of monuments and sites was held on June 26, 2007 in the Concert Hall of the Royal Castle in Warsaw. One of the winners of the national prize was Professor Maria Brykowska. Professor Maciej Kysiak gave the following laudatory speech.

Laudatory speech given by Professor Maciej Kysiak

We are meeting today to present the ICOMOS Prize to Professor Maria Brykowska for her achievements and work which for fifty years has been connected with the Institute of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology.

The Institute of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology was established at least ninety years ago. Its leaders created a school which has no equal among Polish schools of higher education for architects and history. Its students who were their successors and continuators brought to science new aspects and ideas. They include scientists with fascinating personalities and great achievements difficult to overestimate especially in tumultuous the times of the 20th century: Oskar Sosnowski, Jan Zachwatowicz, Adam Miłobędzki, Czesław Krassowski, Maria Brykowska...

These leaders of the Institute – and many of the excellent scientists from that circle would head other scientific units.

For ninety years they have been documenting and exploring masterpieces of architecture on the territory of Poland – both contemporary and pre-partition. The masterpieces located in Poland within her present borders and beyond them which are Polish by their cultural heritage and political reference. Unfortunately we have no time now to talk about how urgent, needed and beneficial that work is.

Half a century of uninterrupted work in the Institute of Polish Architecture and a few years of heading the Institute by Professor Maria Brykowska brought significant achievements both outstanding and varied as the work itself is varied too:

- basic research – in situ – regarding the substance and structure of individual buildings, their historic value, original concept and later adjustments,
- monographs on individual buildings and sites or their groups,
- research of specific spatial and construction solutions, their presence and various methods of application,
- monographs – such as for instance the monograph on Oskar Sosnowski's works as well as preparation for printing of the volumes of "The History of Building and Architecture on the Territory of Poland" by Czesław Krassowski.

Along with research work Professor Maria Brykowska conducted classes. Lectures, seminars, tests and exams, countless consultations which she never rejected constitute the everyday hard life of a scientist – a teacher. A scientist who imparts the knowledge, wisdom and experience gained over the years to the next generations of creators and researchers. Mentoring doctoral students, writing reviews and articles. All this done with utmost diligence and responsibility for every decision, for every word.

We have no time to list all research work done by Professor Maria Brykowska but from among many the following must be mentioned:

She conducted research on the castles in Bodzentyn, Sochaczew, Odrzykoń, Kurozwęki as well as the Baroque monastery complexes of the Camaldolese Brothers in Rytwiany and in Warsaw. She confirmed the latter with studies and comparable research in Italy, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Ukraine as well as in the collection of the Library of the Congress of the United States. Extending her research scope, she wrote a book on the Carmelite architecture from the 17th and 18th centuries based on the example of buildings of the Discalced Carmelites erected on the territory of Rome, Munich and Cologne as well as Łuck and Berdyczów. The work resulted in a truly unique publication in European literature.

Despite dealing professionally with Polish architecture, Professor Maria Brykowska does not limit her interests strictly to this area. Apart from the core of her work there are such broad aspects of the history of general architecture as the great European residences of the 17th century which are not directly connected with Polish architecture – Escorial, the castle/palace/ of Rudolf II in Hradcany, the Wallenstein Palace in Prague. Her research was based on original measurements and drawings which she found in the archives. In Florence in the Uffizi collection she found the priceless and the oldest layout of the Hradcany Castle. This significant discovery became subject of innovative and somewhat archeological test of the structure of paper, development of documentation, its versions, planes of the drawing and profound content of the plan. It would not have been possible without the fundamental knowledge of modern techniques of both architect and historian.

Professor Maria Brykowska participated in the research conservation works on the 14th century castle Holy Trinity Chapel in Lublin. Many years later in the mono-

graph on the building, she corrected the mistakes repeated in literature and developed a new system of interpretation of sources and summary of studies.

During research on the church in Szydłowiec, Professor discovered and developed geometrical graphs of the star vault from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries built in natural rock in the chapel's wall. This unique discovery which substantially broadened our knowledge about the methodology of work of the designer from the end of the Middle Ages was included in the book titled "Cell Vaulting" published in Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany.

Her interest in old construction techniques resulted in a publication on the use of bricks in Central Europe. The study on different use of Romanesque bricks (Roman and Byzantine types), Gothic bricks, the local types of brick architecture, significantly contributed to the extension of knowledge of the European civilization.

When it became possible, Professor Maria Brykowska began studies of objects of Polish architecture in the area of Podole and Volyn, Vilnius and the Great Lithuanian Duchy, Lvov, Tarnopol, Łuck...

It is not possible not to mention Professor's exquisite achievements in building the neighboring scientific cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian units to support research on Polish architecture conducted by Ukrainian scientists. For them the Institute of Polish Architecture is a place where they can always find good advice and support. In effect both Professor Maria Brykowska and other Polish scientists can obtain similar assistance in their research in the Ukraine.

Professor Maria Brykowska works rationally and effectively, developing new research methods for new assignments.

She began to apply her own multidisciplinary research method combining historic and documentation studies with field archeological and architectural studies as well as conservation projects of permanent preservation of ruins and historic structures. The fundamental novelty was the application of a uniform code of designation for previously separately explored issues and application of a uniform spatial network locked in repeats and the national network.

I have already mentioned the research on the layout of the Hradcany Castle.

When developing the monograph on *Oskar Sosnowski's World of Architecture* she applied the most modern documentation digital recording methods.

While heading the Postgraduate College of Research on Monuments and Sites she educated a few dozen specialists; as a result she developed the *Methods of Measurements and Research on Monuments and Sites*. Professor is the highest authority in this area.

The busy half a century of research resulted in a few dozen publications and countless papers given at scientific conferences not only in Poland. On many occasions I had an opportunity to see that the contacts and friendly relationships of Professor with the scientists from Prague, Lvov, Łuck, Równe are really strong and that she enjoys great authority among them.



Fig. 1. Prof. Maciej Kysiak giving a speech during the presentation of the prize. Prof. Maria Brykowska and Prof. Andrzej Tomaszewski are sitting at the table (photo: K. Pawłowski), 2007

Il. 1. Wystąpienie prof. Macieja Kysiaka w czasie uroczystości wręczenia nagrody. Przy stole siedzi prof. Maria Brykowska i prof. Andrzej Tomaszewski (fot. K. Pawłowski), 2007

The presentation of the Professor Jan Zachwatowicz Prize, which is the highest distinction granted by the Polish National Committee of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS),^p to Professor Maria Brykowska is, on the one hand, a well deserved honoring

of the unquestionable achievements of the researcher of architecture in Poland and, on the other hand, an acknowledgement of the strength and the values of the school established by the Founder of this Prize whose great work Professor Maria Brykowska continued.

Speech of Professor Maria Brykowska

Mister Minister, Mister Chancellor, Mister President and the members of the Presidium of the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS. Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to thank you for the Prof. Jan Zachwatowicz Prize.

I want to use this opportunity and thank Professor Jan Zachwatowicz who took me on in the Institute of Polish Architecture at Warsaw University of Technology almost fifty years ago and say how much I owe Professor as Head of the Institute (last 12 years) as well as Vice-President of the Medieval Poland Research Team at University of Warsaw and Warsaw University of Technology.

We all know that Professor, an exquisite expert on the history of architecture, was an indisputable authority in Poland and abroad in the field of protection and conservation of monuments and sites. He had lectures on Polish Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture which I was happy to attend; he was interested in measurement methods, which is confirmed by his visits paid our students group in Rytwin. For me personally it was extremely important to participate in weekly research meetings and discussions – actually listening to them – which Professor conducted in the Institute as well as scientific research and interdisciplinary work conducted in the Institute with the use of prewar methods applied by Oskar Sosnowski for instance architectural and archeological studies of the castle in Sandomierz directed by doc. dr Adam Miłobędzki in which I participated; Stanisław Żaryn, Ph.D. and Architect Bohdan Ufnalewski were then the authors of the conservation project of the castle. Professor always emphasized that “both huge complexes of monuments and sites in historic city centers as well as each movable and immovable object should be documented scientifically, historically as well as analytically, including their construction, history and changes” and that “research objectives and conservation of monuments and sites became factors which cooperate and complement achieved results.” The Institute joined in reaching

“research objectives” in the Medieval Poland Research Team – when the conservation project was being prepared in the Institute of Polish Architecture. I was lucky because Professor assigned a few tasks to me: conducting complex research of the castle in Sochaczew (1966) and in Odrzykoń as well as projects of permanent preservation of ruins which I executed under Professor’s guidance. Furthermore, Ewa Skotnicka and I designed together the development of the area with the relics of the Holy Spirit Church and St. Martin’s Church in Wiślica. Later the scientific research and project work was conducted by a specialized institution established on the initiative of Professor – Monuments and Sites Conservation Shops. The Institute of Polish Architecture, also on the initiative of Professor, began training in the scope of research and conservation of monuments and sites at the Postgraduate College of Conservation of Monuments and Sites.

In 1970, Professor retired but he didn’t break off contacts with us not only during the meetings to celebrate Professor’s name day in Aleja Róż but also at the meetings of the Association of Art Historians or the Institute of Basics of Architecture Development as well as privately, e.g. at Professor’s request I contacted his daughter while staying in Leningrad. I would like to conclude by adding that among numerous distinctions and honors Professor received in 1981 the “Award for the Achievements for the City of Zamość” – apart from a few members of ICOMOS present here today both laureates of the Jan Zachwatowicz Prize participated in the presentation.

I remember the trip to Zamość well also because Professor gave me his last article with a very nice dedication “...to a special and respected friend.”

Today for the first time I have an opportunity to thank Professor Jan Zachwatowicz for his care at the beginning of my scientific and professional career. One might take a minute today and remember that everything happens for a reason.

Profesor Maria Brykowska laureatką Krajowej Nagrody im. Jana Zachwatowicza

Stało się już tradycją, że na łamach naszego pisma przedstawiamy sylwetki laureatów nagrody im. Prof. Jana Zachwatowicza, przyznawanej corocznie przez PKN ICOMOS za wybitne osiągnięcia w dziedzinie ochrony zabytków. Jednym z laureatów nagrody krajowej była prof. dr hab. Maria Brykowska z Wydziału Architektury Politechniki Warszaw-

skiej. Uroczystość wręczenia nagrody odbyła się 26 czerwca 2007 r. w Sali Koncertowej Zamku Królewskiego w Warszawie. Z tej okazji zabrał głos prof. dr hab. Maciej Kysiak i wygłosił laudację, którą zamieściliśmy w tym numerze pisma. Zaprezentowaliśmy także wypowiedź laureatki nagrody.