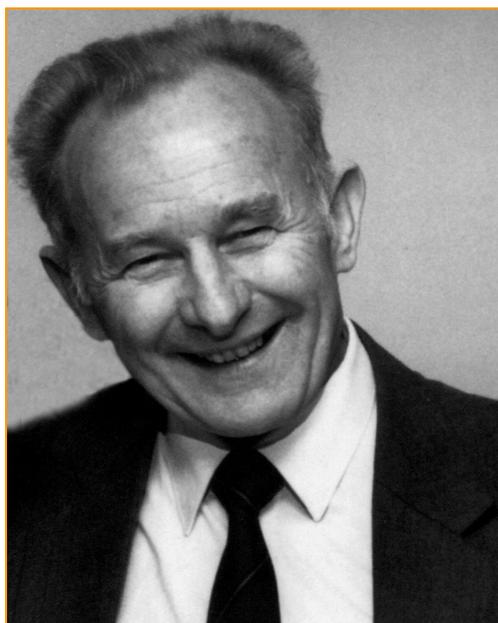


IN MEMORIAM

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PROFESSOR KRZYSZTOF PRZECŁAWSKI (1927–2014)



Prof. Krzysztof Przeclawski was a distinguished Polish academic, tourism specialist, a teacher and the educator of many generations of university students. He graduated from the Law Department, University of Warsaw and was granted doctoral and habilitation degrees in Humanities at the Polish Academy of Science. He became full professor in 1995.

He was a renowned lecturer on tourism sociology, who gave lectures at the University of Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University, the Central School of Planning and Statistics, the Physical Education Academy in Kraków, the Higher Humanistic School in Pułtusk, the Higher School of Social Sciences in Warsaw and the Higher School of Hotel Management, Gastronomy and Tourism, as well as abroad, e.g. at the International Centre of Tourism Studies in Turin (1968-75). He worked mostly at the University of Warsaw, especially the Institute of 'Social Prophylaxis and Resocialization'.

Prof. Przeclawski was the author of over one hundred academic papers, several hundred publications which included several books and numerous articles

on tourism sociology, the humanistic and ethical foundations of tourism, as well as education and re-socialization through tourism. The most important include *Turystyka a wychowanie* (1973), *Socjologiczne problemy turystyki* (1979), *Humanistyczne podstawy turystyki* (1986), *Turystyka a świat współczesny* (1994), *Człowiek a turystyka – zarys socjologii turystyki* (1996), *Etyczne podstawy turystyki* (1997), *Turystyka a religie* (1999).

Życie to podróż ("Life is a journey") is the title of one of his books. His journey through life was professionally, socially and privately connected with tourism; he was fascinated with travel. He once wrote: "Travelling has always been my passion".

Travelling all over Poland and around the world was not only Prof. Przeclawski's favourite activity, but also an object of study and reflection. He approached all aspects of tourism and studied its complexity defining it as a psychological, social, economic, spatial and cultural phenomenon. He combined his theoretical interest with his vast knowledge of philosophy and sociology, to lay the foundations of the Polish school of tourism sociology, developing the theory and defin-

ing the functions and range of this particular discipline. He analysed tourism as a social and cultural transformation factor, important for cross-cultural dialogue. He stressed the educational and ethical functions of tourism.

Prof. Przeclawski looked for answers to the following questions: What does tourism mean for people? What is the role of tourism in the social and cultural transformation of contemporary society? He claimed that "tourism is above all a human activity".

He saw tourism as "a chance for national development and an opportunity to educate the young". It was a vision which guided him through his career. He had the gift of making people focus on problems and important events. He was inspired by the issues of modern tourism which was becoming a global and increasingly commercial phenomenon. In 1987, together with a group of other academics and tourism experts, he founded the Polish Tourism Association whose aim is to support tourism and tourism-related disciplines. He was the first chairman (1988-95), and then honorary chairman of the Association, as well as the initiator of the First Polish Tourism Congress, held in Warsaw in 1995, and the author of its theme: "Tourism as a Chance for National Development". During the congress, he proposed adopting "A Declaration by the Polish Tourism Congress on the need for ethics in tourism".

In 1988, he became one of the founders of the International Academy of Tourism Studies, based in Madrid. Its first conference was held one year later in Poland.

He initiated and was in charge of some research programs, such as the international project entitled "Tourism as a result of transformation: socio-cultural studies" (1982-90) (initially coordinated by the Social Sciences Centre in Vienna), or the Central Program of Basic Studies, entitled "Tourism as a socio-economic development factor" (1986-90). The latter took place at the Institute of Tourism, headed by him for many years (1983-91), in cooperation with all Polish research centres and academics (around 300) involved in a wide range of tourism studies.

Professor Przeclawski was a member of many international academic associations, including the International Association of Tourism Experts and the International Sociological Association, as well as a member of the editorial team of "Annals of Tourism Research", published in the United States, an Editorial Committee member of "Tourism", published by the Institute of Tourism in Zagreb, and the Chief Editor of "Problemy Turystyki" ("Tourism Issues"), published at his own Institute of Tourism.

It is not possible to list or evaluate all his achievements. A researcher and a teacher dedicated to academic life and tourism, he educated, influenced and inspired others. He showed great organizational skills and initiative throughout his life.

Prof. Przeclawski was honoured with a doctor *honoris causa* degree by the Physical Education Academy in Kraków (2005). He was also awarded the Knight's and Commander's Cross of the Order of *Polsnia Restituta* and many other distinctions, including the Golden Honorary Badge of Merit to Warsaw and the Honorary Badge of Merit to Tourism.

A great humanist, philosopher and tourism sociologist, open-minded and friendly towards all people, he emanated cordiality and kindness which he instilled in others. It could be seen in the warm relationships in the groups of people that he dealt with at universities, institutes and associations.

We addressed him "Krzysztof", reducing the distance, just as he wished. For many, he was a good friend. All who knew him valued his vast knowledge, research experience and modesty. Always curious of people and the world, always exploring it, he promised in one of his books: "When I get to the other side, I will be watching further events in Poland and the world..."

Professor Krzysztof Przeclawski – a wonderful, wise and righteous man dedicated to academic life, his family and tourism – died on 15th January 2014. Tourism has suffered an irreparable loss.

Alicja Gotowt-Jeziorska
Head of the Polish Tourism Association

Translated by Ewa Mossakowska