

# CHRONICLE

## PROCEEDINGS OF A SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE *ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE MOUNTAINS.* *IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR ANDRZEJ ŻAKI*

A conference *Archaeology of the mountains. In memoriam Professor Andrzej Żaki* took place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 in the Czesław Pajerski Museum in Nowy Targ. Conference was dedicated to Professor Andrzej Żaki (1923–2017), pioneer and one of the most active researchers of the oldest settlement in the mountainous areas, one of the founders of *Acta Archaeologica Carpathica* journal and a founder of Carpathian Archaeological Expedition (Karpacka Ekspedycja Archeologiczna) settled in Cracow.

Scientific achievements linked with this project were not limited to the territories of Poland and neighboring areas. Research was carried on also in the more distant territories (in Peru, Australia and Oceania) and followed by the development of research methods and the increase of knowledge concerning the oldest settlement of the mountains. The topic of the conference was closely linked with the scientific interests of Professor Andrzej Żaki.

The conference was opened with the speech of the Head of the Museum — Robert Kowalski M.A., who greeted the guests. Inauguration was followed by the presentation “Andrzej Żaki — romanticist and visionary in Carpathian Mountains”, given by Professor Jan Machnik (Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Kraków). In this retrospection Professor presented the personality of Andrzej Żaki.

Also the next presentation entitled “Andrzej Żaki: biographic note — the oldest settlement in the Western Carpathians” given by Professor Paweł Valde-Nowak (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński) concerned the most important moments of the life of Professor Andrzej Żaki. Also, successive stages of development of archaeological prospection in Carpathians was presented, with emphasis on the Professor A. Żaki’s activity in this area.

In the following part of inauguration session audience had a chance to listen to Jan Gancarski M.A. (Muzeum Podkarpackie w Krośnie) and Professor Renata Madyda-Legutko (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński).

Jan Gancarski in a presentation “Open-air museum Karpacka Troja in Trzcinica as an example of protection and popularization of archeological heritage of Carpathians” gave a detailed summary of research led at the site of Trzcinica



Fig. 1. Conference participants; photography from the Archive of Museum of Czesław Pajerski, Nowy Targ

and of the works that preceded the opening of the open-air museum “Karpacka Troja”. Also, a brief information on the recent events in the museum was given.

In her lecture “Professor Andrzej Źaki’s contribution to studies on the La Tène and Roman Periods in Polish Carpathians” Professor Renata Madyda-Legutko showed that Andrzej Źaki was one of the first archaeologists to mention the presence of Celts in the Western Beskidy Mountains. His own works didn’t lead to the discovery of sites from the roman period, but he pronounced a hypothesis, the settlement process could have been intensive. His remarks were supported by the finds of coins of that period in mountainous area.

In the afternoon session the audience had a chance to learn about nowadays archeological prospection in the mountains, and how it is influenced by past research projects.

First speech, “Archeology of the Kotlina Sądecka Basin in the middle of XX<sup>th</sup> century and 60 years later” was given by Krzysztof Tunia Ph.D. (Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, Kraków). Realization of Polish Archeological Record project in this area resulted in the statement, that full surface prospection is required in the mountainous areas no less than in the uplands and lowlands. Higher parts of the landscape should be surveyed most carefully, as the prehistoric dwellers of this region must have been aware of the temperature inversion phenomenon and therefore inhabited elevated parts of the terrain.



Fig. 2. Conference participants; photography from the Archive of Museum of Czesław Pajerski, Nowy Targ

The following presentation “Higher, towards the peaks. Plans of archaeological excavations in the Himalayas and on the Tibetan Plateau – the last of Andrzej Żaki’s great research projects”, given by Paweł Madej Ph.D. (Muzeum Podkarpackie w Krośnie, Skansen archeologiczny Karpacza Troja w Trzcinicy) also met with great interest. Professor Andrzej Żaki’s plans for research in Himalaya and Tibet were supported by Wanda Rutkiewicz, leading polish climber of that time. Sadly, they never came to fruition. Tragic death of the aforementioned mountaineer and state of health of Professor stopped the completion of this, one of the most daring projects in the history of Polish archaeology.

Mountains and highlands in Jordan are a subject of research since 2014. Piotr Kołodziejczyk Ph.D. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński) in his presentation “Edom Mountains (south Jordan) in the research of Institute of archeology, Jagiellonian University in the years 2014–2017” described a long term project of study of this region. Mountainous terrain requires lots of effort in the process of excavations. Prehistoric artifacts, ceramics and stone tools are found in huge quantities during surface surveys and excavations. Works in the territory of Edom Mountains have led so far to the discovery of numerous sites and verification of several others.

Last presentation — “Orawa (SK) and Lesser Poland (Pl) — cultural links in the prehistory. State of art” in this panel concerned research of Orawa region —

a state of which recently has started to change after many years of stagnation. Barbora Danielova, M.A. (Oravske Muzeum, Dolny Kubin), described how sites were found in this territory before the construction of Orava reservoir, and later on in 1980'. As a rule, sites are found in the higher parts of the landscape, and usually not in the river valleys. Contemporaneous research requires intensification and cooperation with local residents.

Second Day of the conference began at 10 o'clock in the morning. Audience was greeted by the Head of the Podhalańskie Museum, Robert Kowalski.

A session of presentations concerning prehistoric and medieval times was chaired by Professor Renata Madyda-Legutko.

First of the lectures, entitled "Newest discoveries in Obłazowa Cave" was prepared by a research team of Professor Paweł Valde-Nowak, Anna Kraszewska M.A., Magda Cieśla M.A., Krzysztof Rak M.A., Jakub Skłucki M.A. and Albert Wydrzycki M.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński). The site mentioned in the title of presentation yields finds proving the presence of Neanderthal man in the cave, and also settlers from the Upper Palaeolithic era. Anthropological remains are an important element of the collection.

Maciej Wawrzczak M.A. (Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, Warszawa) has given a lecture prepared in cooperation with dr Marian Soják (Archeologický ústav SAV, Nitra). "Research of Slovakian part of Pieniny Mountains (from Červený Kláštor to Litmanova). History and state of art as compared to Polish part of Pieniny Mountains". Observations based on the surface surveys resulted in greater knowledge of periods from palaeolithic to medieval times.

Katarzyna Kerneder-Gubała M.A. and Sylwia Buławka M.A (Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, Warszawa) gave a speech entitled "In search of oldest traces of cave settlement in Polish Tatra Mountains. A historical outline". Lecturers presented history of Polish Tatras archeological research with emphasis on the Magury Cave site.

First part of that day of the conference was closed with a presentation by Joanna Markiewicz B.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński) who talked about "The beginnings and development of prehistoric settlement in the Middle European mountains – case studies". The focus of the presentation was on the Poprad river valley and upper part of Dunajec river valley as compared to Mesolcina and Montafon valleys in Alps in context of settlement studies and its relations with environmental and cultural conditions.

Second part of the conference began with a lecture of Marcin Bohr Ph.D. on the problems of "Sudetes and Western Carpathians in the roman period. Settlement structures, funeral rites, communication trails, economy. Comparative study". Author in a detailed manner summarized the results of research and presented problems encountered while working in mountainous environments. Expanded analysis of raw materials distribution and local conditioning of settlement structure was supplemented by a short review of recent works of other researchers.

In her speech concerning subjects of "New research of early Middle Ages in Sudetes" Ewa Lisowska Ph.D. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Wrocławski)

presented a wide range of interdisciplinary analyses introduced at the sites excavated by her. Use of such methods helps to better understand everyday life, nutrition and ways of natural environment exploitation in the researched period of time.

Last presentation in this part of the conference, “An early medieval stronghold in Zawada near Tarnow — few remarks on use of the LIDAR technology in archaeological prospection” was given by Mateusz Okoński, M.A. (Uniwersytet Pedagogiczny im. KEN, Kraków). Researcher dealt with methods of testing of the site extent, level of its destruction and field work leading to verification of research hypotheses.

Third part of that days programme began with a presentation given by Professor Stanisław Kołodziejski (Akademia Jana Długosza w Częstochowie/Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa, Oddz. w Krakowie). “Medieval defensive constructions in the territory of Carpathians as researched by Professor Andrzej Żaki” was a presentation concerning works of Carpathian Archaeological Expedition in medieval castles in the Poprad and Dunajec valleys (Czorsztyń, Niedzica, Pieniny, Sromowce Wyżne, Zabrzeż, Rytro, Czchów, Muszyna, Tropsztyń, Kurów). Lecturer underlined Professor Żaki’s great achievements in the domain of castleology. Often, those were innovative works, valuable and quite up to date even for contemporary archeologists.

Second presentation “The oldest monumental architecture in the research of Professor Andrzej Żaki — Kraków i Przemyśl” was given by Paulina Gorazd-Dziuban M.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski). In both of the researched cities Professor Żaki succeeded in discovering many of the previously unknown roman and pre-roman architectural monuments, which has led to better understanding of residential and sacral architecture of the early Piast dynasty.

Third of the lecturers, Paweł Kocańda, M.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski/Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Oddz. w Nowym Targu) presented a problem of “Biecz and old-time Biecz land in the research of Andrzej Żaki”. That region, researched by Carpathian Archaeological Expedition, is immensely important, for there, at the hill fort of Wietrzno-Bóbrka in 1951 Professor Żaki with his team took a decision to form Carpathian Archaeological Expedition. Research in 1951–1970 has led to the recognition of settlement as old as younger stone age, and a statement that Carpathian Forest, considered by prehistorians to be impenetrable, was inhabited in different times in prehistory.

Last presentation in this part of the conference was given by Łukasz Czyrnek B.A. and Paweł Klóska B.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński). Daring and original idea presented in a speech, entitled “Carpathian Archaeological Trail name of Andrzej Żaki” met a warm welcome on the side of other lecturers and the audience. The main idea behind the formation of such a trail, that would be settled in the Lesser Poland and Subcarpathian voivodeships would be a presentation of Andrzej Żaki *persona* and his research activity as a member of Carpathian Archaeological Expedition. In the discussion that followed a suggestion was presented, that in the beginning of a realization perhaps a project



Fig. 3. Specjalistyczne konsultacje i dyskusja podczas przerwy, od lewej: M. Cieśla, P. Valde-Nowak, K. Tunia, M. Wawrzczak, J. Machnik; fotografia z Archiwum Muzeum Czesław Pajerski, Nowy Targ

on a smaller extent would be favorable.

The last part of the conference, entitled “From the archaeology of other mountains” took audience to places abroad, into the mountains of Austrian Tirol and even distant mountains of United States or Andes. Among many interests of Professor Andrzej Źaki was archeology of all mountainous areas, he researched prehistoric settlements in Switzerland, Andes, also his interest in Tibet should be mentioned.

First of the lectures, by Albert Wydrzycki M.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński), “The Mesolithic raw stone materials in Tyrol and in the adjacent area”, presented stone raw materials that were utilized by Mesolithic peoples in Tirol. Not only flint and radiolarite was used, but also materials such as rock crystal.

Following presentation, by Radosław Palonka Ph.D. and Anna Słupianek M.A. (Instytut Archeologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński), “Highlanders or plains farmers — research on the ancient Pueblo culture in the canyons of the Mesa Verde region, Colorado, USA”, concentrated on a subject of Pueblo culture (also named Anasazi), which developed from ca. 300/200 BC. Researchers are studying problems of past architecture and material culture of this region. Undoubtedly, one of the more interesting aspects of their work is the constant need to discuss their research activity with local residents — descendants of Anasazi indigenous people.

The last presentation of the conference was given by Sylwia Siemianowska M.A. (Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, Wrocław) and Maciej Sobczyk Ph.D. (Ośrodek Badań Prekolimbijskich, Uniwersytet Warszawski), and entitled “The Ceremonial Center of Maucallacta and Apu Coropuna. Libation rites in the light of historical and archaeological sources”. Authors described their scientific projects settled in Peru, where they research culture of Incas and other tribes that dwelled in this region in the past. Incas sacred mountain, Coropuna volcano appears to be especially interesting. Ruins of a temple Maucallacta are a place where prayers, rites and sacrifice ceremonies took place. A proof for such a use of this temple is a rich collection of artifacts and faunal remains — mostly of llamas and alpacas.

In two days of the conference lectures were given by many archeologists from different research centers from Poland and abroad. A summary of the proceedings was presented by Professor Renata Madyda-Legutko. Great merits of Professor Andrzej Żaki’s works were once again mentioned, as an input in research of Carpathians but also other regions of Poland and other countries. As the best proof for his immense role we should take the fact, that work of this great researcher of prehistory and medieval times is still continued not only by his co-workers and students, but also by young generation of researchers, for whom he undoubtedly is and will be a great example to follow.

Conference was finished with a short speech given by Robert Kowalski, M.A., Head of the Czesław Pajerski Muzeum in Nowy Targ, who thanked the participants for their arrival and underlined the importance of this meeting, which will be followed by a publication of a reviewed book. This publication will not only be an aftermath of the conference, but will also honor the memory of Andrzej Żaki, a “romanticist and visionary” — as quoted after Professor Jan Machnik.

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