
A report on the Jubilee of the 60th Birthday of Professor Zbigniew Anusik Lodz, December 8, 2017

ON December 8, 2017, in the Council Room of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the University of Lodz (further on: UŁ), the jubilee of the 60th birthday of Prof. Zbigniew Anusik took place, combined with the presentation of a book dedicated to him, entitled *Sic erat in votis. Studies and sketches for Prof. Zbigniew Anusik in the 60th anniversary of his birthday*, edited by Małgorzata Karkocha Ph.D. and Piotr Robak Ph.D., and published by the Lodz University Press¹. The celebrations were prepared by the Department of Modern History of UŁ, which is headed by Professor Anusik. The meeting was attended by His Magnificence Rector of UŁ, Prof. Antoni Różalski, the Dean's College of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ, the directorate of the Institute of History, representatives of the Main Board of the Polish Historical Society (further on: PTH) led by Prof. Krzysztof Mikulski, the authorities of the PTH Branch in Lodz – on the Board of which Prof. Anusik has a seat, as well as numerous employees of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of our *Alma Mater*, the authors of articles included in the above-mentioned book, students, friends and family of the Professor.

The celebrations were opened by the Organizing Committee composed of Małgorzata Karkocha Ph.D. and Piotr Robak Ph.D. They welcomed warmly the honored Jubilarian, the invited guests and everyone gathered in the room. M. Karkocha discussed briefly the

¹ *Sic erat in votis. Studia i szkice ofiarowane Profesorowi Zbigniewowi Anusikowi w sześćdziesiątą rocznicę urodzin. Rzeczpospolita w czasach nowożytnych*, eds M. Karkocha, P. Robak, Łódź 2017, p. 504; *Sic erat in votis. Studia i szkice ofiarowane Profesorowi Zbigniewowi Anusikowi w sześćdziesiątą rocznicę urodzin. Europa i świat w czasach nowożytnych*, eds eorundem, Łódź 2017, p. 400.

purpose of the celebrations and presented the two-volume jubilee book. She informed, that the scholars from various research centers in Poland and abroad, who are friends with Prof. Anusik, were asked to write the articles. In total, 40 scholars, historians, art historians and archaeologists, submitted their texts. The first volume consists of articles on the history of Poland, while the second volume, on the universal history, or on the borderline between the two fields. The texts deal with a wide range of subject matter. They discuss political, military, constitutional, social and moral issues, and touch upon the topics related to historiography, historical anthropology, the history of travelling, of cities, of judicial system, of public finances and taxes, as well as the history of art and of political thought. Such a variety of topics included in the book of studies reflects an unusually broad spectrum of Zbigniew Anusik's research interests. Lastly, M. Karkocha expressed her gratitude to the authors for the effort and time devoted to the preparation of the submitted texts. She also thanked the reviewers, who were present in the room: Prof. Marian Drozdowski from the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk and Prof. Stanisław Roszak from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.

Next, P. Robak outlined an academic profile of Prof. Zbigniew Anusik, presenting well- and less-known facts about the life of the Jubilarian. During his speech, a multimedia presentation was played, depicting different aspects of the Professor's personality – a serious scientist, but also in a less formal setting, surrounded by family and friends. It aroused interest among the audience and brought a smile to their faces.

Let us point out once again, that Prof. Zbigniew Włodzimierz Anusik was born in Lodz in 1957. There, in 1976, he graduated from the Gabriel Narutowicz High School No. 2 and was admitted as a history student to the University of Lodz. Four years later, he passed his Master's degree exam based on the thesis entitled *The political life in Piotrków in the 16th–18th centuries*, written under supervision of Prof. Bohdan Baranowski, and the same year he was employed as a research assistant at the Department of Modern and Contemporary Universal History at the Institute of History of UŁ. In December 1990, he defended his doctoral dissertation *The Polish mission in Stockholm in the years 1789–1795*, written under supervision of Prof. Zofia Libiszowska, and a month later the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ awarded

him a doctorate degree in the humanities. In 2001, his postdoctoral examination took place based on the work entitled *The Foreign Policy of Sweden in the times of the French monarchy crisis in 1787–1792* and by a decision of the Faculty Council he received a DSc degree in History. In 2003, Z. Anusik was appointed as an associate professor at the University of Lodz, and already in 2007, the President of the Republic of Poland, Lech Kaczyński, conferred on him the title of the Professor of the Humanities. In 2005, Z. Anusik became the chairman of the independent Department of Modern History of the Baltic States. He headed the Department of Modern History of Poland and the Baltic States since 2006, and since 2011, he has been the chairmen of the Department of Modern History. The Jubilarian's research interests revolve around, in a broad sense, the history of Poland and the universal history of the 17th–18th centuries. For more than 30 years, Z. Anusik has been involved in the research related to the modern history of Sweden, the history of Polish-Swedish relations, as well as the history of Polish and general diplomacy in the 18th century. In the last two decades, the events of the French Revolution and an international impact of the incidents occurring in France in 1787–1799 receive increasingly more coverage in his studies. The Professor gained twice a scholarship of the Swedish Institute (Sveriges Institutet) (1987–1988 and 1992–1993), as well as of the Stefan Batory Foundation (1996) and of the De Brzezie Lanckoronski Foundation (1997), which enabled him to seek source materials in the National Archives of Sweden (Riksarkivet) and to undertake an academic research at the University of Oxford (Wolfson College). The Jubilarian possesses an impressive academic record. He published over 200 scholar works, including seven books. His habilitation dissertation and biographies of Swedish rulers, Gustav II Adolf and Charles XII, gained him recognition in the circles of historians. The said works won an individual award of the Rector of UŁ. It should be noted, that Z. Anusik was an initiator and co-founder (together with Prof. Albin Głowacki) of "Przegląd Nauk Historycznych", a biannual journal published since 2002 by the Institute of History of UŁ. He is also the editor of the periodical "Acta Universitatis Lodziensis", Folia Historica. In addition, the Professor performed a number of important administrative, didactic and organizational functions at his *Alma Mater*. In the years 1999–2002, he was Assistant Director for teaching and learning in the Institute of History. In 2000–2008, he headed the



1. The Jubilarian, Prof. Z. Anusik. Photo: J. Frenkel



2. The Jubilee of the 60th Birthday of Prof. Anusik (from left: the Jubilarian, the hosts of the meeting – M Karkocha Ph.D. and P. Robak Ph.D., Prof. Daszyńska). Photo: J. Frenkel



3. The speech of His Magnificence Rector of the UŁ
Prof. Antoni Różalski. Photo: J. Frenkel



4. The Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ
Prof. Maciej Kokoszko, offering his congratulations and best
wishes to Prof. Anusik. Photo: J. Frenkel

Postgraduate Studies in History, as well as in History and Social Science, responsibilities of which he balanced with those of the deputy dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ (since 2002), and the director of the Institute of History (since 2005). In 2008–2016, Z. Anusik was the dean of the aforementioned faculty. He still managed to supervise 11 doctoral and nearly 100 Master's dissertations. In recognition of his contributions to UŁ, the Professor was given various decorations, including Gold Badge of UŁ (2001), the UŁ Medal for the service to society and science (2010), the Silver Medal for long service (2008), the Gold Medal for long service (2013), and the Medal of the Commission of National Education, which is a mark of great honor to academic teachers. He also received a number of individual and team awards of the Rector of UŁ (of the 1st and 2nd degree). Professor Anusik loves traveling and sports. In his youth, he played basketball, for which he had physical aptitude. Currently, he is an avid fan of the Widzew Lodz football club. He is also a delightful companion at social meetings, as he likes to sing and dance, and demonstrates real talent for both activities.

In the latter part of the meeting, the following guests were asked to take the floor: His Magnificence Rector of UŁ, Prof. Antoni Różalski; Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ, Prof. Maciej Kokoszko; Director of the Institute of History, Prof. Dariusz Jeziorny; President of PTH, Prof. Krzysztof Mikulski; President of the PTH Branch in Lodz, Prof. Jolanta Daszyńska. All of them emphasized Z. Anusik's invaluable contribution to the Institute of History, to the Faculty of Philosophy and History, as well as to the University itself. They congratulated him on his achievements and wished him further success in his personal and professional life. The speech of Prof. Daszyńska was particularly warm and personal. She spoke of the beginning of their acquaintance and about her long-standing friendship with the Professor, portraying him as a cordial and kind person, who is devoted to science and his family, and is known for his modesty and diligence.

Next, after the reading of congratulatory letters sent by Prof. Mirosław Nagielski (University of Warsaw, further on: UW), Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski (the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, University College London) and Waldemar Kowalski (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce), other people present in the room had the floor. The former Rector

of UŁ, Prof. Wiesław Puś, noted that as the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ, Z. Anusik attached utmost importance to the issue of parametrization. He admitted, that although during his tenure he happened to enter into polemic debates with Z. Anusik, he had to congratulate the Jubilarian and express his thanks for the accomplishments of the Faculty of Philosophy and History, which resulted from the consistency and requirements set by the Professor. Then, Prof. Stanisław Roszak listed, in a form of an anecdote, three things, which were connecting Z. Anusik to Toruń for a long time. Firstly, the Jubilarian won against Bogusław Dybaś, the professor representing Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, during the 2nd edition of the Historical Contest in 1975. S. Roszak also recalled the Master's seminars he attended, stressing that his mentor, Prof. Jacek Staszewski, used to place nearby his desk only the books, which he considered valuable in terms of content, and Z. Anusik's publications were to be found among them. Lastly, he mentioned his student, Joanna Orzeł Ph.D., who was recently employed as a research associate at the Department of Modern History at the University of Lodz. With the best wishes, S. Roszak handed the Jubilarian a gift of gingerbread biscuits and "the elixir of happiness and longevity" of his own production. Prof. Dariusz Rólnik complimented Z. Anusik on his academic output and read the congratulatory letter from the director of the Institute of History at the University of Silesia, Prof. Jerzy Sperka. Also, Adam Perłakowski DSc (Jagiellonian University in Cracow) passed on good wishes and congratulations on behalf of himself and the university he represented.

After a few warm words uttered by the graduate student Daniel Kasproicz, who confessed, that he would not have undertaken history studies, if it had not been for the reading of Z. Anusik's *Gustav II Adolf*, the time has come for the main event of the evening, handing the Professor the two-volume jubilee book, on which the editorial board worked for almost one year and a half. Then, the hosts gave the floor to the Jubilarian. Z. Anusik began with giving his warm thanks to the Rector of UŁ, the directorate of the Faculty of Philosophy and History, the directorate of PTH, to the authors of articles included in the jubilee book, as well as to his family and co-workers. Moreover, he expressed special gratitude towards M. Karkocha for the work she devoted to preparing the publication

and organizing his jubilee celebrations. He further mentioned, that his paths could be traced back to the area, where the building of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of UŁ was located, as he was born in the nearby hospital of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration on 42 Północna Street, and attended high school on 11/13 Nowa Street (the Gabriel Narutowicz High School No. 2). Yet, the choice of future studies was not an easy decision to make. Professor Anusik admitted, that owing to the high score obtained in the finals of the 2nd edition of the Historical Contest, virtually every university in the country was open to him. Thus, he was trying to decide between the journalism and history at UW and the history at UŁ. Fortunately for the circles of historians in Lodz, Z. Anusik took up studies at the latter. The Jubilarian also observed, that the books that he had received constitutes two separate publications.

In the final stage of the meeting, the copies of the jubilee book were handed out to the authors of its articles and to the honored guests. After the official part, the wishes and congratulations continued. It was also an opportunity to take a commemorative photograph with the Jubilarian. We congratulate Professor Zbigniew Anusik on his wonderful Jubilee, wishing him health, further academic successes and numerous interesting books and articles to come.

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