

**Jadwiga Lipińska**  
(1932–2009)

*Professor Jadwiga Lipińska — Jagoda to us and Madame Goda to the Egyptians — was among Professor Kazimierz Michałowski's closest collaborators and, much like the Professor, she fulfilled her dedication to Egyptology in three main fields: studies of the Egyptian collection held in the National Museum in Warsaw, academic lecturing (universities in Warsaw and Łódź) and research in Egypt.*

*At the National Museum in Warsaw Jadwiga Lipińska worked from 1958 until her retirement in 2002, starting out as a lowly assistant and reaching the top as a curator of the collection in 1991. It was then also that she received the title of full professor, the highest in the Polish scholarly hierarchy. She published many of the objects of ancient Egyptian art in the collection, organized many exhibitions, including that all important one, *The Mysterious Queen Hatshepsut*, in 1997, and managed the renovation of the Egyptian Gallery. The new display is ultimately a resultant of her inspired vision, many heated discussions with her collaborators and capabilities of the museum's technical staff.*

*As a university lecturer she supervised successive classes of students, sharpening an already sharp tongue on graduate students and practically force-feeding them knowledge and proper scientific practices. Mistakes*

were not tolerated and weak studies never passed, hence those receiving a diploma under her supervision could be confident of a place in the scholarly field. A select team of her former students collaborated with her in Egypt on the Tutmosis III Temple project at Deir el-Bahari which she started in 1978.

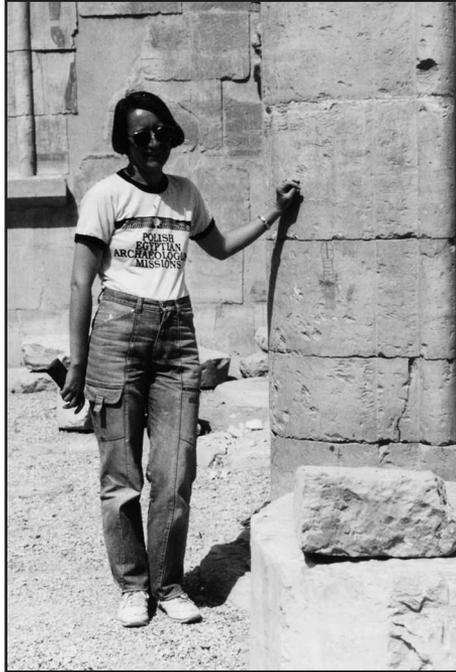
Research in Egypt was Jagoda's undoubtedly most beloved professional activity. She participated in various excavations carried out by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology (Tell Atrib in 1960, 1963 and 1965, Alexandria in 1963, also projects in Sudan and Syria), but already in 1961 she set her sights on the newly discovered Temple of Tutmosis III at Deir el-Bahari. From this point on her life was to be linked with the fate of the work at Deir el-Bahari. In 1961 – 1967 she participated in the uncovering of the temple's ruins, as an Egyptologist and as head of the team (in the 1964/1965 season), and for many years thereafter worked on the reconstruction of the temple, dreaming to complete the project and publish the results. A reconstruction of the plan and layout of the temple was the subject of her habilitation thesis and she also wrote a number of articles on various aspects of this important Polish discovery. She masterminded and then directed, from 1978 until 1996, the work of the Polish-Egyptian Archaeological and Conservation Mission to the Temple of Tutmosis III. Team members started with finding connections between pieces of shattered stone blocks with relief decoration and went on to reconstruct the succession of scenes on the temple walls. The end effect was a theoretical reconstruction of the decoration of most of the rooms of the temple and a project to actually restore one of the walls. Working as a foursome at first — Jagoda with three of her students — the team grew to a sizable expedition which encompassed Egyptologists, restorers, architects, artists and experts from different fields as required. The suspension of the mission in 1996 interrupted the work at a promising stage, putting an end to any further reconstruction for several years. When fourteen years later, in 2008, the mission was reinstated, it was a great joy to Jagoda, even though she could no longer be head of the project.

Apart from research (which fruited in her case in more than a hundred published articles and books), Lipińska was deeply involved in popularizing the civilization of Ancient Egypt among the Polish public. Her books remain widely-read in Poland thanks to a vivid writing style and her deep knowledge of the subject.

An Egyptologist with high standing in the world community of scholars, known and respected for her expertise, she was from the beginning an active member of the International Committee for Egyptology (CIPEG) working within the framework of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). She kept up activity also in other societies and organizations.

Her strong personality, lively intelligence and witty if slightly malicious tongue won her as many enemies as friends. Indifference with regard to her person was never an option. Now we shall all miss her.

*Monika Dolińska*



**Joanna Aksamit**  
(1958–2008)

*Dr. Joanna Aksamit was Professor Jadwiga Lipińska's favorite student, yet she preceded her mentor by a year, losing a long battle with the same illness that overcame her teacher. She gave us unceasing lesson of steadfastness and courage in the face of inevitable death.*

*Her death was greatly premature — so many tasks left unfinished, so many plans unrealized... all of which she approached with the incessant curiosity and conscientiousness of a researcher. Her critical frame of mind allowed no errors and imperfections to pass, hence her great talents as a reviewer of books, articles and all forms of scientific research. Her own work was also stamped with the same high level of professionalism.*

*Joanna Aksamit studied Mediterranean archaeology at the University of Warsaw, which she completed in 1982, and from 1983 she was already a member of the Polish archaeological mission to the Temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari, directed by Prof. Jadwiga Lipińska. Nonetheless, her first and likely the biggest love being Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt, she also participated in the research of the German expedition working at Minshat Abu Omar. Her doctoral dissertation, written under the*

*guidance of Prof. Lech Krzyżaniak and defended in 1994, was from this field: The decoration of painted vessels with figural representations from the Late Predynastic period in Egypt.*

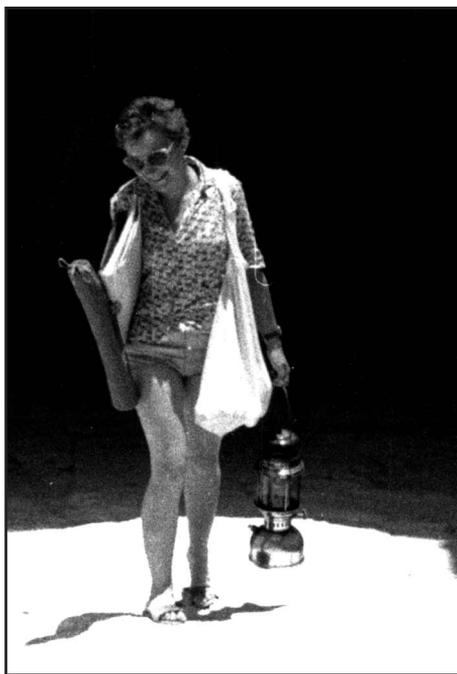
*Despite interests which departed far from the New Kingdom in Egypt, her involvement with the work for the Tutmosis III Temple mission at Deir el-Bahari fruited in a successful reconstruction of the decoration of a number of rooms. These achievements were presented in relevant publications.*

*A member of the staff of the National Museum in Warsaw (from 1992 in the Registry and from 1995 in the Ancient Art Collection, becoming a keeper of the collection in 2003), she was actively involved in museum work. Her chief interest were the stone and clay vessels, foremost from the pre-WWII Franco-Polish excavations at Edfu. She was in the process — interrupted alas! — of preparing a corpus of these vessels, conducting for this purpose meticulous studies of the archives in Warsaw and Cairo.*

*From 2004 she was active in the proceedings of ICOM's International Committee for Egyptology (CIPEG) as secretary and board member. She coorganized CIPEG's Warsaw conference in 2003. Were it not for her failing health, she would have also been part of the team organizing the Tempeltagung Egyptological conference in the National Museum in Warsaw in the summer of 2008. As it was, she took an interest in the first preparations.*

*Her scholarly achievement includes ten articles on Pre- and Early Dynastic Egypt, eight articles commenting upon various issues connected with the Temple of Tutmosis III at Deir el-Bahari, six reviews, and four books on Egypt translated perfectly into Polish. So little and yet so much...*

*Monika Dolińska*



**Irena Pomorska**  
(1933–2007)

*Egyptologist, decorated with the Golden Merit Cross, five-time laureate of the University of Warsaw Rector's Award, lecturer (retired in 1993) in the Modern Languages Faculty of the University of Warsaw, member of the International Association of Egyptologists.*

*Venturing first in the artistic fields (at the academies in Wrocław and Warsaw) she then transferred to the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw and specialized in Mediterranean archaeology under the guidance of Professor Kazimierz Michałowski, receiving a Master's degree in 1956. From 1954 she embarked on parallel studies in Egyptology under the supervision of Tadeusz Andrzejewski and in 1957 she joined the staff of the Department of Ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian and Hebrew Philology in the Institute of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw as an expert in the history and archaeology of Ancient Egypt, as well as Ancient Egyptian language and literature. She was both a lecturer and researcher.*

*Her first topic were the ushebti figurines in Polish collections. Pomorska's publication of these figurines contains a highly useful onomastic index. Pomorska went on to study objects in the National Museum in Warsaw: clay funerary cones and the cartonnage of a Theban priest Hor-Djehuty of the late 1st century*

BC/early 1st century. She also translated and commented on Egyptian literary texts which she published in *Przegląd Orientalistyczny*. Her research covered synthetic articles on Ancient Egyptian religion and relevant items for the Polish Great Universal Encyclopedia.

In 1979 she defended her PhD dissertation, inspired by Jaroslav Černý and written under the guidance of Kazimierz Michałowski. The subject concerned the role and social position of high Pharaonic court officials holding the title of "Fan-bearers on the right of the King". The dissertation, which appeared in book form in 1987, contains an in-depth analysis of the way in which the title was recorded and the repertoire of scenes including bearers of the title; a chronological list of bearers of the title appears in the second part of the monograph. Pomorska's findings on the origins of the title and historical outline of its usage and social role are an important contribution to this field.

Her published work includes several reviews and synthetic articles on the activities of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology in Cairo and of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw.

Pomorska held a scholarship at the Charles University in Prague (1969) and was twice on scholarship in Egypt. The first time, in 1961, she participated in the archaeological work of Polish missions in Tell Atrib, Alexandria, Dabod, the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari and the Tomb of Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings. During her second stay, in 1982, she was involved primarily in the works of the mission in the Temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari. For the purposes of a reconstruction of the temple inscriptions, she prepared a corpus of hieroglyphic formulae and descriptions of scenes, as well as recorded fragments of hieratic inscriptions found on ceramic sherds.

The other half of her life was devoted to her beloved cacti. An active member of the Polish Cactus Lovers Society (PTMK), she took part in the society's shows and events, and was very proud of the diplomas awarded her collection of cacti. The obituary published after her death by friends from the Society read: "Without Irena PTMK will never be the same".

Jadwiga Lipińska



**Anna Świderek**  
**(Anna Świderkówna)**  
1925–2008

*Anna Świderek (or Anna Świderkówna, as she was usually styled in correct Polish), an eminent Polish scholar, head of the Chair of Papyrology, University of Warsaw in 1961-1991, was born in Warsaw on 5 December 1925.*

*As a young girl not yet nineteen, she, like many others, pitched into the Polish resistance against the Nazis, serving as a nurse in an army hospital during the Warsaw Uprising in August and September 1944. Sharing the fate of many civilian fighters, she ended up being displaced to a camp in Germany, from where she returned in June 1945.*

*Her study of classics began in the difficult post-war conditions of 1945. Her mentors at the University of Warsaw were the eminent philologist Kazimierz Kumaniecki and the equally illustrious papyrologist Jerzy Manteuffel. It was a measure of the times that she was appointed assistant while still a student (1 March 1946).*

*Her doctoral dissertation, defended in 1951, was on the aetiological legend in the poetry of Callimachus. Her work in the field of papyrology, under the guidance of first Jerzy Manteuffel (who died prematurely in 1954) and then Raphael Taubenschlag (1881-1958), fruited in a habilitation, published*

in Polish in 1959. It was an in-depth study of life in the *dôrea* of Apollonios, the dioecetes of Ptolemy II, based on the Zenon papyri. In 1961 Anna Świderek was appointed head of the new Chair of Papyrology at the University of Warsaw (from 1977 a department of the University's Institute of Archaeology). Her academic career was crowned with a full professorship in 1986. Her disciples and collaborators, whom she guided in studies of Graeco-Roman Egypt, include Marta Piątkowska, Zbigniew Borkowski (1936-1991), Jan Krzysztof Winnicki (1942-2009), the present writer and others.

In 1959 she spent 9 months in Egypt as a member of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, working on papyri from the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria. These papyri were published in 1964 in a volume (*P. Alex. = Papyrus grecs du Musée Gréco-Romain d' Alexandrie*, Warszawa 1964) edited by Anna Świderek together with Mariangela Vandoni (Università Statale di Milano).

Her work was chiefly on papyri from foreign collections, including those from the Papyrussammlung of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. She published several items from that collection in the form of articles. She also established close cooperation between her Chair and the Departement Klassieke Studies of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium.

It is her writing in Polish for the general reader that made her a household name in Poland. Her first book on papyri, *When the Egyptian Sands Spoke in Greek*,\* appeared in 1959 (reprinted 1970). Then came *Histories Unknown to History*, published in 1962. In 1967 she published a book on the political history of the Hellenistic world (*Hellas of the Kings*), followed in 1974 by a panorama of Hellenistic culture (*Hellenica. The Age from Alexander to Augustus*). Extremely prolific in this field, she went on with a brief introduction to papyrology (*Papyrology and Papyri. Five Lectures*, Wrocław 1975). A book on the Seven Cleopatras was published in 1979 and a study of everyday life in Greek Egypt (*Everyday Life in Egypt of the Greek Papyri*) in 1983. Some of these books were translated into Czech and Hungarian. In her later years Anna Świderek wrote almost exclusively on the Bible. Suffice it to mention a series of *Talks on the Bible* (*Rozmowy o Biblii*) published in 1994-2006. Her books made her famous in Poland. Professor Anna Świderek died in Warsaw on 16 August 2008.

*Adam Łukaszewicz*

\* For the readers' convenience all the titles have been given in translation.