



## Reports

### *The presentation of Awards by the Polish National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)*

The presentation of the Professor Jan Zachwatowicz Awards took place on October 27, 2008 in the Grand Hall of the Royal Castle in Warsaw on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Professor's death. The General Preservation Officer and the Polish National Committee of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) presented two first awards for excellent achievements in the field of research and protection of monuments and sites. Architect Lilia Onyszczenko-Szwec, Preservation Officer in Lvov, was awarded as the co-author of a book on architectural details of Lvov buildings in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The laudatory speech was given by Professor Krzysztof Pawłowski. Due to the fact that the nominee was at the time in the USA, the Award was received on her behalf by the representatives of the Ukrainian embassy. Professor Zygmunt Świechowski was awarded for his impressive contribution to the knowledge of Romanesque architecture. The laudatory speech was given by Professor Ewa Łużyniecka.

The Awards, sponsored by Krystyna Zachwatowicz-Wajda, the daughter of Professor Jan Zachwatowicz, and the distinguished Polish film director, Andrzej Wajda, were also presented to graduate students. 26 graduation works (2 foreign and 24 works from 6 Polish universities) were sub-

mitted for the annual international Professor Jan Zachwatowicz ICOMOS Competition for the best university graduation works in the year 2006–2007. Two first prizes and four distinctions were awarded. The first prizes were presented to the Architecture Students Scientific Circle from the Technical University of Łódź for the results of 10 scientific expeditions to the Eastern Carpathian Mountains in the Ukraine "Hutsul Land 2007", and to Diana Polkowska from the Department of Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology for the paper regarding the development of tourism in Przemyśl. The distinctions were presented to: Jaryna Panoczko from the National University of "Lwowska Politechnika" for the project of restoration of the St. Basil monastery compound in Dobromil; Anna Kunkel from the Department of Architecture at Warsaw University of Technology for the project of adaptation of the Dominicans' monastery in Sandomierz; Adriana Cieślak from the Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Technical University of Łódź for the study of spatial development of the historic Center "Calvary Hill" as well as Luiza Baran and Adriana Ciołek from the Department of Civil and Sanitary Engineering at the Lublin University of Technology for the protection project of the south-east tower of the castle in Janowiec.

#### *Professor Zygmunt Świechowski prize winner of the Professor Jan Zachwatowicz Award. Laudatory speech by Ewa Łużyniecka*

I would like to begin by presenting briefly the most significant facts from the Professor's life.

Professor Świechowski was born in 1920 in Poszerzuwie. In the years 1928–1933 he attended a Polish junior high school in Poniewież and in the years 1934–1939 the Sułkowski Junior High School in Rydzyn. In 1945, he

began to study art history at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań under the supervision of Professor Szczesny Detlaff. In the years 1945–1947, he worked as assistant in the division of graphic arts at the Greater Poland Museum and in the years 1947–1948 as assistant in the Department of Art History at UAM. In 1948, he was awarded the master's



Fig. 1. Speech of Professor Andrzej Rottermund, Director of the Royal Castle in Warsaw during the presentation of the awards in the Grand Hall (photo: E. Łużyniecka)

degree on the basis of the thesis entitled *Granite Architecture of Western Pomerania*; a year later he was appointed assistant in the Institute of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology; in 1950, he defended the doctoral dissertation entitled *The Cistercian Abbey in Sulejów*. While working at the university he was appointed (1951–1963) director of the division of studies and documentation at the State Enterprise of Monuments and Sites Preservation Shops. In 1955, after the title of assistant professor was conferred upon him Z. Świechowski took the position of the head of monuments and sites preservation section at the Institute of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology. In the years 1956–1957, he had a scholarship granted by the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale. In the years 1963–1978, he held the position of head of the department of Art History at the University of Wrocław – he resigned when he took the position of head of Research and Preservation Team in the Management Board of the State Enterprise of Monuments and Sites Preservation Shops. In 1967, the State Council conferred upon Professor Świechowski the scientific title of associate professor, and in 1986 the title of full professor of arts. In the years 1979–1994, the Professor headed the Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Technical University of Łódź for three terms of office until his retirement in 1990. In 1991, he became President of the “Patria Polonorum” Association – an organization affiliated with “Europa Nostra”. In the years 1995–2000, he headed the

research program of the Ministry of Culture and Art “The Millennium of the Council of Gniezno” and in 2002 he organized the exhibition in Brugge on the Polish contribution to the preservation of monuments and sites in the Ukraine and Belarus.

Since his early youth the Professor's scientific interests were directed towards historical problems and early art. As a teenager he documented road shrines and numerous wooden crosses placed in village homesteads in his homeland of Żmudź. In the 1930s, they suffered destruction during the process of the enclosure of land, which resulted in the liquidation of single road villages for the benefit of dispersed building planning. He began his studies of art history at the university much later than originally planned due to World War II. However, as a result of Professor Świechowski's intensive work he completed the studies at the University of Poznań in three years, started work at the museum and at the university as an assistant.

At that time the Professor was fascinated by medieval architecture of the so-called Regained Territories and studied the unexplored subject of granite architecture of parish churches in Western Pomerania. At the same time he closely cooperated with the Poznań Western Institute and wrote some chapters for the monograph on Western Pomerania as well as Varmia and Masuria. The publications written at that time on European Romanesque and Gothic art remained, for many years to come, the only source of information for junior high school and university students of arts.

The proposal offered to him by Professor Jan Zachwatowicz to move as assistant to the Institute of Polish Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology was the turning point for Zygmunt Świechowski in his scientific career. There, the Professor participated in preparing the first edition of the album of Polish architecture (he received an honorary diploma of the Technical Publications for that); at the same time he was working on the first volume of the history of Polish architecture according to Oskar Sosnowski's program and collecting materials regarding Cistercian architecture of Little Poland, which ended in the defense of his doctoral dissertation on the Cistercian Abbey in Sulejów.

Since that moment the Professor's most important research objective was to collect a list of historic masonry buildings, as complete as possible, erected by the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first attempt in that area was the monograph entitled *Silesian Architecture until the Middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*. This conception was approved by the Committee for Research on the Beginnings of the Polish State at the Polish Academy of Sciences. With the help of the Committee it took the Professor three years (1953–1956) to develop a catalog entitled *Romanesque Buildings in Poland* published in 1963. This work played an important role in developing research and preservation programs regarding this area of building. Due to its extensive summary in French, the book was in the international circulation and was critically acclaimed abroad.

The political breakthrough in 1956 was also a great breakthrough in the scientific career of Professor Świechowski. The scholarship granted by the Centre Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale in Poitiers and the help of his relatives in London enabled him to go on a year-long trip and visit the historic monuments of Romanesque architecture in France and Italy. On that trip he also visited buildings which are less known and difficult to access. Professor Świechowski did not neglect

Polish topics – he wrote some chapters in the great two-volume monograph on the cathedral in Gniezno as well as numerous articles also published abroad (e.g. in *Zeitschrift für Österreichische Denkmalpflege*, *Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale*, materials for the international congress on Art History in Paris, *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte* and *Zeitschrift für Kunstwissenschaft*).

Furthermore, the Professor was also interested in Western Romanesque art. In 1973, he published a book on architectural sculpture entitled *Sculpture romane d'Auvergne in French* and nine years later – together with Albert Rizzi and Richard Haman – he published a book in Italian entitled *Patere e Foremelle* with photographs of one thousand and five hundred unknown architectural sculptures in Venetian palaces from the 11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1980, Professor published *Romanesque Art in Poland* a book with editions in four languages.

In the 1990s, the Professor took to interpreting new archeological research findings in which he participated as head or consultant, e.g. in Trzemeszno, Mogilno, Strzelno. He also continued to work on the new edition of the catalog of Romanesque architecture published in 2000. Also he, presented new views on Romanesque art in the book entitled *Romanesque Art* published as the first volume in the series of "Polish Art" (2004). Over the last few years the Professor's research activity was dominated by two topics. The first of them taken up after a 50-year-long break deals with the Cistercian abbeys in Little Poland. The other is connected with dating medieval architecture with the use of analysis of carbon 14C particles which can be found in mortars.

Over the period of a few decades Professor Świechowski was editor of such joint publications as *Art of Western Pomerania* (1973), *History of Silesian Art* (1978), *Wrocław, its History and Culture* (1978), *Settlements and Architecture of Polish Land in the Times of the Council of Gniezno* (2000).



Fig. 2. Professor Andrzej Tomaszewski, Andrzej Wajda and Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska, Ph.D. presenting the awards for student works (photo: E. Łużyńska)

The Professor always paid attention to proper popularization, not only during his studies. In 1997, he started the series entitled "On the Trails of Polish Millennium" with the participation of distinguished architecture historians. His scientific research work was presented to the public during his numerous lectures in Poland and abroad in the Sorbonne, University of London, Strasbourg, Cologne, Central Institute of Art History in Munich, University in Berlin. Another form of promotion of his research was his active participation in symposiums and international congresses such as congresses of art history in Paris, Bonn, Granada and Bologna, to name a few, as well as the cooperation with many eminent art historians such as Professor Ludwik Grodecki and Andre Grabar from the Sorbonne, Jerzy Żarnecki in London, Otto v. Simson, Director of the Institute of Art History in Berlin, Professor Krönig from Cologne and his successor Günter Binding.

The works on the preservation of historic buildings are also an important area of the Professor's activities. While working at the university he was working in posts responsible for the protection and preservation of historic buildings. At first he was assistant to Professor Stanisław Herbst in the

office for historical studies at the Ministry of Culture and later he took the position of Director of Documentation Department at the State Enterprise of Monuments and Sites Preservation Shops. While holding this position he developed and implemented a model of a research paper to precede preservation work and its check list. As a result a few thousand documentations were developed with correct preservation assumptions and planned construction works which are a valuable source today. Many of those studies were the first and still remain the only scientific research of given objects. Undoubtedly it was an achievement on the European scale. The Professor practically never lost touch with the preservation issues, working in numerous preservation commissions holding the position of the chairperson of the committee supervising the process of intensive preservation work in the cathedral in Gniezno since 1996. At present he is consultant of the preservation and renovation works carried out in Tum near Łęczycza, and problems connected with the restoration and extension of the Museum of Architecture in Wrocław which is housed in the building compound of the former Bernardine monastery.

### *Speech of Professor Zygmunt Świechowski*

Being honored with the Jan Zachwatowicz Award, I would like first of all to thank the founders of this prestigious award – the General Preservation Officer as well as Krystyna Zachwatowicz and Andrzej Wajda, and the gracious laudatory speaker – Professor Ewa Łużyniecka – a prominent researcher of medieval architecture, chairperson of the jury – Professor Andrzej Tomaszewski – with whom I share scientific interests and memories of good old times. To be honest, I was truly surprised with the decision of the jury. When I was young the only association I had with distinctions was connected with military merit. I would listen to the stories of my father's father – Edward who as a young lieutenant on the night of November 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in 1877 fighting at close quarters in charge of a company conquered the Turkish fortress of Kars. The motivation of the order to present him with the military distinction and promotion read: "for valor and cold blood." The other idol of my youth was my father's brother – Stefan who was a great brawler, four times awarded with the *Virtuti Militari* Cross of Valor.

How pale does the CV of an architecture historian look in comparison to theirs! It is, after all, a safe and healthy profession spent in the attics and on the towers where the only danger one can face comes from the spiders disturbed by intruders destroying their webs, scared bats flying away or owls blinded with the flashlight. Climbing ladders, scaffoldings or rickety stairs and squeezing through narrow passages improves physical fitness. The reward which is immanently connected with the work of an architecture researcher is the incomparable esthetic experiences provided by the direct, and not only visual but also haptic contact with a work of architecture. A great satisfaction comes from small discoveries – registering unaccountable features whose compilation

sometimes causes a revision of former views on a specific building, its original shape and chronology.

That is why my first impression was that I am awarded for something that has already been generously recognized. At my age, when I am about to enter the state which used to be called in an old academic song as *moles-ta senectus – burdensome aging*, a confirmation that



Fig. 3. Professor Zygmunt Świechowski after the presentation of the awards (photo: E. Łużyniecka)

somebody has done something sensible in life is priceless. It is for me especially important that the patron of this award is Jan Zachwatowicz – a man who greatly and positively influenced my life. It is the logic of coincidence that it is exactly 60 years after I presented my master's thesis entitled *Granite Architecture of Western Pomerania* at the Poznań Society of Friends of Science. During my presentation I noticed among the listeners an elegant middle-aged man whom I did not know. This was Professor Zachwatowicz who was at that very time creating the Institute of Polish Architecture at Warsaw University of Technology and he offered to me the position vacated by Michał Walicki. Professor Zachwatowicz needed somebody to conduct preliminary research and supervise the preparation of documentation for the work planned in the 1930 and started by him on Cistercian architecture in Poland. This field ideally matched my intention to pursue the doctoral dissertation on architecture of the abbey in Sulejów.

During the 15 years of my work at the Institute of Polish Architecture I had the privilege of preparing together with Professor Zachwatowicz a paper on architecture of the earliest group of Cistercian buildings in Poland and delivering it at the international Congress of Art History which took place fifty years ago in Paris. Then I cooperated with a few book publications – including a large monograph on the cathedral in Gniezno which apart from Cistercian architecture was the main object of scientific interests of Professor Jan. One day in 1960 professor

Zachwatowicz, more and more preoccupied with the preservation issues, gave me a hefty case with notes and hand drawings of Cistercian buildings and said somewhat melancholically: *You may find these useful; I am not going to write that book anyway.* At that time, however, I was fascinated by the art of early Middle Ages in Western Europe. For a quarter of a century I gave up the domestic issues and worked on Romanesque French and Veneto-Byzantine architecture sculpture encouraged by Andre Grabar, Ludwik Grodecki and Otto von Simson to whom I am very grateful.

It was only in the 1980s, especially after retirement, when a comeback was possible. And again I have to use the logic of coincidence to explain this. At the end of this year the book dreamed of by Jan Zachwatowicz is going to be published, originally scheduled to be published in the interwar period, about Cistercian architecture in Little Poland, prepared with equal participation of Ewa Łużyniecka, Robert Kunkel and myself. I have one more reflection to share with you today. After a long period when the community of architecture historians turned away from the issues regarding early Middle Ages we can see from the beginning of the third millennium an unusually growing interest in pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architecture. Thanks to the new generation of young competent researchers I am comfortably sure about further research on that subject and generation continuity in the research relay race.

*Translated by Tadeusz Szalamacha*