

## Alina Kwiatkowska – Nature Conservation secretary and technical editor (1964–1991) – left us forever



Alina Kwiatkowska  
\*1929 †2003

In the mid of the summer, on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2003, Alina Kwiatkowska, a modest, friendly, long standing and hard working secretary and technical editor of Nature Conservation (Ochrona Przyrody), left us.

Alina Kwiatkowska was born in the town of Kępno, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1926, where her father Jan Porębski was the head director of the High School for women. She spent her youth in several towns, including Grudziądz,

Gniew, Chelmża. The beginning of World War II met her in Piekary Śląskie, from where, after incorporation of this town to Germany, her family was deported by German troops to Cracow. In Cracow she completed her secondary education and in 1945, commenced studies at the Jagiellonian University. Three years later, she started cooperation with the Department of Nature Conservation: she was engaged in work for the Committee of Nature Conservation of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences. In the meantime, she got marriage and gave birth to two boys.

Alina started her career as a scientist in 1956, soon after the Nature Conservation Department of the Polish Academy of Sciences was established. The Department was directed by one of the most eminent Polish botanists and nature conservationists, Professor Władysław Szafer. Many other outstanding scientists were in the staff of the Department, including Professor Walery Goetel. There were also some younger staff members, including Jerzy Fabijanowski, Bronisław Ferens, Jan Kornaś, Anna Medwecka-Kornaś, and Stefan Myczkowski, who would soon become acknowledged Polish professors. Among such noble scientists, found herself Alina Kwiatkowska, a young Msc in biology, who had only recently graduated from the Institute of Botany, Jagiellonian University in Cracow. From the very beginning, her research was focused on conservation biology of plants and related population studies of rare and endangered plant species. But in the Institute, her career developed in a different way.

In 1964, she was nominated as a co-secretary in the editorial staff of *Ochrona Przyrody* (present *Nature Conservation*), the most important journal of this kind in Poland and one of the

leading ones in Central Europe. Although for most of the time in the years to follow Alina was occupied by her new duties, she started cooperation with Wanda Kulczyńska, and tried to continue investigations into her favourite vascular plant species: an endemic and extremely rare *Cochlearia polonica*. In fact, the successful recovery of the last population of this species was due to her work on careful re-establishment of the plant on its precisely selected secondary localities. Till her last days, Alina thought of processing long-term data she had collected on various aspects of the species biology and publishing it. However, long-lasting and developing disease frustrated her plans.

Only few of us, her colleagues who came to the Department much later, knew that she still had been carrying out scientific research. The majority knew her as a secretary and technical editor of *Nature Conservation*, who over past several decades co-worked with many editors in chief – Professors Władysław Szafer, Anna Medwecka-Kornaś, Kazimierz Zarzycki and Zofia Alexandrowicz.

In 1984, Alina Kwiatkowska was awarded with the golden cross of merit by the President of Council of State of Poland.

Although in 1986 Ala reached retirement age, she continued her work with us. Only in 1991 she definitely left the editorial staff. Her last success at the office was production of two volumes in an annual set of *Ochrona Przyrody* (*Nature Conservation*) – first time in the journal's history.

During her editorial work, Alina Kwiatkowska prepared as many as 29 annual sets of *Ochrona Przyrody* (*Nature Conservation*). Her scrupulous work was not always acknowledged by authors and collaborators. However, Alina never complied on those authors, who made her work particularly painstaking. Moreover, to assure the highest quality of the journal, she often carried out work that was the duty of authors. She struggled for the use of best language, clarified it, and suggested best solutions, layout of figures, tables and photographs. On the other hand, in discussions with chief editors, she did not hesitate to be an advocate of young, less experienced authors, to be given the second chance. We shared with Alina her great satisfaction whenever the next issue of the journal was produced. Much to our regret, we will never share this joy again, since Alina left us forever. Forever indeed? No, not until we remember her.

Zbigniew Witkowski  
Editor in Chief of *Nature Conservation*



**List of publications of Alina Kwiatkowska:**

- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1956. Rozmieszczenie *Cochlearia polonica* (E. FRÖHLICH) w okolicy Olkusza (Die Verbreitung von *Cochlearia polonica* in der Gegend von Olkusz). *Fragm. Flor. et Geobot.* 3: 11-15 (in Polish with a German summary).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1957. Przegląd 1 numeru Zeszytów Naukowych Uniwersytetu im. M. Kopernika w Toruniu (Review of the 1st volume of the Scientific Papers of Mikołaj Kopernik University in Toruń). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 13, 4: 52-55 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1958. Jancovic M.: Wirtschaftliche Bedeutung der Wassermuss (*Trapa natans* L.) in Jugoslawien (Arch. f. Hydrobiol. T. 47, Nr 2, Stuttgart 1952). [Gospodarcze znaczenie orzecha wodnego (*Trapa natans* L.) w Jugosławii]. *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 14, 2: 62-63 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1958. Waterchestnut Control Work Necessary in Chesapeake Bay Area (O konieczności prac zapobiegających nadmiernemu rozprzestrzenianiu się kotewki w zatoce Chesapeak). *Outdoor News Bull. Wildlife Management Institute, Washington 1956, No 20, p.4.* *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 14, 2: 63-64 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1959. Biały cud Sassenbergu (White miracle of Sassenberg). *Wszechświat* 11.
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1959. Tobolewski Z. Porosty Pienin (Lichens of the Pieniny Mts.). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 15, 2: 50-51 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1959. Rozporządzenie o ochronie gatunkowej roślin w Czechach (An ordinance relating to the protection of certain species of plants in Czechoslovakia). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 15, 3: 48-49 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1959. Ochrona Przyrody (Nature conservation). *Biuletyn Komisji Ochrony Pomników Przyrody. Wyd. Akademia Rumuńskiej Republiki Ludowej (Ocotirea Naturii, Buletinul Comisiei pentru Ocrotirea Monumentelor Naturii).* Numery 1-3 za lata 1955-57. Bukareszt. *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 15, 3: 54-55 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1959. Vajda E. Roślinność Węgier. Album zdjęć fotograficznych (Vegetation of Hungary. Photo album). *Wyd. Corvina, Budapeszt 1956.* *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 15, 4: 49-50 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1959. Mapa rozmieszczenia cisa pospolitego (*Taxus baccata* L.) w Polsce (Distribution map of *Taxus baccata* L. in Poland). In: Szafer W. *Szata roślinna Polski t. II.* PWN, Warszawa (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1960. Szata roślinna Beskidów Zachodnich i jej ochrona (Vegetation of the Western Beskidy Mts. and its protection). *Biul. Inf. Instr. Narc. PTTK* (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1960. Zagadnienie ochrony przyrody w perspektywicznym rozwoju botaniki w Polsce (The problem of nature conservation in the prospective plan for the development of botany in Poland). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 16, 1: 41-42 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1960. Nowe kierunki ochrony przyrody w Rumunii (New trends in the development of nature conservation in Roumania). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 16, 3: 26-33 (in Polish with an English summary).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1960. Gut S.: *Poradnik metodyczny ochrony przyrody* (Nature conservation guidebook). *Wyd. Zakładu Ochrony Przyrody PAN, 1958.* *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 16, 3: 58 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1960. Ochrona Przyrody 26 (Review of 26 vol. of Nature Conservation). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 16, 3: 58 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1961. Z historii ochrony polskiej szaty roślinnej (Outline of the history of the conservation of vegetation in Poland). *Wszechświat* 12 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1961. Ochrona Przyrody w szkolnictwie w Rumuńskiej Republice Ludowej (Nature conservation in the educational programs in the Roumanian People's Republic). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 17, 1: 47-48 (in Polish).
- GRESZTA A., KWIATKOWSKA A. 1962. "Kamień Śląski" – rezerwat brzoźku *Sorbus torminalis* w województwie Opolskim (The reserve for the protection of the service tree in the province of Opole). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 18, 2: 3-15 (in Polish with an English summary).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1962. Warzucha polska – ginący gatunek endemiczny (*Cochlearia polonica* – a vanishing endemic species). *Chrońmy Przyr. Ojcz.* 18, 3: 5-18 (in Polish with an English summary).
- KWIATKOWSKA A., SZAFER W. 1973-78. Zasięgi i ochrona niektórych roślin (Ranges and protection of some plants). In: Leszczycki S. (ed.) *Narodowy Atlas Polski* (National Atlas of Poland). *Wyd. Instytutu Geografii PAN, Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich* (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1965. Ochrona gatunkowa roślin. In: Szafer W. (ed.) *Ochrona przyrody i jej zasobów – problemy i metody* (Nature and its resources conservation-problems and methods). Vol. 1. PWN, Kraków, pp. 138-183 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1973. Ochrona gatunkowa roślin (Plant species protection). In: Michajłow W. (ed.) *Ochrona przyrodniczego środowiska człowieka* (Protection of man's natural environment). PWN, Warszawa, pp. 177-203 (in Polish).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1973. Protection of plant species. In: Michajłow W. (ed.). *Protection of man's natural environment.* PWN, Warszawa, pp. 144-163.
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 1993. *Cochlearia polonica* Fröhlich – warzucha polska. In: K. Zarzycki, R. Kaźmierczakowa (eds.). *Polska czerwona księga roślin* (Polish red data book of plants). Instytut Botaniki PAN, Instytut Ochrony Przyrody PAN, Kraków (in Polish with an English summary).
- KWIATKOWSKA A. 2001. *Cochlearia polonica* Fröhlich - warzucha polska. In: R. Kaźmierczakowa, K. Zarzycki (eds.). *Polska czerwona księga roślin* (Polish red data book of plants). Instytut Botaniki PAN, Instytut Ochrony Przyrody PAN, Kraków (in Polish with an English summary).