

Tom poświęcony pamięci Profesora Stanisława Gerocha

A tribute to Professor Stanisław Geroch

This volume, initiated and edited by Michael A. Kaminski and Krzysztof Bąk, is dedicated to the memory of Professor Stanisław Geroch, who passed away suddenly on June 21, 1995 in the prime of his professional life.

For more than 40 years, Stanisław Geroch taught Micropaleontology at the Jagiellonian University, Chair of Paleontology, first occupied by Józef Grzybowski. For a long period of time he served as Treasurer of the Polish Geological Society and Deputy Editor in-chief of the present Journal. Through his kind and humble nature, his personal magnetism, and his deep love for his work, he inspired a whole generation of Polish Micropaleontologists. He was a leading world specialist on deep-water agglutinated foraminifera, and has made monumental contributions to the field of Carpathian biostratigraphy.

This volume presents 19 contributions written by his personal friends, colleagues and former students. Most of the papers in this volume deal with foraminifera (especially agglutinated foraminifera) from the Carpathian flysch and other Tethyan deep-water deposits. However, several papers contributed by friends of Professor Geroch deal with foraminifera from areas outside the Carpathians. The diversity of topics presented in this volume reflects his own vast interest in the field of Micropaleontology.

The editors sincerely thank the authors of all contributions.

Editor-in-chief



S. G. ...

STANISŁAW GEROCH

May 2, 1920 – June 21, 1995

Professor dr. Stanisław Geroch passed away suddenly on June 21, 1995, in Kraków. For many years he was the Head of the Department of Paleozoology of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Jagiellonian University, Kraków. He will be long remembered as a world-reknowned micropaleontologist, a dedicated educator, and role-model to his students.

Stanisław Geroch (affectionately known as “Stan” to his foreign friends or as “Mistrz” or “Maestro” to his students) was born on May 2, 1920, in Jasło, Poland, the son of Błażej and Magdalena. In that town he spent his youthful years, and completed his primary and secondary education. He graduated from the King Stanisław Leszczyński High School (Gymnazjum) in 1938, and in that same year commenced his undergraduate studies in Pharmacy at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lvov.

During the war years, he was employed as a technician, first in the Geological Survey in Jasło, then at the Petroleum Research Station in Borysław. Here he had his first contact with the field of Micropalaeontology while working on samples from the Carpathian boreholes.

After the war he found himself in Kraków, where he continued his pharmaceutical studies at the Jagiellonian University and obtained his M.Sc. degree in Pharmacy on March 10, 1948. At the same time, he also attended courses in Geology in the Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. The Geology Department was in the process of being reorganised at the time, and after Prof. M. Książkiewicz returned from the United Kingdom to set up the new Institute of Geological Sciences, he earned a second M.Sc. degree in Geology and Palaeontology. Even before earning his M.Sc. degrees, he was employed first as a Junior Assistant in the Cathedra of Palaeontology (from Nov. 1, 1945 to Aug. 31, 1946), which was then headed by Prof. F. Bieda (who had been a student of J. Grzybowski). In 1946, he was working in the team that produced a geological map (1:100,000 scale) of the Częstochowa–Woźniki region. From Aug. 31, 1946, he was permanently employed in the Cathedra of Geology (presently Institute of Geological Sciences of the Jagiellonian University), working as an Assistant under the supervision of Prof. M. Książkiewicz. Documents from those days reveal that he taught “Historical Geology”. On Sept. 1, 1950 he was promoted to Senior Assistant, and over the years he eventually rose through the ranks to become Professor.

From the beginning of his scientific career and throughout his entire later life, Prof. Geroch mainly carried out stratigraphical studies of the Carpathian flysch deposits, documenting the age and stratigraphical relationships of the units by means of foraminifera. His Ph.D. thesis, carried out under the supervision of Prof. Bieda, was entitled “Cretaceous and Paleogene foraminiferal assemblages of the Silesian Unit in the Beskid Śląski Mountains” was successfully defended in 1960. He defended his “Habilitation” thesis in 1966, on the basis of his studies of Lower Cretaceous smaller foraminifera from the Flysch Carpathians, and in the same year was awarded the title of “Docent”. This was an especially busy and productive time in his scientific career. He was co-organisor of the 10th European Micropaleontological Colloquium held in 1967, and edited an comprehensive guidebook to the Stratigraphy and Palaeontology of the Carpathian Flysch to accompany the field excursion. During the Prague Spring of 1968 he travelled to Bucharest together with his young family to work with his long-time colleague Theodor Neagu. At this time he also edited the first thematic volume of this journal (*Rocznik Polskiego Towarzystwa Geologicznego*) which comprised a collection of micropalaeontological papers commemorating the 100th birthday of Józef Grzybowski, published in 1969.

From 1974 until his retirement in 1991, he headed the Department of Paleozoology of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Jagiellonian University. In the 1978-1981 academic years, he held the position of Vice Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences. In 1981 he was awarded the title of Professor.

Prof. Geroch is the author or co-author of approximately 60 scientific articles published in Poland as well as in international scientific journals. He co-edited two books, the second of which was published posthumously. He additionally wrote numerous notes, communications, and unpublished consultant's reports. For many years he served on the editorial board of this journal. He was named Corresponding Member of the PAU (Polish Academy of Knowledge in Kraków) in 1992.

As the direct linear successor of the chair in Palaeontology first held by Józef Grzybowski, Stan was the unquestionable leader of the “Polish Micropaleontological School”. Although he studied other types of microfossils found in the Carpathian flysch deposits such as diatoms and radiolarians, he was an acknowledged world expert in the taxonomy of the deep-water agglutinated foraminifera (DWAF), contributing to this field a number of benchmark studies. It was Stan who completed the first comprehensive survey of index DWAF from the Polish Carpathians, and published the first biostratigraphical zonation for the region (Geroch, 1959, 1960). By teaming up with the late Wiesław Nowak, who studied calcareous microplankton and nannofossils from the flysch, he was able to refine his zonation and present a definitive version of the Carpathian DWAF zonation at the Benthos '83 meeting in Pau, France (Geroch & Nowak, 1984). This work was subsequently refined in two later papers (Geroch & Koszarski, 1988; Geroch & Olszewska, 1990) presented at the International Workshops on Agglutinated Foraminifera. The 1984 paper is widely cited as the key paper for the Cretaceous to Paleogene DWAF zonation in the Tethyan region. Stan was the author of several new species, and one new genus of agglutinated foraminifera. In addition, several of the species that he left in open nomenclature in his 1960 publication have been subsequently named after him. This fact alone is testimony to the high esteem his colleagues held for him. In his later years, he was delighted to see that many of the species he described from the Carpathian flysch were later found in far-away places such as Trinidad and at Ocean Drilling Program sites in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. He took part as co-investigator in a number of comparative studies that demonstrated the cosmopolitan nature of his deep-water agglutinated foraminifera. He was an active participant in all four of the International Workshops on Agglutinated Foraminifera (Amsterdam, Vienna, Tübingen, Kraków). The Fourth IAWF was held in Kraków in September 1993, and Stan organised microscope workshops to view the Grzybowski Collection, led a field excursion, and co-edited the scientific proceedings volume. He also took part in several European Micropalaeontology Colloquia (Poland, Sardinia, Hungary, U. K.), and in IGCP Project 262, which adopted his benthic foraminiferal zonation as a working model for the Cretaceous deep ocean.

One of Stan's life-long passions concerned the life and work of Józef Grzybowski, the first Professor of Palaeontology at the Jagiellonian University. Stan spent his entire professional career studying the agglutinated foraminifera from the Carpathian flysch, essentially continuing and building upon the taxonomical and stratigraphical work on Carpathian foraminifera initiated by Grzybowski in the 1890s. It was Stan who started the curatorial work on Grzybowski's collection of microfossils, which had been residing in some museum drawers in the old Geology building on St. Anna Street nr. 6. He painstakingly cataloged the tens of thousands of specimens in the collection and acted as its *de facto* curator, producing a manuscript catalog of the collection. When the Geology Museum moved to its new quarters on Oleandry Street in 1964, he oversaw its relocation. One of his lasting contributions to the field of Micropalaeontology will be his efforts to preserve Grzybowski's heritage, thereby bring to light the early (Polish) contributions to the study of deep-sea agglutinated foraminifera. Dozens of scientists from Europe and North America visited Stan over the years to view the collections and obtain his advice on the taxonomy of deep-sea agglutinated foraminifera. His 1984 zonation and his revision of the type specimens in the Grzybowski Collection (published in 1993 by the Grzybowski Foundation) will long serve as a major contributions to the stability of taxonomical nomenclature.

Over the last 20 years, Prof. Geroch supervised scores of M.Sc. students and 5 Ph.D. dissertations. Even after his formal retirement in 1991, he continued teaching Micropalaeontology on a volunteer basis, and assisted students with their M.Sc. projects. His door was always open, and he always interrupted whatever he was doing to help a student who had a question. He was generous to a fault, and often distributed numerous photocopies of articles and handouts to his students. Whenever he was asked to review a thesis or article, the author could always count on an encouraging review. If Prof. Geroch noticed any oversight in any thesis or article he was given to read, he would photocopy pages from relevant literature and include them with his review. He devoted long hours to his research activities. He was well known for his habit of returning to his office after dinner and working late into the night.

In recognition of his efforts to promote science and education, Prof. Geroch received a number of national awards, including the “Cavalry Cross of the Order of ”Odrodzenia Polski”, the “Golden Service Medal”, the “National Education Commission Medal”, the “Gold Medal from the Union of Polish Teachers”, as well a medal in recognition of “Service for Polish Geology”. He was also awarded a “Short-Term Visiting Fellowship” from the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, which he visited in 1991.

Prof. Geroch was leading an active retirement until the very end. The Geological Institute made an application to the university authorities to allow him to be officially employed past the mandatory retirement age (permission was granted). He especially enjoyed taking part in the Carpathian excursions with the students. He was famous for his knowledge of the therapeutic properties of the local mineral waters, a subject that was his favorite hobby. After his “official” retirement, he still taught Micropaleontology on a substitute basis, supervised two Ph.D. theses, participated on field conferences, co-edited two books, and still carried out editorial duties for this journal. The last photographs of him, taken at a Ph.D. examination he chaired in early June, 1995 reveal an apparently strong and fit Professor Geroch, impeccably dressed as always, heartily congratulating the successful candidate, and in another photograph, engaged in lively conversation with the other members of the examining committee.

We will remember Stan as an exceptional man – an inspiration to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. A friend, trusted colleague, and always a Gentleman in the true meaning of the word. He was kind, hard-working, generous to a fault, and extremely modest. Above all he was a quiet and personal man, who never wanted to inconvenience or be a burden to anyone. During his last few days at the Jagiellonian University, he sent back the proofs to his last research article (on some Cretaceous species of *Reophax*), tidied up his office, returned all his library books, placed a new sheet of paper in the writing pad on his desk (something he only did on special occasions). On Sunday June 20, he left a brief note and a few samples on a colleague’s desk (even though the colleague would have been back at his desk the following week), and placed the dust cover on his microscope for the final time. Upon leaving for home that last time, he bid “Good-bye” to the watchman at the front door of the Geological Institute (the watchman was puzzled by this) and walked out the front gate. He never returned. That evening he was struck down by a massive heart attack. He once confided with a colleague that he “didn’t want to cause any trouble” when it was his time to go. He kept that promise, and left us as quietly and as modestly as he conducted his entire life. The Geological Institute on Oleandry Street seems strangely empty now without the unforgettable sound of Stan’s lively footsteps echoing through the corridors. His fond memory, though, will live on in the hearts and minds of his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Stefania, his two sons Krzysztof and Piotr, and (now) three grandchildren. He left this world with the knowledge that he would again be a Grandfather (for the third time).

Elżbieta Morycowa
Michael A. Kaminski
M. Adam Gasiński

Publications of Stanisław Geroch

(compiled by M. A. Kaminski & K. Bąk)

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- 1997 (*in print*). *Psammimopelta gradsteini* n.sp., a new species of Paleogene deep-water agglutinated foraminifera from the northern North Atlantic and Polish Outer Carpathians. Grzybowski Foundation Spec. Public., 5; with M. A. Kaminski.

MEMORIES OF STANISŁAW GEROCZ

I first met Stanisław Geroch for the first time in 1954, to discuss with him some of the problems concerning the Tertiary stratigraphical micropalaeontology of the Carpathians in the Jasło-Sanok district. This was a topic of mutual interest. After that, we met regularly to share new ideas on the progress of micropalaeontological studies of the flysch. Our meetings were very important to me, as I was working in the petroleum industry in Krosno, and later in Jasło I had limited access to the current publications on the subject of Micropalaeontology.

During our meetings, many new projects of mutual interest were conceived, to revise the stratigraphy of the Carpathian flysch by means of foraminifera, as well as the idea to revise the species in the type collections of J. Grzybowski. I already carried out a partial revision of some of the species Grzybowski described from the Krosno and Gorlice regions (Grzybowski, 1898, 1901) in my paper dealing with the submenilite Paleogene of the Polish middle Carpathians that was published in 1967.

Our numerous meetings and field excursions in the Jasło, Krosno, Strachocina, and Bóbrka regions had collecting samples from the Cretaceous and Paleogene, with the main purpose of comparing assemblages from that region with those of the Silesian Beskid Mts, which was the main

area of Geroch’s studies.

During our meeting in September 1978 at the Institute of Geological Sciences, we talked about the idea of retracing “Grzybowski footsteps” in the Krosno and Gorlice regions, in order to make a duplicate collection of Grzybowski’s sample localities. The idea was to find specimens from similar assemblages and with a similar state of preservation to those from the collections, which by that time were already incomplete. These samples would then serve as additional material for the revision of the Grzybowski Collections of 1898 and 1901. We were aware of the fact that the task of making a complete duplicate collection would be a difficult one, because of the lack of borehole material from some of the localities that was collected so long ago.

We carried out this plan in stages between 1978 and 1981. During a two-day trip to the Krosno region in the autumn of 1978, we collected 82 surface and borehole samples, including three samples from the menilite shales near the Chapel in Krosno known as “na Zawodziu”; six samples from the *Globigerina* marls that were beautifully exposed along the Wisłoka river at “Śmierdziączka Stream”; eight samples from the green and red marls in the Śmierdziączka Stream profile, and 15 samples from the “variegated Eocene” exposed along the road between Krosno and Kor-



Stanislaw Geroch (*left*) with Prof. M. Książkiewicz (*far right*) and a colleague during the 10th European Micropaleontological Colloquium, 1967 (photo by H. Bolli)

Geroch was sent tumbling head over heels into the gully, which must have been at least 30 m deep. I watched with horror as he performed somersaults on the way down. I don't remember exactly how I did it, but I managed to slide down the bank of the gully to see whether he was all right. Geroch was visibly shaken up, but landed on his feet. His first words to me were: "Henry, where's my hammer?" and "What happened to the samples in my knapsack?"

We finally found the hammer in the nettles about 20 meters from the spot where Geroch landed. After doing a careful inspection of the samples, we carefully placed them into my backpack (which was already heavy). It is possible that Geroch's backpack, which was laden with samples wrapped in double bags, helped break his fall.

czyna. We also sampled the variegated Eocene from surface outcrops in Bóbrka, Równe, and Iwonicz. We collected the whole Ciężkowice series from boreholes in Potok, Turaszówka, Bóbrka, and Roztoki.

In the early spring of 1982 we made a four-day journey to the Gorlice region, during the hard times of Marshall Law. We needed to obtain permission from the military authorities to undertake this trip. The Militia office in Gorlice treated us well, and provided an escort into the field. We were transported to the villages of Siary, Bodaki, and Bartne in an official vehicle, and then we had to continue by foot to find the outcrops. We began our work in the Sękówka river profile near the historical old Orthodox church in Siary. Next, we sampled the outcrops in the Bartne and Małosówka streams in Bodaki, then the green shales near the Orthodox church on the border between Bodaki and Przegociny.

On the last day of hard slogging through streams, without rest and with minimal provisions, we traversed the whole profile along the Ropa River between Szymbark and Ropica, gathering samples from excellent exposures of red and green shales along the way (these later turned out to be of Paleocene and early Eocene age). After we completed the Ropa River profile, we had the idea of looking for the red shales described by Grzybowski (1901). It was already late in the afternoon, we were tired and hungry, and we already had heavy backpacks filled with samples. We decided to take a footpath that passed alongside an unnamed stream gully in the direction of Toborówka, which was the place where the outcrop was supposed to be.

After about half a kilometer, Geroch declared that it was time to stop for a little rest, and I gladly agreed. I stopped and leaned against a tree in order to prop up my heavy backpack. Geroch did exactly the same, leaning against a tree that overhung the steep gully. Unfortunately for him, he had chosen a standing dead tree, and suddenly it snapped in half.

He climbed out of the gully with nothing more serious than a few bruises and scratches, mostly on his legs.

After a short rest, we decided not to go looking for Grzybowski's red shales in Toborówka after all. We spent the night in comparatively comfortable conditions in the hotel in Gorlice. After a good sleep and an ample breakfast, we decided to return to Kraków in our official vehicle. We split up our samples, and I took some to Kielce for further study.

We never fulfilled our original plan to make a duplicate collection of the Grzybowski material. However, the revision of the new species that Grzybowski described in 1898 and 1901 was published in 1993 by Geroch and Kaminski in Special Publication no 1 of the Grzybowski Foundation. Some of the samples we collected in those days were no doubt useful for their revision of the Grzybowski species.

I will always remember Professor Geroch as a kind and generous friend, who was completely engaged in the systematic investigations of the foraminifera from the Carpathian flysch – a speciality, which I am sorry to say is of declining interest in Poland today.

*Henryk Jurkiewicz
Kielce, Poland*

How I became a micropalaeontologist

During the 1971/72 academic year when I was a third-year undergraduate Biology student the time came to choose my M.Sc. topic. At the time I was interested in Genetics, but I didn't especially relish the thought of working with mice. Feeling a bit frustrated, I went down from the fourth floor of the building where the Genetics Dept. was located, down to the first floor, where I found a little piece of white paper pinned to the notice board. It read "Dr. S. Geroch proposes an M.Sc. topic in Palaeontology". To tell the truth, the word "Palaeontology" conjured up images of dinosaurs. An idea came to me in a flash – why not visit this man? After all the

subject is close to evolutionary biology, which was an interest of mine.

Arriving at the Geological Sciences Institute, the housekeeper showed me the way to his room. Unfortunately Dr. Geroch was not there, and the first person I met was “Miś” Dżułyński. He asked me what I was looking for, and I started to explain. Fortunately, Dr. Geroch’s timely return saved Miś from having to listen to all of my explanations.

This was my first meeting with Stan. I immediately saw in him a very kind, gentle, white-haired man who was smiling and hospitable. He invited me into his room and began to explain the proposed topic of his M.Sc. project. This was the first time I had heard about “Grzybowski” and “agglutinants”. To tell the truth it didn’t seem like a dynamic subject (my colleagues were heading toward molecular biology). However, I recognised that this subject is the life passion of this scholarly, fatherly man. His vivid stories and explanations seemed to bring these little fossils back to life. Although my first impressions of the topic may not have been the best, I was very enthusiastic about working with this kind gentleman who treated his students as equals or partners.

I went back to my dormitory room, and my roommates began to ask me about my meeting, and whether or not I had made a decision. After about 20 minutes someone knocked at the door, and much to my surprise it was the kind Dr. Geroch, who explained that I had left my notebook in his office and that perhaps I probably needed it. We invited Dr. Geroch to sit down and stay for a while, serving him tea in our poor student conditions. My colleagues were shocked that a “real” Docent had come to visit, and stayed to chat just like one of the students. Stan explained that when he was a student he had lived in the same building and that he knows what student life is all about. This experience cemented my decision – I realised that Stan was first a “human being” in addition to being a “real scientist”. I didn’t know at the time that I was to be his first Ph.D. student – to be honest a bit of a black sheep – because I worked on planktonics instead of agglutinants.

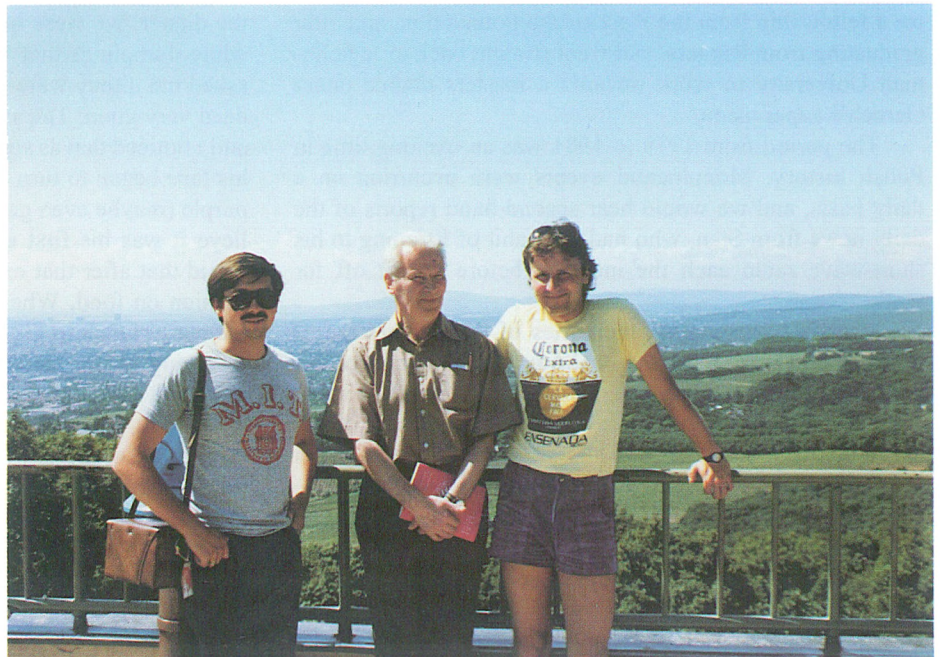
A few years later I met Mike Kaminski who was a visiting student. I think I was the first to convince him to study micropalaeontology at Jagiellonian University. My motivation was the same as before – that Stan was the best person to study under that I had met in my life. Ever since the couple of years we spent working in the same laboratory, we have shared some of Geroch’s favourite sayings or “Gerochisms”, which are impossible to translate into English and which only we really understood – sayings like “Ale zawaliliśmy”, “Co z tym

fantem zrobić?” among other choice expressions. Stan was like a father to us. That’s why we will always call him “Mistrz”, or “Maestro”.

*M. Adam Gasiński
Kraków, Poland*

First impressions and last impressions are always the lasting ones. I had the pleasure of knowing Stan Geroch over a span of nearly twenty years, a period that for me at least, was twenty years too short.

I first encountered this remarkable person while I was a third-year undergraduate student following a “Junior Year Abroad” course at the Jagiellonian University. On that course, the visiting students who had been placed in advanced Polish language groups were allowed the privilege of having the afternoons free to attend courses in other departments, and naturally, I drifted over to the Geology Department. I recall meeting a lot of staff members then, but one instance stands out. A certain Dr. Geroch was writing an article about some pyritized diatoms he had found in the Carpathian flysch, and he asked me if I would be willing to look over the English. I naturally agreed, and one day a distinguished-looking Gentleman appeared at my door at the student residence. Not wanting to inconvenience me, he had brought the article over to my dormitory room. I welcomed him into my room, of course, and introduced him to the roommates who were present. Whenever Geroch met anyone for the first time, he had the habit of snapping to attention, clicking his heels, and then extending a hearty (and bone-crunching) handshake accompanied by a warm smile. In the event he was introduced to a woman, she could count



Stanislaw Geroch (centre) with son Peter (right) and M. A. Kaminski (left) during the 2nd International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera, Vienna, 1986 (photo by J. Nagy)



Stanislaw Geroch at the Todd Library. Smithsonian Institution. Washington D.C.: December. 1991 (photo by M. A. Kaminski)

on having the back of her hand kissed in proper Austro-Hungarian fashion. Dr. Geroch was the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Biology & Earth Sciences at that time, and as far as anyone could remember, it was the first time someone of such standing ever bothered to pay a friendly visit to the student residence (or at least to our floor of the student residence). The wonderful microscopic world that Stan Geroch revealed to me was so interesting that right then and there, I decided that it would be interesting and perhaps worthwhile to pursue this curious speciality a little further. When I returned to Rutgers after that summer. I signed up for Dick Olsson's undergraduate micropaleontology course, applied for a fellowship from the Kościuszko Foundation, and after graduating from Rutgers, and went straight back to Jagiellonian University to work towards a masters degree under Geroch's supervision.

The period from 1979 to 1981 was an exciting time in Polish history. Monumental events were occurring on a daily basis, and we would hear second-hand reports of the daily news from Stan, who had the habit of listening to his short-wave radio each the morning before he set off for work.

My most outstanding memories of those years are of times when I was able to go out with Stan on excursions in the field. On one occasion we took a trip to Węglówka in the company of Leszek Koszarski to collect some samples of the Węglówka marls. Along the way we passed through Jasło, and Stan pointed out the little wooden house where he was born. At that time, Stan was working together with Wiesław Nowak on a revised zonation of the Carpathian flysch. I remember ferrying the both of them in my little VW beetle on short excursions in the region south of Kraków, to collect a few samples here and there from the flysch. Nowak would elucidate some interesting geological problem and Stan would collect a few samples. The conversation almost always centered around stratigraphy or mi-

cropalaeontology.

In the early summer of 1981, Felix Gradstein and Bill Berggren paid a visit to Kraków to look at the Paleogene DWAF from the Carpathian flysch. They invited us to participate in a conference they were helping organise in Amsterdam. That September, three of us left for Amsterdam by train from Kraków (Stan Geroch, Irena Heller, and myself). Stan was undoubtedly the guest of honor at that conference. I tried to help him out by acting as his interpreter. There was a lot of interest in the still comparatively new North Sea petroleum province, and his advice was sought on questions of foraminiferal taxonomy.

One small incident stands out in my mind which took place during the conference, and I'll take this opportunity to set the story straight (I'm afraid the story leaked out, and

was embellished by various students who repeated it second-hand over the years). Jan van Hinte was a gracious host, and he organised a splendid conference dinner at one of Amsterdam's most famous Indonesian restaurants, the "Bali". Oriental cuisine was new to Stan, who perhaps feeling a bit out of place, sat next to me at the table. To put the story in perspective, I dare say that there was not a single oriental restaurant in Kraków in 1981, so the various culinary delicacies of the far east were simply unknown to the vast majority of its residents. As the meal progressed, I noticed that Stan would wait until I had sampled a dish before he would put anything on his own plate. At one stage during the dinner, we were brought some small, innocent-looking white dumplings that were served in a reddish sauce. Stan asked me if they were good, and I replied that they were indeed very good. The sauce contained a fair amount of chili, and I noticed that as soon as Stan tried one of the dumplings, his face began to turn various shades of pink, red, and then purple (maybe even green), and tears came to his eyes. I believe it was his first experience with chili sauce, and I'm afraid that after that experience, he never again trusted my opinion on food. When we returned to Kraków, he invited me out to lunch to his favorite place, the "U Literatów" for a serving of his favorite dish – a plate of boiled potatoes drenched with buttermilk. This story only serves to illustrate the kind of person Stan was. He was not known to be "connoisseur of the finer things in life" as many Geologists tend (or pretend) to be. He was a modest man with simple tastes. He preferred life's simple pleasures, like going on a field excursion with an empty jug, filling it up with spring water, and then making an informed guess as to which combination of cations are responsible for its unique taste.

After the Amsterdam conference, Stan resumed his work on the Carpathian zonation with renewed enthusiasm. I recall that he and Nowak pasted up the first version of their plates of foraminifera during the darkest days of "General

Jaruzelski's little war" in the winter of 1981. The university was closed by the authorities, but work in the micropalaeontological lab continued as if nothing happened. Geroch presented the zonation at the "Benthos '83" conference in Pau, and I was pleased to see the paper published in the proceedings volume.

Although I finished my masters at Jagiellonian University in the winter of 1981-82, I kept in contact with Stan over the years. In 1985, I managed to spend two weeks with Stan in Kraków, working on the revision of the Lizard Springs fauna we presented at the 2nd IWAF in Vienna in 1986. During the Vienna meeting, we make arrangements to stay in the same little Pension on Universitätsstrasse that I discovered in the "Europe on \$25 a day" book. This meeting was special, because Fred Rögl had organised a two-day post-conference field excursion. Stan's son Peter arranged to fly in from California to join his Dad on the field excursion. Everyone who was present remembers the excursion fondly (or not, because we spent one hot afternoon in Salzburg in one of the local Mostgardens). For Stan, the event was even more special because he was able to take some time off with his son. I recall one late evening walk around the cobblestone streets of the old city of Salzburg in Stan's company, viewing some of the standard tourist destinations by the light of the streetlamps.

We were able to get together at least once a year after that to work on various projects. One thing that impressed everyone was the fact that in the later part of the 1980's, Stan had taught himself English. At the 3rd IWAF in Tübingen in 1989, he was able to deliver his talk in fluent English, and he no longer needed the assistance of an interpreter.

In December 1991, we spent a splendid week together at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. The idea was to check the type specimens of the DWAF in the Cushman Collection for our revision of the Grzybowski Collections. Stan was absolutely delighted to make this journey. We shared a hotel room at the Harrington, the hotel where Glen Miller and his orchestra used to play. We took our evening walks in Georgetown, the student district of Washington where one can still hear authentic jazz filtering out from the student clubs. One day at the Smithsonian while we were looking at the photographs of famous micropalaeontologists that are hanging on the wall in the Cushman Room, he revealed to me a little tidbit from his past (which was something most unusual for him to do). He told me that in 1949, when he began his Ph.D. work at the Jagiellonian University, he had asked Prof. Książkiewicz for some advice.

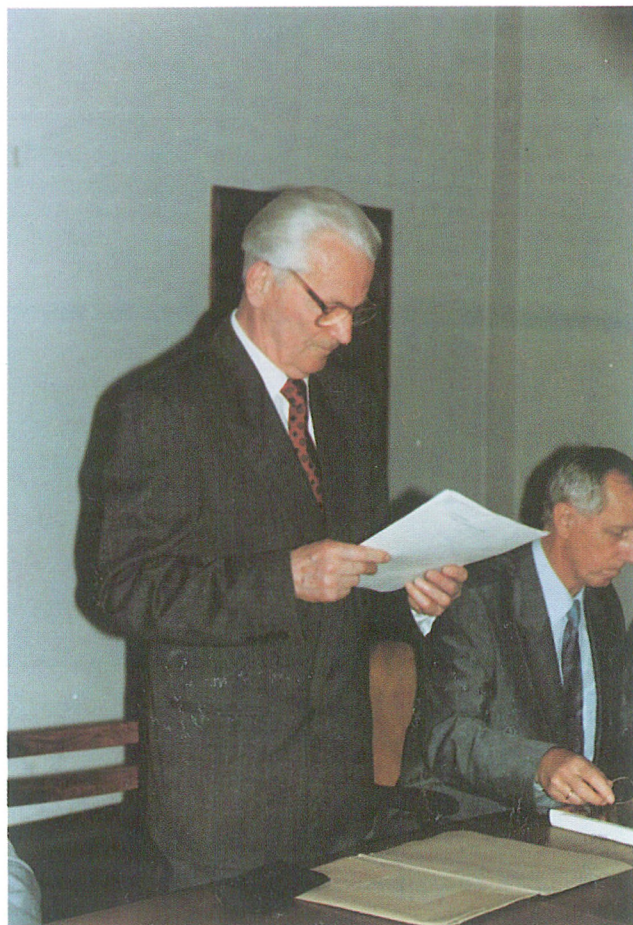


Stanislaw Geroch with F. M. Gradstein (*centre*) and M. A. Kaminski (*right*) in Zawadka Rymańska during an excursion in 1992 (photo by A. Ślaczka)

Young Geroch mentioned that he would like to study foraminifera. Książkiewicz advised him that there was only one thing that he should do: write to Joseph Cushman and ask him whether he could study at the Cushman Laboratory. Geroch received a reply from Ruth Todd informing him that sadly, Cushman had just passed away. Forty years later, here we were spending our Christmas holidays looking through the Cushman Collection. Stan was surprised to find some interesting species of *Reophax* in the collections, and the article he prepared during his visit there turned out to be his last. After his stay in Washington, Stan flew on to California to spend the holidays with his son. The snapshots Peter Geroch later showed me were of a relaxed, physically fit Stan wearing sports outfits and fashionable sunglasses, visiting geologically fascinating places such as Yosemite National Park, and Death Valley. What a wonderful way to celebrate the beginning of his retirement!

This brings me to my last contact with Stan, which was on the Friday before he passed away. This "contact" did not take place in the normal manner, but took place entirely telepathically. Yes, telepathically. If this may seem strange, so be it. Our whole western civilization since the time of Abraham is based more upon belief than fact, and I will be the first to concede that there are some phenomena that defy scientific explanation. In any case, I will swear for the rest of my days that what follows is the complete truth.

In the early afternoon of Friday June 18, 1995, I had just returned from a lunchtime appointment with the graphic designer who had finally completed the artwork for the cover of our book, the "Proceedings of the Fourth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera", which Stan had co-edited (only a few days earlier, I had received his final corrections to the text). On this hot day in June, I ran from



Stanislaw Geroch presiding at the PhD Thesis defence of Jaroslaw Tyszka: June, 1995

the Artist's Bloomsbury studio to the photocopy shop to make a couple of colour photocopies of the book cover, because I wanted to send one to Stan immediately. I addressed the envelope in the normal manner, and just as I was putting the artwork into the envelope, a deadening thought crossed my mind. This thought came upon me with all the subtlety of a sledgehammer. I had never thought of anything like this before or since, and I conducted a sort of morbid mental conversation with myself. My exact thoughts as I sealed the envelope were "I do hope that Stan gets this before it is too late". After thinking this, I mentally chastised myself "Don't ever think such terrible thoughts again, Kaminski", I told myself: "Stan is a healthy guy, what ever made you think otherwise?" I knew that Stan had been feeling poorly the previous year, but that he had taken some time off from work and had made a complete recovery. I left my office that day with an eerie feeling. Little did I know that on that same day in Kraków, Stan was clearing out his desk and returning all his Library books.

On Monday morning I opened my Email to find a message from Professor Morycowa, which read "Stan suffered a major heart attack – taken to hospital". Somehow I knew that this was the last I would hear from my old friend Stan. By some strange and horrid coincidence, I had spent much of that same day at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead,

because my son Matthew was hospitalised with a high fever and a suspected infection. My worst fears were confirmed by a second message the following day.

I have no rational or logical explanation for the events that took place that fateful week in June 1995. Surely it can be argued that because Stan was a "saintly" sort of man, perhaps (like James Stewart in *Wonderful Life*) he did have a guardian angel who told him he had an appointment to keep in a few days time. Maybe *Clarence* whispered something in my ear that Friday afternoon on his way to Kraków.

Peter Geroch opened my envelope when he arrived in Kraków for the funeral. It really is pity that Stan didn't see the artwork for the book, or witness some of the other fine things that happened in 1996, such as the birth of his Grandson, the installation of new microscopes and computers in his lab, or the opening of the new Grzybowski Library (which was supposed to provide him with a peaceful place to work in his retirement). However, Stan left this world with the knowledge of all the wonderful changes that were about to take place. I have a mental picture of him dressed in his grey suit, standing straight as an arrow, his little brown briefcase under one arm, giving a "Hey Ho" and a quick wave with his right hand held over his head (which was his custom) and walking off briskly into the sunset. This is the way I will choose to remember my old friend Stan. I only hope that his cheerful demeanour, mild manner, and total dedication to science will serve as an inspiration to those who will follow his footsteps through the Carpathians.

Mike Kaminski
London, United Kingdom

In 1979/1980 during a sabbatical in Woods Hole, while working on the taxomony, paleobathymetry, and paleogeography of deep-water agglutinated foraminifera (DWAF), Bill Berggren and I formulated the plan to pay a visit to the cradle of deep marine agglutinated foraminifera, southern Poland. It was there that the first industrial micropaleontologist Józef Grzybowski over 100 years back successfully pioneered oil well correlations and paleobathymetry with the many agglutinated taxa he authoritatively described from the intensely faulted and folded Carpathian flysch units. Hence we contacted the DWAF scholar and keeper of the famous Grzybowski Collection, Dr. Stanislaw Geroch, with the request to come for a study visit. Stan was quick to arrange this, as a guest of his Jagiellonian University and the Polish Academy of Sciences. In the late summer of 1980 we set out for Poland, during the height of the confrontation between the peoples' movement "Solidarity" and the Polish Communist Government. It was one of the darkest moments in the Polish economy, and heading northeast from Vienna by car, we loaded the car with supermarket goods for our colleagues at the Geological Institute of the Jagiellonian University. After a fairly eventful trip, like our new rental car running dry of oil in southern Poland without any oil to buy, we arrived in Kraków. The stay in Kraków was a learning experience in detailed DWAF taxonomy and its application to Carpathian geology. The in-

spiriting and fruitful exchange of views with Stan helped pave the way for the first IWAF conference in Amsterdam in September 1981. But there was more to visit than only science, as we experienced the warm personal contact that Stan and his wife Stefania extended to the three of us. I recall an exquisite dinner served in a quiet, personal atmosphere at their nice apartment home, with special food that they must have kept for special occasions at a time when there was economic hardship. Stan appreciated our interest in music culture, and obtained tickets for us to a single concert by the “Medieval Music Society of Uppsala”. It became a rousing, vibrant experience in a medieval hall of the University, reflecting the long cultural traditions of Central Europe. The visit that summer to Kraków was a scholarly experience steeped in culture and the warm hospitality extended us by the Gerochs.

*Felix M. Gradstein
Sandvika, Norway*

My impression of our Professor Geroch was of a truly dedicated scientist from the old school. He was a fine man who always had time for his students. I met him for the first time near the end of my freshman year, but I didn't attend his lectures until two years later. This was, of course, his third-year Micropalaeontology course – the first one for me – and sadly the last one that Professor Geroch taught. Pro-

fessor Geroch always began his lectures at 8:30 in the morning. However, he was always so well prepared that he could have begun 15 minutes early. It was a small classroom, as the group was small in the spring semester. If someone wanted to become acquainted with the wonderful world of micropalaeontology, there couldn't have been a better place or teacher. Professor Geroch was able to lecture for two full hours with only a 15 minute break. If he had come across an interesting article, he simply gave us photocopy. It seemed that Professor could talk about his favourite microfossils for hours. I think he really loved his small, yet extremely important, micropalaeontological world.

The final lecture – summertime – and beyond the classroom window we have a fine view of green trees and a sunlit morning. Everyone wanted to know what the examination will be about, but first – the last lecture of the course. As was his style, Professor Geroch showed us overheads, slides, and waited for questions. At the end of the lecture he told us that the examination will be in the form of orals, that he will be available during the examination session, and that we only needed to make an appointment with him. He did mention, that he would like to get through the examinations as soon as possible. I did just that, and just a couple of weeks later I heard the sad news.

Nobody wants to be the last student of Professor Geroch.

*Joanna Brandys
Kraków, Poland*

Announcement

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STANISŁAW GEROCH MEMORIAL STUDENT GRANT-IN-AID

The Grzybowski Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the Stanislaw Geroch Memorial Student Grant-in-Aid. The grant, in the amount of 500 zł for 1998, is established to honour the memory of Prof. Geroch and his pioneering work on Carpathian Foraminifera. The Grzybowski Foundation envisages that one grant will be available each academic year. In the event that multiple applications are received, preference will be given to applicants who are carrying out research on benthic foraminifera.

Purpose: The Stanislaw Geroch Memorial Student Grant-in-Aid was established to assist a masters-level student who is in the final year of study, and who is writing a masters thesis on the subject of Micropaleontology. The grant is given to offset the costs of carrying out research that will result in a masters thesis. The grant is intended to reimburse actual research costs, not as a supplement to a stipend.

Eligibility: Open to any masters student studying in Poland.

Requirements: The applicant must complete an application form, available from the Secretary of the Grzybowski Foundation, MSc Urszula Mazurkiewicz. The application is to be sent to Dr. Michael Kaminski (Department of Geological Sciences, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT). Applications will be ranked by the board of trustees of the foundation. The deadline for receipt of applications is October 30 of each year. Notice of the award will be sent by the end of December. One copy of the thesis must be deposited in the Grzybowski Foundation Library.

Information: More information, and application forms for the Stanislaw Geroch Memorial Student Grant-in-Aid can be obtained from the Grzybowski Foundation's website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/geolsci/Grzybowski/gf.html>.

GRANT MAGISTERSKI IM STANISŁAWA GEROCHA PRZEZNACZONY DLA STUDENTÓW

Fundacja im J. Grzybowskiego ma przyjemność zawiadomić, że podjęła decyzję o ufundowaniu grantu magisterskiego im Stanisława Gerocha dla studentów kontynuujących badania w ramach prac magisterskich. Grant został ufundowany dla upamiętnienia badań prowadzonych przez prof. S. Gerocha w zakresie mikrofauny otwornicowej. Fundacja Grzybowskiego przewiduje, że grant będzie przyznawany w każdym roku akademickim. Preferowane będą prace dotyczące analiz otwornic bentonicznych.

Cel: Grant został ustanowiony jako dofinansowanie badań prowadzonych przez studentów piątego roku studiów dziennych, którzy przygotowują prace magisterskie z zakresu mikropaleontologii. W roku 1998 grant wyniesie 500 zł. Będzie on przydzielany wyłącznie na pokrycie kosztów badań, nie zaś jako dodatkowe stypendium lub nagroda finansowa dla magistranta.

Przeznaczenie: Przeznaczone dla wszystkich studentów studiujących w Polsce.

Wymagania: Student musi wypełnić formularz, który znajduje się u sekretarza Fundacji Grzybowskiego p. mgr Urszuli Mazurkiewicz. Formularz powinien zostać wysłany do Dr M.A. Kaminskiego (Department of Geological Sciences, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT). Aplikacje będą oceniane przez powołaną do tego celu Radę Fundacji. Ostateczny termin nadsyłania zgłoszeń upływa 30 października każdego roku. Zawiadomienie o decyzji Rady w kwestii przyznania grantu zostanie przesłane do zainteresowanych osób w terminie do 31 grudnia. Osoba, która otrzyma grant jest zobowiązana do przekazania jednej bezpłatnej kopii swojej pracy magisterskiej do Biblioteki Grzybowskiego, która znajduje się przy Intytucie Nauk Geologicznych Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego.

Dodatkowe informacje: Informacje dotyczące grantu oraz odpowiednie formularze znajdują się również w sieci Internetu na stronie <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/geolsci/Grzybowski/gf.html>

Michael A. Kaminski