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Professor Leszek Kajzer (1944-2016)

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JERZY MAIK, PIOTR STRZYŻ

PREFACE

On 25 September 2016 Professor Leszek Kajzer passed away. Professor Kajzer was a member of the Academic Council of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in the 2011-2014 term of office. In the 2015-2018 term Professor Kajzer was First Chairman of the Council and he held this post until his death.

Leszek Kajzer started his academic career in 1967 in the Łódź Branch of the Institute of History of Material Culture (now Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences), immediately after a completion of his studies in archaeology at the University of Łódź. He was one of the first members of a research group for studies on arms and armour. The group was called into being at that time by Professor Andrzej Nadolski, who thus established the Polish school of historic arms and armour research.

Under the supervision of Professor Nadolski Leszek Kajzer prepared and defended his doctoral dissertation *Chivalric weaponry and costume in medieval Lesser Poland in the light of iconographic sources*. Having received his PhD, Leszek Kajzer continued his arms and armour studies. However, his academic interest commenced to clearly evolve into research on medieval defensive architecture. After some years, he decided to start working in the Chair of Archaeology at the University of Łódź. Thanks to this, Polish archaeology gained an excellent and charismatic teacher of new generations of archaeologists. Already during his employment at the University (in 1980) he received a degree of Doctor Habilitatus (*Studies on secular defensive architecture in the Voivodeship of Łęczyca in the 13th-17th c.*), and in 1991 he obtained his Professor's title. Professor Kajzer was an author of about 600 research works, including some dozen books.

In 1994 Professor Kajzer became the Head of the Chair of Archaeology of the University of Łódź and in 1996-2014

he was the Director of the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Łódź.

At least from the time when Professor Kajzer became the member of the Academic Council of our Institute, he became more and more interested in our matters. When – in the current term of office – the Council elected Professor Kajzer for Chairman, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology became his Institute again. It must be underlined, however, that Professor Kajzer was still deeply involved in the affairs of the University's Institute.

For some reason, Professor Kajzer never published in *Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae*. However, he was vividly interested in the journal. He was one of the journal's reviewers and he treated this function extremely seriously. The Editorial Board of *Fasciculi...* decided to dedicate the present volume to the memory of Professor Leszek Kajzer in order to commemorate his past achievements in arms and armour studies.

The jubilee Volume XXX of *Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae* is almost entirely devoted to the session *Borderland on fire. War, weaponry and borderland in the Middle Ages and the early Modern Period*. The meeting took place on 21-22 October 2016 in Łódź as part of *The 13th Professor Andrzej Nadolski International Arms and Armour Colloquium*. Starting with the first Colloquium which was held in 1972, these conferences have offered an opportunity to exchange experiences between Polish and European researchers. The same applies to present-day Colloquia, which offer a chance to exchange achievements not only between individual research disciplines (archaeology, history, art history, etc.), but first of all between researchers from different cultural spheres. The papers published in this volume are a material trace of these successful proceedings.

Jerzy Maik & Piotr Strzyż

