

BARBARA CZOPEK-KOPCIUCH

(1952–2020)

On 7 July 2020, our dearly colleague, Prof. Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch, passed away. She was an outstanding researcher of proper names, the author of classic works on onomastics, an unquestionable authority and master of many generations of Polish onomasticians. We bid her farewell on 10 July 2020 at the Batowicki Cemetery in Kraków, where she was laid to rest alongside her husband.

Barbara Czopek was born to a family of teachers on 31 May 1952 in Częstochowa. She attended primary and secondary school in her hometown, and later came to Kraków to study, where she remained for the rest of her life. She graduated from Polish philology at the Jagiellonian University, where she attended an MA seminar under the supervision of Professor Zofia Kurzowa and wrote her thesis on adjectives with the suffixes *-alny*, *-arny*, which was later published as an article in the journal “Polonica” (“Przymiotniki na *-alny*, *-arny* w historii języka polskiego na tle słowiańskim” (1978)). Throughout her professional life (over 40 years), she worked at the Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, obtaining successive scientific titles and holding various positions. She also periodically taught in Piotrków Trybunalski, at a branch of the Świętokrzyska Academy (later University) in Kielce (1997–2013).

Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch’s academic interests and achievements were focused on onomastics. Under the supervision of Professor Kazimierz Rymut, she wrote her PhD thesis on toponomastics and defended it in 1985. Three years later she published her first book, “Nazwy miejscowe dawnej ziemi chełmskiej i bełskiej (w granicach dzisiejszego państwa polskiego)” (1988), which was a modified version of her doctoral dissertation.

In 1995 she received her post-doctoral qualification (habilitation) based on her monograph “Adaptacje niemieckich nazw miejscowych w języku polskim” (1995). In the book, she analysed 1,200 place names of German origin from areas

of Poland (Poland, where Polish settlement preceded German settlement, using Weinreich's theory of linguistic interference, Eichler's onymic integration theory, and Górniewicz's theory of linguistic substitution and interference. The book received numerous positive reviews and remains to this day among the most cited works on the topic.

Another important publication in Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch's output is "Nazwiska polskie w Zagłębiu Ruhry" (2004) — the result of participation in a Polish-German project to compile a dictionary of surnames of Polish origin in the Ruhr region. A two-volume dictionary "Lexikon der Familiennamen polnischer Herkunft im Ruhrgebiet" (2006–2010) was published a few years later as a collective work, and Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch compiled over 13,000 dictionary entries for it. In her own monograph, she once again reached for the theory of linguistic interference and onymic integration modified for the use of personal names, and she also included interesting sociolinguistic remarks concerning the ethnic identity of the bearers of Polish surnames.

In recognition of all her scientific (including the monograph "Nazwiska polskie w Zagłębiu Ruhry"), organizational and didactic achievements, Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch received the title of full professor in 2008.

Prof. Czopek-Kopciuch's scientific output not only includes monographs but also collective lexicographic studies. Apart from the above-mentioned dictionary of surnames published in German, she co-authored (and from volume VIII also edited) a dictionary entitled "Nazwy miejscowe Polski. Historia. Pochodzenie. Zmiany", vol. I–XV (1996–2018), in which she compiled entries from the area of Pomerania, the New March and former Red Ruthenia (in total over 6000 entries signed with the initials *BCz*). She has also participated as manager and contractor in grants that have resulted in electronic editions of onomasticons: "Elektroniczny słownik hydronimów Polski" (2012–2015; <https://eshp.ijp.pan.pl>), "Najczęstsze nazwiska w Polsce — współczesność i historia" (2014–2020; <https://nazwiska.ijp.pan.pl>).

She published numerous articles (over 60 in Polish, German, and English) in Polish and foreign journals and collective monographs. Her essays mostly concerned toponomastic issues: place names, e.g. "Apelatyw *majdan* w toponimii polskiej" (1984), "Ortsnamen auf *-burg* in slavischen Ländern (1999), Fremde Ortsnamen in Polnischen Texten" (2002), "*Tuchanie, Uchanie* — nazwy miejscowe dzierżawcze czy rodowe?" (2001), "Holländische Siedlungsbewegung und Ortsnamen Holendry in Polen" (2004), "Geographical names deriving from saints' names (patrocinia) in Poland" (2011); hydronyms, e.g. "Imiona w nazwach jezior i stawów w Polsce" (together with Urszula Bijak, 2007); field-names, e.g. "Anojkonimy na terenie dawnej Nowej Marchii" (co-author Edward Rymar, 1996), but also anthroponomastics: surnames, e.g. "Personennamen in den Ortsnamen deutscher Herkunft auf dem Gebiet Polens" (1993), "Nazwiska

polskie w Zagłębiu Ruhry a nazwiska w Polsce” (2005), “Nazwiska od przywisk dwuczłonowych w Zagłębiu Ruhry” (2006), „O *Nawrockim, Nawrocie i nawrocie*” (2006), “Polnische Familiennamen im Deutschen. Dargestellt am Beispiel der polnischen Familiennamen im Ruhrgebiet” (2011); first names, e.g. „Imiona ludzi o nazwiskach polskiego pochodzenia, na przykładzie mieszkańców Herne (Zagłębie Ruhry)” (2008), „Frekwencja i geografia imion najrzadziej nadawanych w Polsce w latach 1995–2010” (2013); nicknames, e.g. „Nick — nowa kategoria antroponimiczna?” (2004). She published extensively on Polish-Eastern Slavic language contacts, e.g. “The Ukrainian influences in the place names along the border of the eastern part of Poland” (1985), “Ukraińskie cechy językowe w nazwach dawnej ziemi chełmskiej i bełskiej” (1986) as well as Polish-German ones, e.g. “Przynależność językowa Nowej Marchii w świetle danych toponomastyki” (1997), “Onymische Integration in Untersuchungen von Ortsnamen” (1998), “Elementy niemieckie w nazewnictwie miejscowym Polski południowo-wschodniej” (2000); chrematonomastic issues, e.g. “Zachodnioeuropejskie poglądy na chrematonimię” (2011), “Names of companies in Poland” (2013); standardization of geographical names, e.g. “Works of the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration” (2014); and onomastic terminology, e.g. “Once more about the need to harmonize onomastic terminology” (2019). Most of these studies were based on rich onomastic material subjected to detailed analysis.

Prof. Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch was a polyglot, fluent in Russian, English, and German. She completed academic internships and scholarships abroad: in Kiev and Lviv (where she collected archival materials for her doctoral dissertation), Göttingen, Dortmund (where she wrote her book on Polish-German language contacts), Leipzig, Berlin, and Mainz. She also gladly participated in numerous conferences abroad; for example, she regularly attended congresses of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. Reviews, discussions and reports (over 40 texts), in which she introduced Polish readers to foreign-language onomastic monographs and shared her impressions of foreign conferences, constitute a significant part of her publications.

In addition to her strictly scientific activities, Prof. Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch was known for her organizational skills: she served as deputy director of the Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences (2002–2012), head of the Department of Onomastics (2011–2019), editor-in-chief of the journal “Onomastica” (2015–2020), and she chaired the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects to the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration for two terms (2008–2016).

She was a respected researcher of proper names at home and abroad, as evidenced by her membership of scientific boards of journals: “Onomastica

Slavogermanica”, “Namenkundliche Informationen”, “Folia Onomastica Croatica” and other scientific bodies such as: Committee of Linguistics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2015–2019), Commission of Slavic Onomastics of the International Committee of Slavists (2008–2020), Board of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (2008–2011).

Professor Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch was a leader in the field of Polish onomastics, a very hard-working, multitasking person who was always very kind to others. Until the last moments she worked, wrote reviews, supervised the preparation of the previous 64th issue of “Onomastica” and edited the upcoming volume of the dictionary “Nazwy miejscowe Polski”.

She was also the initiator and main coordinator of the 27th ICOS Congress in Kraków, which was held with a year delay in an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic (22–27 August 2021), unfortunately without her participation.

Basia will remain in our memory forever, we will use her works, memorable advice and tips (for both academic work and life) for a long time to come.

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