

Stanisław Kałużyński

Many friends of Professor Stanisław Kałużyński know how passionately and with deep knowledge he is able to speak about the world of fish, birds and nature in general. Those interests, unexpected for an Orientalist, can be explained by his early childhood which was closely connected with forests. The father of the future scholar was a forester and in the twenties he was stationed in Świerczów, near to Kolbuszowa, in the province of Rzeszów. It was there that Stanisław Paweł Kałużyński was born on the 6th of August, 1925.

Stanisław Kałużyński went to school in Wierchosławice and later in Tarnów. Before the beginning of the Second World War he graduated from primary school and completed two classes of the gymnasium. When all schools were closed down by the nazis Stanisław Kałużyński went back to his native region. He was a forest worker and in 1943–44 a member of AK (Polish Underground Army) at the same time studying secretly. In 1944 he passed so called “small matriculation” (*mała matura*), which had to be taken in secret in the forest.

After the war Stanisław Kałużyński completed his education at the Humanities Liceum in Tarnów. In 1946 he passed his matriculation examinations and then in the autumn of the same year he entered the University of Wrocław. At the beginning he was thinking about studying biology, as could be considered suitable for a son of a forester, however he was too late with his application and therefore he registered at the Faculty of Humanities. As he recalls today even then he was interested in languages and cultures, and particularly those that could be considered exotic.

“Exotic languages” was the main field at the Institute of Oriental Philologies. The Institute offered its students a choice of Indology or Middle East Studies. Stanisław Kałużyński chose the Middle East. His mentor was Professor Ananiasz Zajączkowski, a broadbased researcher, who with equal ease could move between the forests of Turkish Studies and the complexities of Arabian and Iranian Studies. Apart from Professor Zajączkowski other notable scholars in the Institute were Professor Kuryłowicz (specializing in general linguistics) and Professor Majewski (specializing in Greek history). From time to time the Mongolist, Professor Marian Lewicki, lectured in the Institute. It was with Professor Lewicki that Stanisław Kałużyński was to most closely cooperate in the future. To begin with he was not very interested in Mongolian Studies and his M.A. thesis was on wedding ceremonies of Anatolian Turks.

The completion of his M.A. (December 1950) finishes his time in Wrocław. On the invitation of Professor Lewicki he moved to Warsaw and on 29th of January, 1951 he commenced his career as a research assistant at the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Warsaw University. Interestingly the name of the Chair in which he started to work and which was headed by Professor Lewicki was called the Chair of Indian Philologies. This nomenclature was, as not having grounds any longer, soon abandoned and in 1954 we can see Kałużyński as an Adjunct Professor of the Chair of Philologies of Inner Asian Peoples.

It should be underlined that Kałużyński had been appointed as an Adjunct even though he was only a magister. Three months later, in January of 1955, he completed his Ph.D. and was given a title "candidate of science" for his work *Stosunki pokrewieństwa u ludów tureckich w XIX wieku* (*Kinship relations among Turkic peoples in the 19th century*). At this time his main focus was on the culture of Turks, but soon his primary interests would shift into Altaic Studies, largely under the influence of Professor Lewicki. He was one who advised his young colleague to pick up studies on then little known Yakut language and directed him towards the materials of Fedor V. Muromsky, preserved in the Kotwicz archives. In summer of 1955 the two scholars discussed the possibility of publishing those materials, but shortly after Professor Lewicki died and the plan was temporarily postponed.

In the end of 1956 Kałużyński went to the Soviet Union on a year long scholarship. He visited Moscow, Leningrad and Yakutsk, became acquainted with their libraries and established lifelong contacts. Experience gained during this trip became very useful while writing his scholarly dissertation (habilitation) *Mongolische Elemente in der Jakutischen Sprache*, today a classic, known to Altaists all over the world.

Stanisław Kałużyński obtained the title of Assistant Professor (*docent*) in 1963 and a year later was appointed to a tenured position. His professoral titles were awarded to him in the seventies, in 1971 that of Associate Professor and in 1979 that of full Professor. Those titles were awarded in recognition of his significant achievements as a Scientist, as a Teacher and as an Administrator.

The scholarly accomplishments of Professor Kałużyński and diversity of his interests are best seen through his bibliography. It opens with a translation of Turkish novel *Bizim köy* (*Our village*) by M. Makal that Stanisław Kałużyński translated in collaboration with Edward Tryjarski. He went on to translate other novels from Karakalpak and to publish an anthology of Turkic myths. However, while always maintaining a close interest in Turkic culture and language, this was not typical of the majority of his output. Much more prolific are his works in the field of Mongolian Studies. It consists of popular works on the history of the Mongols, a grammar of Classical Mongolian and translations, including an excellent translation of *The Secret History of the Mongols* that was twice reprinted. There is no doubt that Professor Kałużyński did a great deal to popularise knowledge about Mongolia in Poland. His contribution in this field was recognised by the Mongolian Government which twice honoured him with high awards: in 1971 with the Mongolian People's Republic 50th Anniversary Medal and in 1995 with the Order of the Polar Star.

In other countries, however, Professor Kałużyński is well known mainly as a specialist on the Yakut language and culture and as the editor of Muromsky's materials. As mentioned, he became familiar with Muromsky's materials in the mid fifties, but due to circumstances he was only able to study them after his habilitation. This study lasted several years. It resulted in series of articles about languages studied by Muromsky: Dagur, Sibe and Evenki-Solon. Most of the Sibe materials (texts and a dictionary) were published in a book *Die Sprache des mandschurischen Stammes Sibe*. This book and the above mentioned articles are till now the most important source of knowledge about the Sibe language.

Professor Kałużyński's main work on the Yakut language, *Mongolische Elemente in der Jakutischen Sprache* has been already mentioned. It should be added that it was not the first of his writings on that language: in 1959 he had published an article *Miejsce języka jakuckiego w grupie tureckiej* (*The position of Yakut in the Turkic group of languages*). Later on came the publication of the series of ethymological studies, of works about Tungus elements in the Yakut language and of treatises on Yakut literature and on the Polish tradition of Yakut Studies. For full reference to Professor Kałużyński's esteemed contribution to Yakut Studies we would refer readers to Professor Marek Stachowski¹. To further illustrate the high esteem in which the work of Professor Kałużyński is held in the field of Yakut Studies we quote the remarks of Professor Gavriil Popov, himself a Yakut. In a contribution to this volume that unfortunately could not be included he wrote that "Articles by Stanisław Kałużyński were always very useful and I have always gained something new from them. These articles served as my guide when researching my native language. And therefore though I have never had the opportunity of learning from him directly or participating in his lectures I regard Stanisław Kałużyński as my teacher and mentor."

The quotation from Professor Popov moves us towards Professor Kałużyński's achievements as a teacher which was as many sided as his scholarly contribution. It is no exaggeration to say that, in his teaching life, he has lectured in all the subjects which could be said to fall within the curriculum of an Altaist even including Manchu grammar and the history of Central Asia. He supervised the dissertations of more than fifty masters and six doctorates. One of his doctoral students has himself become a Professor. As a result when Professor Kałużyński retired in 1995 he did not have to worry about the future of the Department. And he still works as Professor emeritus for the Institute.

We are celebrating the jubilee of not only a world class scholar, an inspiring teacher but also a most able administrator. Unfortunately that administrative role in some ways restricted his scholarly and teaching activity and this is perhaps something that all Altaic scholars and pupils might regret. In 1964 he was appointed Head of the Chair of Philologies of Inner Asian Peoples which became a Department in 1969. Later when Mongolian Studies in Warsaw merged with Turkish Studies Professor Kałużyński became the head of the

¹ S. Kałużyński, *Iacutica*, Dialog, Warsaw 1995 (foreword by M. Stachowski).

newly established Department of Turkish Studies and Inner Asian Peoples and he fulfilled this duty until 1985. He was Dean of the Faculty of Philologies from 1968 to 1973 and a Vice Rector of Warsaw University from 1973 to 1975 and from 1982 to 1985. Moreover from 1969 until 1984, a period of fifteen years, he was Chairman of the Council of the Institute of Oriental Studies. Professor Kałużyński was also vice president of the Committee of Oriental Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences (1971–1980), the Chief Editor of “Przegląd Orientalistyczny” (1963–2003) and a member of the editorial board of “Rocznik Orientalistyczny” and “Prace Orientalistyczne”. In addition to these official duties he was and remains an active member of some six Polish and international scientific societies. These are the Société Finno-Ougrienne, Societas Uralo-Altaica, Polskie Towarzystwo Orientalistyczne (Polish Oriental Society), Polskie Towarzystwo Językoznawcze (Polish Linguistic Society), Polskie Towarzystwo Religioznawcze (Polish Association for the Study of Religions) and Towarzystwo Naukowe Warszawskie (Warsaw Scientific Society). Indeed it is difficult to comprehend how one can reconcile so many duties and yet be so interested in all world affairs and be so unfailingly cheerful; a most remarkable man!

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