

IN MEMORIAM



Prof. Dr. habil. Michał Bednarski (1944–2022)

Professor Michał Bednarski, linguist, classical philologist, polyglot, passed away on 18 February 2022 in Kraków at the age of 77. The funeral ceremony took place in Tyniec near Kraków on 24 February.

He was born on 2 September 1944 in Raszczyce in Silesia, on the border between Rybnik and Racibórz Regions. Having passed matriculation exams in Rybnik in 1965, he moved to Kraków, where he studied

classical philology at the Jagiellonian University. Immediately after his graduation in 1970, Bednarski became a member of the staff of the Classical Philology Faculty of the Jagiellonian University, pursuing his teaching and research career in linguistics. His academic mentor, Professor Jan Safarewicz, supervised his doctoral thesis (defended in 1977), which was devoted to verb intransitivization in colloquial Latin. He received his post-doctoral habilitation degree at the Jagiellonian University in 1994, based on his monograph *Studia nad grecką terminologią gramatyczną Apolloniosa Dyskolosa (Study of the Greek Grammatical Terminology of Apollonius Dyscolus)*. Soon after, he took up a position at the University of Silesia in Katowice, where he was the chair of the recently established Faculty of Classical Philology in 1998–2002. Professor from 2001, he retired in 2014.

His academic activity spanned three main fields. Chronologically, the first was Ancient colloquial Latin, which was the subject of both his doctoral thesis and his book *Łacina potoczna (Colloquial Latin, 1981)*. His next area of interest was Modern Greek. Soon after defending his PhD, as the first Polish scholar, he received a scholarship in Athens and in Thessaloniki in 1978, where he graduated with distinction from a school of Modern Greek. In 1985, the Jagiellonian University Press published his manual of Modern Greek, the first of this kind in Poland. The third area of his interest concerned the achievements of the Ancient Greek linguistics, in particular of its most outstanding representative, Apollonius Dyscolus, who lived in Alexandria in the 2nd century CE. It was Dyscolus to whom Professor Bednarski devoted his post-doctoral thesis and his second monograph *Apollonios Dyskolos i jego gramatyka (Apollonius Dyscolus and his Grammar, 2000)*, as well as translating into Polish the most important extant work of Dyscolus: his four-volume treatise *Peri tes suntaxeos (2000)*.

Moreover, Professor Bednarski authored numerous academic papers and entries related to Greek and Latin in the Polish Edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He was a member of Polskie Towarzystwo Filologiczne (Polish Philological Association), Polskie Towarzystwo Językoznawcze (Polish Linguistic Society, where he sat on the Main Board for several years) and Komisja Filologii Klasycznej PAU (Commission on Classical Philology of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences). It should also be

noted that for many years, he worked as a German, Modern Greek and Latin sworn translator.

Whoever knew Professor Bednarski remembers his keen sense of humor and rare serenity. He was very popular among students, who were enchanted with his smile and wit. One of his exceptional traits, which he shared with his mentor Professor Safarewicz, was a total lack of envy, anger, resentment or smugness. Always friendly, helpful, and forgiving, he will be fondly remembered by many of us.

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