Geological Quarterly, 2009, **53** (1): 1–2

Władysław Pożaryski
4. 12. 1910–5. 03. 2008

Professor Władysław Pożaryski passed away on 5 March 2008, and our geological community lost one of its most influential and productive scientists. Professor Pożaryski was active in many fields of geology for more than 70 years. He was extraordinary talented, with the ability to synthesize a variety of geological and geophysical data. He completed his geological studies at Warsaw University in 1934. After one year of working at the university (1937/1938), he pursued a successful career at the Polish Geological Institute, until becoming professor emeritus in 1983. For over ten years, from1952, he was additionally employed at the new Geological Faculty of Warsaw University. He was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Deutsche Akademie für Wissenschaften, the Deutche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geologische Wissenschaften.

Professor Pożaryski focused on large-scale problems of the stratigraphy and geotectonic evolution of Central Europe, and this issue is dedicated to the memory of his great work. The papers gathered here introduce us to selected aspects of the regional geology and tectonic evolution of Central Europe. The terrane model of geotectonic evolution of this part of Europe and the model of tectonic development of the Polish-Danish trough are undoubtly the most significant contributions of Professor Pożaryski to modern geology. Other of his achievements ranged from microfaunal stratigraphy of the Mesozoic deposits of the Polish Lowland to the first description of phosphorus deposits in the Cretaceous of the Vistula valley. His scientific portfolio comprises more than 250 publications. Many of these were issued as book-length syntheses and as geological maps. He edited, being also the main contributor of part of the basic Polish geological monograph "Geology of Poland" entitled "Tectonics" (1974), another significant geological synthesis "Geology of the Polish Lowland" (1962). His last major contribution to geological cartography, the " Tectonic map of Poland during Variscan time" (1992), can be regarded as one of the first attempts to present geological data in 4D space.

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