



Alicja Kasprzyk
18. 04. 1956–19. 03. 2009

This volume is dedicated to Alicja Kasprzyk – an excellent evaporite specialist who passed away on 19 March 2009, after a 10-years-long struggle with incurable illness. She continued to work with passion whenever the circumstances allowed. In one of her letters to T. M. Peryt written a year before her death, she wrote: “The chances to stop the disease are certainly poor [...] Maybe it is ridiculous but I still work and hope”.

She was born on 18 April 1956 in Stalowa Wola. She graduated from the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in 1980; her supervisor was Prof. Aleksander Garlicki, and her M.Sc. thesis was on “Evaporite deposits of the Kajetanów Bay in the Holy Cross Mts”. She was holder of a Polish Geological Institute scholarship and started to work for the PGI in 1980, being based in its Holy Cross Mts. Branch in Kielce. In 1992 she re-

*ceived a Ph.D. degree from the Polish Geological Institute after a very successful defence of her thesis, that was entitled “Lithological and sedimentological characteristics of the Miocene gypsum of the southern margin of the Holy Cross Mts. (between the Nida and Vistula rivers)”, supervised by Prof. Tadeusz Peryt. The greater part of the thesis was then published in the *Annales Societatis Geologorum Poloniae* in 1993 and was awarded the Ludwik Zejszner prize of the Polish Geological Society in 1994.*

Still working on her Ph.D. thesis, she got involved in scientific cooperation between the evaporite teams of the University of Barcelona and the Polish Geological Institute, and as a result of this collaboration and following post-doctoral stay at the University of Barcelona with Federico Ortí, she became an

outstanding expert in the petrology of sulphate evaporites. In turn, her other research visits to Barcelona at the Institut Jaume Almera and University of Barcelona (with C. Taberner, F. Ortí and J. J. Pueyo) as well as in Paris (Université Pierre and Marie Curie, C. Pierre) profited from the application of isotopic studies to research into sulphate evaporites, including the first use of strontium isotopes in the study of Badenian sulphates. For her outstanding scientific achievements she received the Silver Medal of Merit from the President of Poland in 2007.

We had opportunities to accompany her in field trips related to evaporites and to remember her impressive lectures on her lovely gypsum sedimentology and on the Miocene history of the Carpathian Foredeep. She was open to other views. We experienced numerous and vigorous discussions on origin of the Miocene anhydrites. In the course of time it has become the main and the last geological problem to solve, so nicely developed in her last publications. Her paper with F. Ortí on the controls of anhydrite genesis based on the Badenian example (published in *Sedimentology* in 1998) is a benchmark publication in the field.

Although the Badenian deposits remained her greatest evaporite love, she was also working on the Zechstein evaporites of southwestern and Central Poland, being the (co)author of several important papers. In total, she published

21 original papers as the sole author and coauthored 11 original papers that appeared in many top-flight journals (including *Sedimentology*, *Journal of Sedimentary Research* and *Sedimentary Geology*). A quarter of her papers (including the last one published by her) appeared in the *Geological Quarterly*, and thus we found it appropriate that the commemorative volume will be a special issue of her favourite journal. The papers presented deal without an exception either with the evaporite deposits she was working on, or with deposits visited by her during geological excursions guided by her friends and colleagues, now the coauthors of those papers.

Being absolutely fascinated with her work, with new geological concepts Alicja was a fantastic partner in the field and in laboratory studies, initiating an unconventional approach to the problem being considered, arguing with splendid erudition of the matter. She was also a cordial, friendly person, with a passion for enjoying any minute and any opportunity offered by life, and almost up to the end she remained an optimist and never despaired in working on her passion – evaporites!

Her credo was: knowledge, hard work and trust in God, till the end. And as such a person she will remain in our memory.

Grzegorz Czapowski,
Andrzej G. Siewicz
and Tadeusz Marek Peryt

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