

OBITUARY



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In memoriam Janusz Krzysztof Kozłowski (1936–2025)

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Prof. Janusz Krzysztof Kozłowski, the outstanding and influential doyen of Polish prehistoric archaeology, passed away on January 17, 2025, at the age of 88 years. He is mourned not only by the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagellonian University of Kraków, which he regarded as his intellectual home, but also by many other renowned archaeological institutions around the world. As the president of Section II of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, he worked tirelessly to improve and expand the traditional collaboration with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was also a member of the editorial board of *Archaeologiai Értesítő* and *Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, playing an active role in the publication of stimulating papers in these journals. He initiated and actively participated in several Polish-Hungarian archaeological research projects. He tirelessly promoted the academic and intellectual collaboration between Kraków and Budapest, in recognition of which he was honoured with the title Doctor et Professor Honoris Causa by Eötvös Loránd University in 2017.

Professor Kozłowski's career in research and education is closely tied to the Jagellonian University of Kraków, where he graduated in 1957 and earned his PhD degree in 1962, his habilitation degree in 1976 and was appointed Professor of Archaeology the same year. His exceptional knowledge and extraordinarily wide range of interests earned him acclaim beyond Europe, too. His research covered the Palaeolithic of Eurasia, the archaeology of Central America, and he conducted a series of important excavations not only in Poland, but also in Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro, the Antilles, Cuba, Slovakia and Hungary. He was a great believer in the collaboration between the various disciplines and his work was truly interdisciplinary. In many cases, international collaborative projects turned into close friendships. His warm, endearing personality won much support for Polish archaeology.

The impressive scale of his academic work is amply reflected by the roughly 60 books and 500 articles he authored, co-authored or edited. Aside from Poland, he lectured in Liège, Brussels, Ghent, the Collège de France (Paris) and Harvard (Cambridge, Massachusetts). At the same time, archaeology students from many countries and archaeologists just starting their career found in him a committed mentor, generous with his time and extensive knowledge. An international network bridging the generations evolved around him. It is therefore hardly surprising that he was awarded the title Doctor et Professor Honoris Causa by the Jagellonian University and Bordeaux University, and was granted honorary fellowship in the British Prehistoric Society, was elected corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute, and foreign member of the Italian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Institute. He played an important role as he vice-president of the UNESCO International

Council for Philosophy and the Human Sciences and as a member of the council of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences. One important field of Professor Kozłowski's academic work was tightly bound to the prehistory of the Carpathian Basin, and to research on the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Copper Age of Hungary, giving a discretely Hungarian emotional background to our commemoration of his achievements.

PROF. JANUSZ KRZYSZTOF KOZŁOWSKI'S ROLE IN HUNGARIAN PALAEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC STUDIES

From the very beginning Prof. Kozłowski's interest turned towards the Stone Age hunter-gatherer societies of the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic, and he always strove to pursue his research at the highest possible level and to employ the most modern techniques available in his research. He applied for a grant at the François Bordes Institute of Bordeaux University, which at the time played the leading role in international research. Given his excellent proficiency in French, he could wholly familiarise himself with the theory and practice of the 'French School'. This professional foundation determined his entire academic career since he consistently applied the new methodological approaches and advances in French research. The defining characteristic of his scholarly attitude was his practice of looking at this period of human history on a scale encompassing five continents. He personally visited several sites and excavations, and was familiar with their finds. This immense knowledge predestined him to be – quite exceptionally – the sole author of the first volume covering the early history of humankind in the *World History* series published by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.¹

He soon came into contact with Hungarian Palaeolithic research. During a study trip in 1958, he identified a distinctive Polish lithic raw material, Świeciechów flint, in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum, compelling evidence of the contacts of the region's Ice Age communities extending far beyond the Carpathians.² He continued to keep abreast of research developments in the Carpathian Basin with a view to setting new findings in the dynamics of Central European prehistory. He was the first to convincingly demonstrate, as early as 1973, that the purportedly Mesolithic culture with macro-tools designated as Eger culture did not exist,³ and subsequent studies fully confirmed this view.

From the 2000s onward, even closer ties developed between Prof. Kozłowski and Hungarian Palaeolithic studies. The joint exploration of the early Upper Palaeolithic site at Andornaktálya-Zúgó-dűlő (2002–2004) marked the onset of

a close and very fruitful research collaboration, resulting in many novel research results in the ensuing two decades. The Polish-Hungarian excavation of the sites at Eger-Kővágó-dűlő (2006), Eger-Kőporos-tető (2009) and Andornaktálya-Gyilkos-tető (2013) shed important new light on the Palaeolithic in the Eger area and the articles published in *L'Anthropologie* and *Quaternary International* put the region on the map of the European Palaeolithic.⁴ Given his extensive first-hand knowledge of the period's finds, he immediately identified and demonstrated the production and use of blades distinctive to the earliest *Homo sapiens* groups settling in Europe, providing thereby a fresh perspective to the study of these northern Hungarian sites. The success of these collaborative research projects was greatly promoted by the scientific collaboration between the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences of Kraków, of which Prof. Kozłowski was definitely the main driving force.

He can be credited with launching an ambitious archaeological field project in 2011 that set itself the goal of mapping the lithic raw material resources of Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary, conducted with generous support from the International Visegrad Fund. He also played a major role in seeing the volume presenting the results of the project through to publication in 2013 by the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences of Kraków.⁵ The samples collected during the fieldwork conducted as part of this collaborative project were instrumental in the creation of a reference collection of siliceous rocks in the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University.⁶

PROF. JANUSZ KRZYSZTOF KOZŁOWSKI'S ROLE IN HUNGARIAN NEOLITHIC AND COPPER AGE STUDIES

Of the archaeological events initiated by Prof. Kozłowski with a relevance for Hungarian prehistoric studies, the first to be mentioned is the international conference '*The Lengyel, Polgár and related cultures in the Middle/Late Neolithic in Central Europe*' held between March 7 and 12, 2006, at the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków. The papers read at this conference appeared in a volume published jointly by the Polish Academy and the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University.⁷ Its outstanding significance for Hungarian prehistoric studies was that in addition to specialists representing European research, the contributors included 23 Hungarian prehistorians.

¹Kozłowski (2004).

²Kozłowski (1960).

³Kozłowski (1973).

⁴Kozłowski and Mester (2004); Kozłowski et al. (2009); Kozłowski et al. (2012); Budek et al. (2013); Mester et al. (2021).

⁵Mester (2013).

⁶Mester (2024).

⁷Kozłowski and Raczky (2007).

The next symposium, ‘Interactions between different models of Neolithization North of the Central European Agro-Ecological Barrier’ was organised between December 1 and 3, 2008, in Kraków, with the generous support of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences as part of a *EU Specific Targeted Research Project (FEPRE)*, providing a new platform for discussing and re-visiting former models on the neolithisation of the Carpathian Basin and Europe, making the conference volume a major source of reference for European prehistorians.⁸

Another conference, ‘Neolithization of the Carpathian Basin: Northernmost distribution of the Starčevo/Körös Culture’ was organised jointly by the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University, the Jagellonian University and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences as part of a *EU Specific Targeted Research Project (FEPRE)* between October 25 and 28, 2009, in Budapest, drawing numerous acclaimed specialists to the event, and the conference volume was again a joint Hungarian-Polish publication.⁹

Prof. Kozłowski’s personal inspiration was the springboard for redeeming one of the symbolic debts of Hungarian prehistoric studies by bringing together a modern synthesis of the Early Neolithic Körös culture in 2012. Roughly seventy years after Ida Kutzián’s 1944 monograph on this culture, we assembled a volume that ambitiously strove for a new synthesis that was published with generous support from *EU Specific Targeted Research Project (FEPRE)*. The favourable reception of this volume was greatly promoted by its publication as Volume 2334 of the BAR International Series edited by Janusz K. Kozłowski.¹⁰ The volume was the joint work of 19 Hungarian specialists, while the conscientious editing work was undertaken by Alexandra Anders and Zsuzsanna Siklósi. The chapter on the lithic tools of the Körös culture was written by Małgorzata Kaczanowska and Prof. Kozłowski.¹¹

In addition to the above Polish-Hungarian research collaborations, Prof. Kozłowski undertook, together with Małgorzata Kaczanowska, his long-time co-author, the assessment of the lithic finds from several Early, Middle and Late Neolithic sites of the Hungarian Plain, among which the most notable studies were prepared for the Endrőd 39,¹² Maroslele-Panahát,¹³ Tiszaszőlös-Domaháza-pusztá,¹⁴ Ibrány,¹⁵ Polgár-sziget¹⁶ and Apc-Berekalja¹⁷ sites, alongside

the analyses of the lithic inventories from the tell settlements of Öcsöd-Kováshalom¹⁸ and Berettyóújfalu-Herpály.¹⁹

It must also be highlighted that following his recommendations, several Polish interdisciplinary specialists partook in the prehistoric research projects conducted on the Hungarian Plain, many of whom became long-term colleagues and friends, who inspired our own research. Their ranks include Małgorzata Kaczanowska, Marek Nowak, Magdalena Moskal-del Hoyo, Tomasz Kalicki and Maria Lityńska-Zajac.

In the above appreciation of his academic achievements, our main focus was on the many strands binding the internationally acclaimed career of Prof. emeritus Janusz K. Kozłowski, both a respected scholar and an original thinker, to Hungarian archaeology. However, another, equally important aspect must also be mentioned in any commemoration: Professor Kozłowski’s humanness and upright moral stance in both his professional and private capacities were, for many of us, an example of how to lead a meaningful and authentic life in a busy world, remaining an example worth emulating in these difficult times! Prof. Kozłowski was at all times personally committed to nurturing the traditional Polish-Hungarian friendship, irrespective of the political climate in which we lived.

Janusz, rest in peace, we will preserve and cherish your memory!

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⁹Kozłowski and Raczky (2010).

¹⁰Anders and Siklósi (2012).

¹¹Kaczanowska and Kozłowski (2012).

¹²Kaczanowska et al. (1981).

¹³Kaczanowska et al. (2010).

¹⁴Domboróczki et al. (2010).

¹⁵Kaczanowska and Kozłowski (2010).

¹⁶Kozłowski and Kaczanowska (2009); Nagy et al. (2014); Kaczanowska and Kozłowski (2016); Kaczanowska et al. (2016).

¹⁷Domboróczki et al. (2016).

¹⁸Kaczanowska et al. (2009).

¹⁹Kaczanowska and Kozłowski (2015).

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