

Dr Janusz Kopik (1930–2021) – obituary

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Dr Janusz Kopik was an outstanding explorer of the Mesozoic, especially of the Jurassic in the field palaeontology, biostratigraphy and lithostratigraphy. Passionate about geology, he is remembered as a mentor for many generations of researchers and at the same time as a good, modest and friendly man. Since 1950, he has been working all his professional life with the Polish Geological Institute. He specialized in microfaunistic studies – foraminifera and ostracods, but he was best known for his outstanding works on Jurassic ammonites. On the basis of the ammonite fauna, he contributed to the biostratigraphic scheme of the epicontinental Jurassic sediments in Poland. He also conducted detailed taxonomic studies of ammonites from Svalbard. His sustainable contribution to science comprise number of works, *e.g.*, elaboration of ammonites of the genus *Cadomites* from the Upper Bajocian and Lower Bathonian, where he established four new taxa, or description of Callovian ammonites from the vicinity of Częstochowa containing palaeontological characteristics of representatives of the stratigraphically important family Kosmoceratidae. It should be mentioned that Janusz Kopik had a unique ability to correctly identify ammonites, which resulted from his diligence, caution in formulating the final assessment, modesty and vast knowledge. Due to all these virtues, cases of later modification of its determinations are very rare. His taxonomical monograph entitled “Bathonian ammonites of the families Sphaeroceratidae Buckman and Tulitidae Buckman from the Polish Jura Chain (Southern Poland)” earned him great recognition among ammonite palaeontologists. Of note is also his pioneering paleoecological works regarding the Upper Triassic, published together with Prof. Ryszard Dadlez some 60 years ago. Whenever anyone turned to him for help in identifying fossils, he always tried to be helpful without expecting anything in return. With his passing away, an important stage in the study of the Jurassic stratigraphy, not only in Poland, ended – but he will remain in his scientific output and our grateful memory.



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