

PROFESSOR OLAF ROGALEWSKI
1924–2015



Professor Olaf Rogalewski, a distinguished theoretician and practitioner in the spatial planning in tourism, passed away on July 16, 2015.

Olaf Rogalewski was born on July 26, 1924 in Wolsztyn in the Wielkopolska region. After World War II he and his family moved to Wrocław where he went to school taking his final exam (matura) in 1947. His first job was in Wrocław was at the Regional Spatial Planning Office (1947), next he moved to the Voivodship Committee for Economic Planning (1949), all this while studying anthropogeography at the University of Wrocław (1947-51) graduating with an M.Phil. His master's thesis *Geograficzne podstawy przemysłu wrocławskiego* (The Geographical Base of Industry in Wrocław) was prepared under the supervision of Prof. Józef Wąsowicz. In 1949-1950 he studied at the School of Spatial Planning at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Wrocław headed by Prof. Kazimierz Dziewoński.

In July 1953 Olaf Rogalewski was transferred to the National Committee for Economic Planning in Warsaw. He worked there until 1958 as head of the Spatial Planning Department and then as an advisor to the chairman in matters of spatial planning. In 1958 he

was moved to the Tourism Committee, and in 1960 to the Central Committee of Physical Culture as head of the Department of Tourism Development. The work of this department included preparing a list of powiats with a special predisposition towards tourism development, as well as a classification of tourism settlements. This work became the spatial policy base for the development of tourism in Poland

From 1959 Olaf Rogalewski worked with the department of Economic Geography at the University of Wrocław. He gave lectures on economic and regional spatial planning, and later also on the geography of tourism. In 1962 he received a doctorate from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Wrocław with his thesis *Przemiany w stosowaniu różnych typów budulca na wsi polskiej w okresie 1899-1950* (Changes in the use of Building Materials in Polish Rural Areas: 1899-1950), which he wrote under the guidance of Prof. Józef Wąsowicz.

In 1967 Olaf Rogalewski became head of the newly-established Centre for Tourism Development of the Central Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism in Wrocław, which replaced the former studium. The preparation of *Plan kierunkowy zagospodarowania tury-*

stycznego Polski (Directions for Tourism Development in Poland 1968-70) was the greatest achievement of the Centre and Olaf Rogalewski was its main designer. *Plan kierunkowy zagospodarowania turystycznego Polski* became a source of information concerning tourism resources and their potential. All subsequent national and regional tourism planning was based on assessments of the geographical environment and proposals for its use included in the plan. The findings were later developed into models of tourism development in various types of tourism area and resort.

In 1972 The Institute of Tourism came into being. It was based on the Centre of Tourism Development and it functioned as a research institute for the Central Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism. Dr. Olaf Rogalewski worked there in 1973-75 as a docent. In 1973 he received the degree of *doctor habilitatus* of natural sciences in the field of geography at the University of Wrocław. The title of his habilitation thesis was his publication *Podstawy gospodarki przestrzennej w turystyce* (The Bases of Spatial Planning in Tourism – 1972), published by the Central School of Planning and Statistics within the publication series *Ruch Turystyczny – Monografie*. Reviewers of the thesis and achievements of Dr Olaf Rogalewski were Profs Kazimierz Libera (CSPS), Wojciech Walczak (University of Wrocław) and Antoni Wrzosek (Jagiellonian University in Kraków). The reviewers stressed that the habilitation thesis was the first world example of a synthesis of the most important issues concerning the spatial tourism economy. They called it a significant achievement based on the discipline of tourism development and noted its great practical value from the fact that it organized tourism in terms of socio-economic, spatial planning, nature conservation and tourism development issues. Dr. Olaf Rogalewski was also a co-funder (with Prof. Leszek Baraniecki) and lecturer at the Postgraduate School of Tourism Geography at the University of Wrocław which was opened in 1972. It was the first postgraduate course of its kind in Poland and was directed at broadening knowledge concerning geographical factors conditioning the development of tourism. The course was meant to assist tour operators, tourism managers and those involved with the economic and spatial planning of tourism. In Wrocław Prof. Olaf Rogalewski is also considered an initiator and co-originator of the Wrocław school of the geography of tourism, as well as a research and design centre dealing with tourism.

In 1975 Olaf Rogalewski joined the Central School of Planning and Statistics (later renamed Warsaw School of Economics) and was Chair of Tourism. He worked there until 1993: a vice-dean at the Socio-economic Faculty (1978-81) and deputy, and later,

editor-in-chief of *Ruch Turystyczny* – one of the most important academic publishing houses in tourism. He supervised the dissertations of five doctoral students, in 1987 he received the title Professor of Economics and later the position of a full professor. He was also a member of the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism (AIEST).

In 1993, as president of the Association for the staff advancement in Tourism Management, Prof. Olaf Rogalewski achieved ministerial consent for the first private tourism college – the Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management in Warsaw. He became its rector and ran it until 2005. The college mainly targeted working professionals employed in the tourism business, its lecturers having vast teaching and tourism business experience. Many of the college's graduates became managers in Poland's tourism industry. Among the more important publications of this college is the series of ten volumes of the Yearbook of the Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management. From 2007 to the day of his death Prof. Olaf Rogalewski was connected to Vincent Pol University in Lublin.

Prof. Rogalewski's output in terms publications and research is very rich. It includes around 230 articles, five books on spatial planning in tourism, tourism development and policy as well as dozens of plans, project designs and academic reports. Apart of those mentioned earlier, are *Walory turystyczne Polski* (Tourism Assets of Poland) (as co-author), Polskie Towarzystwo Ekonomiczne, Wrocław 1965; *Zagospodarowanie turystyczne* (Tourism Development), Wydawnictwo Szkolne i Pedagogiczne, Warszawa 1974; *Uwagi w sprawie zagospodarowania przestrzennego Tatrzańskiego Regionu Turystycznego* (Remarks on Spatial Planning of the Tatra Tourism Region), *Ruch Turystyczny*, book no. 2/43, Warszawa 1975; *Program sieci obszarów chronionych w Polsce – synteza* (Program for a Network of Protected Areas in Poland – a Synthesis (co-author), Komitet Ochrony Przyrody i Jej Zasobów, Kraków 1976; *Die aktuellen Probleme und Entwicklungsperspektiven des Tourismus zwischen Polen und Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, in *Osttourismus – Chance der Begegnung*, Loccumer Protokolle nr 18, Loccum (Germany) 1978; *Turystyka i krajoznawstwo a ochrona środowiska przyrodniczego* (Tourism and Sightseeing versus Nature Conservation), in *Ochrona i kształtowanie środowiska przyrodniczego*, vol. II, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa-Kraków 1978; *Le tourisme polonais dans le monde*, in *L'anatomie du tourisme*. Revue Internationale des Sciences Sociales vol. XXXII, Paris 1980; *Funkcje turystyczne Warszawy* (Tourism Functions in Warsaw), *Ruch Turystyczny*, issue 1-2/53-54, Warszawa; *Urlopowa turystyka wypoczynkowa w środowisku Odry* (Vacationing around the Odra River), Instytut

Śląski w Opolu, Seria Odra i Nadodrze, Opole 1983; *Entwicklungstrends der touristischen Nachfrage in den sozialistischen Ländern*, in: *Entwicklungstrends der touristischen Nachfrage* Publications de l'AIEST, vol. 26, St. Gallen 1985; *Typologia walorów i migracji turystycznych* (Typology of Tourism Values), Rocznik Dydaktyczny WSTH, Warszawa 1996.

Prof. Olaf Rogalewski was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit, Knight's and Officer's Cross of Order of Polonia Restituta, Medal of Commission of National Education and the gold medals *Za opiekę nad zabytkami* (For Protection of National Monuments) and *Zasłużony Działacz Turystyki* (Distinguished Tourism Activist).

Prof. Olaf Rogalewski played an important role in creating the base for the spatial economy in tourism and in determining the tourism capacity of the Polish geographical environment. He contributed to the creation of Poland's system of tourism education based mainly on practice and practitioners. A large group of those connected to Polish tourism gained their management, research, planning and academic experience due to Prof. Rogalewski. Many of them achieved high professional and academic positions. They may be called the students of the excellent 'tourism school of Professor Olaf Rogalewski'.

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