



Anna Sadurska
1921-2004

Professor Anna Sadurska, Classical philologist and archaeologist, passed away this year. She was a great human being, a good and wise person. Her contributions to studies on philology, ancient art, Classical archaeology, epigraphy and history are irrefutable. She also played “mother” to a few generations of students of Mediterranean and Classical archaeology, educating several scholars, now professors, who are making research in scientific institutions around the world.

While still in her first job at the Ancient Art Department of the National Museum in Warsaw (1949-1951), she initiated research and wrote the first scholarly studies on the impact of ancient art and Antiquity on Polish culture. Yet, if she is quoted in archaeological bibliographies, it is not because of these works in particular, or the first university textbook on Roman archaeology that she published in Poland, or even iconographic studies for which she was after all well known in the scholarly community. It is because for many years she was an active field archaeologist. First as a student of Professor Kazimierz Michałowski and then his closest associate at Warsaw University (where she

worked since 1951, becoming a Full Professor in 1980), she participated in the first Polish excavations which the Professor managed to organize after World War II in Mirmek in the Crimea. She then assisted Prof. Michałowski in the excavations at Tell Atrib in Egypt and in Palmyra in Syria, where she even served as deputy director of the expedition. Hers was the famous discovery of the Tomb of Alaine and she also wrote on Palmyrene sculpture, which study received the international "Premio europeo di archeologia" award in Venice in 1994.

She wrote a number of books and nearly two hundred scholarly dissertations, working diligently at the same time to popularize Antiquity. Her books for young people and for a humanistic-inclined readership, as well as her frequent radio and television appearances and numerous newspaper articles, had education as their primary objective. Students crowded her lectures which she gave at the Chair of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University (which she headed after Michałowski's retirement in 1971) and at the Institute of Art History of Warsaw University, the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw, the University of Łódź and as a visiting professor at many foreign academic institutions. She was well known abroad - member of Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut, member and president of many international bodies and scholarly conferences, member of scientific committees, editor of publications and publishing series, reviewer of hundreds of scholarly dissertations and publications. For years, she sat and later presided on the Committee of Studies on Ancient Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences and was an active member of the Polish Philological Society.

Professor Anna Sadurska was invited to all the major archaeological congresses and to be a member of various scholarly bodies, by archaeological institutes and universities. Her friends, and frequently guests at the Institute in Warsaw, included practically all the luminaries of Classical archaeology of the second half of the 20th century. At a time when such contacts were at a premium behind the Iron Curtain, she was ever ready to share them, lending up-to-date publications from her private collection and promoting participation of younger scholars in scholarships and scientific exchange programs. Foremost, she was never above sharing her deep knowledge and specific talents with colleagues and students alike. For her students she had that extra measure of understanding, always ready to assist not only in professional matters - dissertations, books, scholarships etc. - but also, if asked, in the more or less mundane problems, personal and financial, of everyday life.

Professor Anna Sadurska is no longer with us. We are discovering the depth of our loss only now that she is gone.

Tomasz Mikocki