

PROFESSOR MARIA PARADOWSKA PH.D. HABIL.  
(1932–2011)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE PERIODICAL  
“ETHNOLOGIA POLONA” (2000–2006)

Having been born in Poznań as the daughter of a well-known paediatrician Marian Szenic and Aniela Sobocka, she claimed a secure place amidst the intelligentsia of that town's society as her birthright. Since her childhood she was interested in the Bamberger past of her hometown, as well as in the cultures of various societies, especially those of Latin America, and their Polish researchers. A course of study in History of Material Culture at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań was her path to scientific research of the issues that absorbed her. She concluded her studies in 1960, having written her M.A. thesis entitled *Bambrzy. Mieszkańcy dawnych wsi Poznania* [*The Posener Bamberger: Inhabitants of the Old Poznań Villages*].

Her own research passions she began to realise at the Poznań division of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), where she was formally employed for full forty years: from 1963 to 2003. It was there that she climbed the consecutive levels of academic career, acquiring the doctoral, post-doctoral (Ph.D. habil.) and professorial titles, and published the results of her research and analyses. In the years 1993–2003 she was the Head of the Chair of Ethnology at the IAE PAN in Poznań.

Almost to the last days of her life she participated in the activities of the Institute and its Scientific Council. She was the supervisor of the grant research on the cult of St. Adalbert in Poland and the cooperation with the Bamberg University with the resulting research and seminars.

The range of research and the scientific output of Professor Maria Paradowska are impressive indeed, consisting of nineteen<sup>1</sup> books and over two hundred articles

<sup>1</sup> Including (titles translated solely for the present text): *Polskie relacje o Iraku XIX wieku jako źródło etnograficzne* [*Polish Accounts of Iraq as an Ethnographic Source*], Poznań 1973; *Bambrzy. Mieszkańcy dawnych wsi miasta Poznania* [*The Posener Bamberger: Inhabitants of the Old Poznań Villages*], PWN

relating mainly to the Posener Bamberger culture and the Polish researchers of Latin America. Her publications are now a permanent part of the canon of Polish ethnology.

Besides her research, her didactic output at the Institute of Ethnology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań was admirable. For many years she lectured on the history of ethnographic research carried out by Poles worldwide. In the period from 1985 to 1995 she also conducted classes on the history of Latin-American Polish diaspora, as well as the history and culture of Latin America, which she held for the Polonia Abroad in Poznań within the framework of the Society of Christ Fathers for Poles Living Abroad.

Professor Maria Paradowska's social activity merits special attention, connected as it was with the creation in 1996 of the Posener Bamberger Association, which he chaired to the end of her life, and the Bamberger Museum in Poznań. For this effort, in May 2009 she received from the European Parliament the prestigious European Civic Award for social work uniting the Polish and the German nations. For her scientific achievements and social work she received many other honours and awards. It must also be noted that from 2003 she held the post of a councillor, affiliated to the Platforma Obywatelska party, in the Parliament of the Greater Poland Voivodship.

Professor Maria Paradowska was always approachable and open to her fellow human beings, and her ethical code, both in her professional and private life, was impeccable. Her passing is an immeasurable loss to the entire ethnological community in Poland.

*Anna Urbańska-Szymoszyn*

Warsaw–Poznań 1975 (German edition Bamberg 1994, amended and extended editions Poznań 1995 and 1998); *Polacy w Ameryce Południowej* [*Poles in South America*], Ossolineum 1977; *Śladami Indian. Antologia polskich relacji o Indianach Ameryki Południowej* [*In the Footsteps of the Indians; Anthology of Polish Accounts on the South American Indians*], Ossolineum 1979; *Podróżnicy i emigranci. Szkice z dziejów wychodźstwa polskiego w Ameryce Południowej* [*Travellers and Emigrants; Sketches on the History of Polish Emigration in South America*], Warsaw 1985; *Polacy w Meksyku i Ameryce Środkowej* [*Poles in Mexico and Central America*], Ossolineum 1985; *Przyjmij laur zwycięski (Krzysztof Arciszewski)* [*Accept the Laurels of Victory (Krzysztof Arciszewski)*], Katowice 1987; *Wśród Indian i Metysów. Antologia relacji polskich o mieszkańcach Meksyku i Ameryki Środkowej* [*Among the Indians and the Metis; Anthology of Polish Accounts on the Inhabitants of Mexico and Central America*], Ossolineum 1989; *Wkład Polaków w rozwój cywilizacyjno-kulturowy Ameryki Łacińskiej* [*Polish Input in the Civilisational and Cultural Development of Latin America*], Warsaw 1992; *Ksiądz Ignacy Posadzy. Wszystko dla Boga i Polonii* [*Father Ignacy Posadzy; All for God and Polonia*], Poznań 1998; *I szedł przez pola, łąki, lasy... Święty Wojciech w tradycji ludowej* [*And He Walked among the Fields, Meadows, Forests... St. Adalbert in the Folk Tradition*], Poznań 2000; *Krzysztof Arciszewski – admirał wojsk holenderskich w Brazylii* [*Krzysztof Arciszewski: the Admiral of Dutch Army in Brazil*], Warsaw–Wrocław 2001; Poznań. Bamberger Spuren. Stadtführer, Poznań 2002; *Poznań. Zabytki bamberskie. Przewodnik* [*Poznań. The Bamberger Monuments: a Guide*], Poznań 2002 (amended edition Poznań 2008); *O historii Bambrów inaczej* [*Differently on the Bamberger History*], Poznań 2003.