

IN MEMORY

Danuta Cholewicka-Meysner
 October 27, 1942 – June 10, 2001



Anyone who ever met Danuta will remember falling under the charm of her enthusiasm, sense of humour and incredible interest in the world around her. Danuta was of the World War II generation – she was born on the 27th of October, 1942, in Kielce City, the third of four daughters. She was shaped by the traditions and Catholic upbringing of a family of many living generations and strong family ties. She had the best of role models to follow at home, as regards dealing with life as a righteous person. Her father, Włodzimierz Cholewicki, organized the branch of Państwowy Zakład Ubezpieczeń - PZU (social insurance) in Lower Silesia, and was that organization's only long-term non-communist-party-affiliated manager in the "Stalin years"; he spent many years under house arrest. Her husband, Tadeusz Meysner, was also a non-party-affiliated professional, working as the only such vice-manager of the large building company "WPB-Północ" in Wrocław.

Danuta's life in Wrocław began when she was four years old, in 1946, and it was there she attended and graduated primary school, the II Secondary School of Wrocław, and the Faculty of Physics of Wrocław University.

The Girl Scouts had a strong influence on her personality. During her secondary school years, she belonged to a scout group and, before the political change in Poland after the October '56 events, it was a good solid school of perseverance, bravery and co-operation, and let her gain sailing qualifications and a scout's fitness, as well as develop her inherent traits: resourcefulness, enterprise, loyalty and righteousness in all manner of situations. She was the personification of energy and hard work, and was always ready with a helping hand for anyone who needed it. In any and every situation, she and her words could be relied upon.

After she graduated from the Wrocław University Physics Faculty in 1965, she immediately transferred her energy to the geological community of that educational institution. At the time, the latter was led by two men, Professors Henryk Teisseyre and Józef Zwierzycki, both

internationally famous in scientific circles. She taught geological novices with a fresh logic and precision of thought, making great use of geophysical examples. She built up a well-equipped geophysics laboratory from scratch, and was capable of utilising it to great effect in both strictly scientific research and in applicational testing procedures. Those who worked with her spoke of her scientific abilities with great respect.

When she was a post-graduate, she married Tadeusz Meysner. Their only child, a son, was born three years into their marriage. Unfortunately, fate had dark times in store for her, as her husband fell seriously ill, and her father died suddenly. With a small child and an ailing husband in her care, she had to juggle her responsibilities to them with her PhD work at Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza - AGH (Academy of Mining and Metallurgy) in Kraków.

Her PhD thesis, titled "A magnetic profile-based study of the composition of the magmatic rocks from the vicinity of Sobótka", was a research project on the magnetic field of a very interesting and difficult (from a geological point of view) area, namely the contact area of three units: the granites of the Strzegom-Sobótka Massif, the Ślęza gabbros and the Wzgórze Kiełczyńskie serpentinites. Despite the difficulty, she completed the research to the satisfaction of her supervisors. Her viva was held in 1982 in AGH in Kraków, and on the 25th of October of that year, the Faculty Board awarded her the title of Doctor of Technical Sciences in the field of Geophysical Prospecting. In Kraków, she gained and treasured friendship and respect among geophysicists.

The research papers of her professional career focused on geophysical identification of the deep structure of the Sudetes and their ores. Among other topics, she worked on defining tectonic zones and their mineralization in the Góry Bialskie, using geomagnetic and VLF radio-wave methods, and on the geophysical identification of the Strzegomiany-Kunów ilmenite-vanadinite mineralization zone (near the town of Sobótka), using the VLF method (co-operative work with J. Farbisz).

Danuta was also in the process of collecting data for her habilitation thesis, which was to be on the modelling of the deep structure of the Góry Sowie Mts. gneiss block via the use of potential fields. Unfortunately, she was not to finish this work, which would have been of key importance in the regional geological picture of the Sudetes.

After over 20 years' illness, her husband died. She directed all of her energy into bringing up her son and into her professional career. For nine years in her family home, together with her sisters she took care of her paralyzed mother. She also helped her in-laws until the end of their days, and took care of others from outside of her family.

Danuta died on the 10th of June, 2001, of an incurable illness, with which she had battled for a long time. Despite

problems with walking and speaking caused by this condition, she prepared the materials for lectures for her replacement, so as to avoid disturbing the didactic work at the University. Furthermore, she continued to journey to the Social Welfare Home at Klecina (southern district of Wrocław), where she helped and supported friends, who were then without families of their own. She was also heavily involved in the Franciscan parish of St. Augustine.

Danuta Cholewicka-Meysner was a demanding and well-liked educator of many generations of geology students. She was also a strong link in the team of the Department of Structural Geology and Cartography. In everything she did, her thoughts were on the common good. Her loss is our loss. She earned our respect and friendship, and will remain in our best memories.

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