

## Jan R. Kutek (1935–2013) – Obituary

Bronisław A. MATYJA, Andrzej WIERZBOWSKI



We would like to dedicate these few sentences to our friend and colleague Jan Kutek who died on 24 October 2013 after short but inexorable illness. We do not intend in this note to make extensive references to his work but to briefly outline his achievements in the field of Jurassic stratigraphy which was always the favorite topic of his scientific work.

Professor Jan Kutek obtained his Master's degree at the University of Warsaw. Thereafter, all his scientific and academic career up to retirement in 2006 was strictly related to the Geological Faculty of the University of Warsaw. He obtained here his Doctorate's degree and the title of Professor. He occupied several senior academic positions in the University such as Director of the Institute of Geology (1972–1978), and Dean of the Geological Faculty (1980–1984), and four terms was a member of the Senate of the University of Warsaw. His academic lectures covered a wide range of subjects from stratigraphy to geotectonics. He supervised over 80 Master's degree students and 9 Doctorate's degree students. Since 1999 he was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Professor Jan Kutek was an outstanding Jurassic scientist, and an ultimate authority on stratigraphy. His theoretical studies on the character of zones initiated a discussion which resulted in a substantial modification of the subdivision of the Jurassic System in Poland, and especially the interpretation of the Upper Jurassic stratigraphical units. He was the author and the co-author of several papers devoted to various stratigraphical intervals as developed in various regions – from the shallow water carbonate deposits of the uppermost Oxfordian–Lower Kimmeridgian in the western Mesozoic border of the Holy Cross Mts in Central Poland, up to the Pieniny Klippen Belt in the Carpathians of southern Poland where he interpreted the biostratigraphy of the famous Tithonian ammonite lumachelles of Rogoźnik. The *opus magnum* of his studies remains, however, his set of papers devoted to the ammonite stratigraphy of the Volgian deposits (as well as of the uppermost Kimmeridgian) in Poland. Due to his studies which include four large monographs of Volgian ammonites containing more than one hundred plates, the interpretation of the Lower Volgian Substage in Poland achieved a larger stratigraphical precision than its counterpart on the Russian Platform.

Professor Jan Kutek was the author of over one hundred scientific papers published in a wide spectrum of geological journals. He remained, however, very closely involved with one of the leading Polish journals, *Acta Geologica Polonica*, where he was chairman of the editorial board.

Professor Jan Kutek will be remembered as an outstanding Jurassic stratigrapher, a person who initiated new stratigraphic ideas, and changed the stratigraphical interpretation of the Jurassic System in Poland. His scientific activity and achievements have always invoked a spirited response, and his stratigraphical approach attracted several scientists who were grouped around him. With his death ends a very important period in the stratigraphical studies of the Jurassic System, not only in Poland.