



Maria Ludwika Bernhard
1908-1998

The life of Maria Bernhard covered three very different periods in Polish history, and she lived to see the promise of a new one. To all who have known her she epitomized the courage and optimism of a young person and the experience and good counsel of mature age, coupled with an ever-present warmth and openness toward all. To those who remember her, as the present writer, only from her later years, she somehow never seemed old, in spite of the difference in age.

Her first known ancestor was a grognard of the Napoleonic wars, who made the decision to settle on Polish soil. A century later his great granddaughter still held a French passport, maintaining strong links with the old country. At the same time, she never wavered in her commitment, sometimes against considerable odds, to the country where she had grown up and which she very definitely considered as her own.

She enrolled in Warsaw University in the 1930s to study art history and Classical archaeology, the latter with Kazimierz Michalowski, then a young professor appointed to the chair created for him at this University. She became his first assistant. Her Ph.D. examination in June 1939 was the last at the University before the outbreak of World War II.

The hostilities brought her incipient academic career to an abrupt stop; she was active instead in the Resistance movement. Although she never spoke much about this time, it is known that she had risked her life not only as a clandestine academic teacher, but also as a soldier, being the Warsaw commandant of the underground Home Army's women's service. She also distinguished herself in protecting whenever possible the collections of the National Museum in Warsaw against plunder and destruction.

After 1945 Maria Bernhard was active in both the University and the National Museum in Warsaw, where she acted as Curator of the reactivated Ancient Art Department. In 1954, she was appointed to the chair of Classical Archaeology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and taught there until her retirement in 1978. All the Classical archaeologists active in Kraków today count themselves among her pupils.

Professor Bernhard is known to Polish students mainly for her monumental "History of Ancient Greek Art" (four volumes, published between 1970 and 1989, later re-edited several times). The international scholarly community remembers her for the seven volumes of the "Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum", covering the collections of the National Museum in Warsaw. Greek painted pottery was indeed her favorite subject: Her last paper in 1996, like her first of 1936, concerned the former Erazm Majewski Collection and the so-called Majewski Painter.

In her long academic career, she did not forgo the chance to participate in archaeological fieldwork which started being carried out by Polish expeditions the moment it became possible in the late 1950s. She worked at Mirmekion and Kalos Limen in the Crimea, and was in charge of the Palmyra team when the 1967 war broke out. Leaving the safety of the oasis, she managed to reach the Center's quarters in Cairo, where she accepted responsibility for a small group of resident young people with her characteristic blend of courage and common sense.

For the last twenty years, she remained for those who visited her a trusted counselor and standing reference, both scholarly and humane.

Michał Gawlikowski

Oil portrait of Maria Ludwika Bernhard, painted in 1982 by Grażyna Korpala, Jagiellonian University Museum collection (Photo J. Kozina)



Jozef Gazy
1910-1998

Sculptor, author of monuments, participant in arts exhibitions, Gazy was initially a conservator of sculpture. The passionate interest which he put in his work led him, in 1962, to take part – with incredible determination and devotion – in the international UNESCO campaign to rescue the monuments of ancient Nubia. His job as conservator was salvaging the wall paintings found at Faras and Meinarti, both sites to be submerged under the waters of a lake that was to appear once the Aswan Dam was built.

Gazy graduated from the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts in 1937. After the war, he worked on the conservation of sculpture in the Wroclaw cathedral and in 1950 took over a sculpture conservation studio in Warsaw. The great discoveries made in Nubia by a Polish expedition headed by Professor Kazimierz Michatowski and the necessity to save the ancient wall paintings of Nubia paved the way for his first contacts, in

1962, with the National Museum in Warsaw and the Polish Center of Archaeology of Warsaw University. He undertook the task of preserving the ancient frescoes and for three long excavation seasons, working in very harsh field conditions, he first protected the wall paintings as they were uncovered inside the Cathedral and then took them down in pieces for transport to the museum stores. The job required immense concentration, courage and determination, not to mention exceptional skill. Aided only by a small group of assistants and with just the basic technical facilities, he concluded a task that can be compared only with the saving of the Abu Simbel temples. Over 120 painted compositions from Far as were thus saved, including such excellent and monumental pieces as the Three Youths in Fiery Furnace, Nativity, and the masterpiece of masterpieces – St. Anne. Gazy also helped out with W. Y. Adams' work at Meinarti, protecting and taking down the wall paintings discovered there. He then spent three years, between 1966 and 1969, in the National Museum in Khartoum, working together with Sudanese colleagues on the conservation of the Faras paintings in preparation for the opening of a permanent exhibition of Nubian painting in 1972. Upon returning home in 1969, he worked at the National Museum in Warsaw, continuing until 1974 a project begun by Dr. Hanna Jędrzejewska to preserve the Faras paintings which had been brought to Poland.

His accomplishments in Sudan gained him international acclaim. He was awarded the Sudanese Order of Merit for his work.

In the mid-seventies, Gazy returned to his favorite occupation – carving in stone. He remained associated with the Polish Center of Archaeology, completing the conservation of the monumental statue of Athena and the lion with antelope discovered by the Polish expedition in the temple of Allat in Palmyra, Syria.

Włodzimierz Godlewski



Jack Plumley
1910-1999

"Jack Martin Plumley was a large man with a powerful voice and a warm hearth, who succeeded in the astonishing feat of combining a love of the parish ministry with leadership in the study of the language and archaeology of ancient Christian Egypt" wrote the British "Times" of Professor Plumley, who died on July 2, 1999. It is a succinct summing up of a long and active life of the Reverend Professor, whose ties with the Polish scholarly community were those of special friendship and archaeological cooperation.

Jack Martin Plumley was born at Peverell, near Plymouth, on September 2, 1910, and spent his youth in London. He read Theology at St. John's College, Durham, where he also studied Hebrew and Syriac. Ordained a priest (Church of England) in 1934, he continued to develop his interest in Egyptology, and especially the Coptic language, at the inspiration of eminent Egyptologist Jdroslav Cerny. The outcome of these studies

was the excellent "Introductory Coptic Grammar", which he published in 1948. In 1955, he was offered the Chair of Egyptology at Cambridge and held it until his retirement. Liked and respected by members of the Coptic Church hierarchy in Egypt, he was also held in great affection by his students, from Britain and abroad, and a regular stream came from Egypt and Sudan to work with him. One of his important scholarly venues was the work on Biblical texts; indeed, until 1987 he served as Chairman of the British Committee of the International Critical Greek New Testament Project. During the time of the Nubian Safeguarding Campaign, he was invited by the British Exploration Society to carry out excavations in one of the most important sites in Nubia, the fortress city of Qasr Ibrim. He directed fieldwork there for seven seasons, in 1963-1978. There followed a stream of publications of the rich archaeological material from the excavations, including "The Scrolls of Bishop Timotheos"; two documents from medieval Nubia (1975) and, with Gerald M. Browne (Old Nubian Texts from Qasr Ibrim" in 1987), as well as numerous articles dealing with Christian inscriptions of all kinds.

Plumley visited Poland repeatedly. He was one of the founders of the International Society of Nubian Studies, established in Warsaw in 1972, and took over the post of President of the Society after the death of its first President, Professor Kazimierz Michałowski, with whom he had had a close friendship. In 1982, he was elected Patron of the Society in recognition of his accomplishments in the field of ancient and medieval Nubian studies. It was in this field that our contacts were particularly lively and, under an agreement with Warsaw University' Center of Archaeology, Polish scholars of Christian Nubia repeatedly had the opportunity and pleasure to participate in the work of the Egypt Exploration Society expedition to Qasr Ibrim, finding Professor Plumley to be a man of immense knowledge, yet modest, straightforward, tactful and possessing a great sense of humor. His death is a great loss to the entire Egyptological community, including Polish scholars, for whom the Professors house at Cambridge was always open and who could always count on his help and advise in matters not only of a scholarly nature. He will remain in our minds a paradigm of a reliable scholar, an excellent organizer of fieldwork, a righteous and good-hearted man.

Stefan Jakobielski



Paulus Petrus Vitalis van Moorsel
1931-1999

Paul van Moorsel, Professor Emeritus of Early Christian Art in Leiden University, eminent expert on Coptic and Nubian wall painting, passed away suddenly on June 1. For many years, he had served as Secretary of the International Society of Nubian Studies. In this capacity and not only, he was associated with Professor Kazimierz Michałowski, the Center of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University, the National Museum in Warsaw. He was a frequent guest in Poland, giving lectures and participating in symposia, coming to study the Paras murals, but also simply to express his deep sympathy for our country. Through his efforts his students and associates took part in Polish explorations conducted in Sudan. He was indeed a great friend. During his studies at RC Theological Seminary in Warmond and later at Leiden and in the Gregorian University in Rome, he was interested in the Early Christian arts, especially sarcophagi and wall paintings from the catacombs. His doctoral thesis, pub-

lished in *The Hague* in 1965, was devoted to the iconography of *Moses Striking the Rock – the crossing of the Red Sea*.

With encouragement from Prof. Dr. A. Klasens, Dr. Van Moorsel turned his attention to wall painting, which the Dutch expedition had uncovered in the church at Abdallah n-Irqi in the Pachoras diocese. Thus started a lifetime fascination with Nubian and Coptic painting, followed by deep involvement in the development of the new discipline of Nubian studies. In 1974-78, he undertook a comprehensive study of the paintings in the monastery of St. Jeremiah at Saqqara. In 1981, he began an association with the IFAO in Cairo, heading a program, began by Jules Leroy, for the documentation and publication of wall paintings from the medieval Egyptian churches. An effect of this association was the book "*Le monastère de Saint-Antoine*", published by the IFAO in Cairo in 1991. In it, van Moorsel devoted a great deal of attention to the newly discovered murals in the monastic churches in Wadi n-Natroon: *Deir el-Baramous, Deir Amba Bishoy and Deir es-Sourian*, particularly that most splendid piece – *The Annunciation with the Four Prophets* – revealed in the western conch of the al Adra church in Deir es-Sourian.

Paul van Moorsel also presided over work on the icons from the Cairo Coptic Museum collection and from Coptic churches. The study was published in 1996.

His accomplishments in the field of research on Nubian and Coptic paintings and in spreading knowledge about the results of this research are hardly to be overestimated.

In his scholarly work, Paul van Moorsel always set store by cooperation with the monastic circles, which the churches with medieval murals belong to. He was always actively organizing seminars and courses of all kinds.

Paul van Moorsel has left many friends. It was a privilege to have been one of them.

Włodzimierz Godlewski



Leszek Słoński
1939-1998

Leszek Słoński died on January 22, 1998, after suffering from a mortal illness for several months.

Słoński graduated from the Kraków Technical University, obtaining a diploma in structural engineering from the Civil Engineering Department in 1967. While still a student, he started practicing his knowledge and his broad interest in construction problems helped him become an accomplished designer of sanitary installations.

He became involved with historic architecture in 1976, while working for the Kielce branch of the PP PKZ State Ateliers for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, first as a consultant and later as senior designer-constructor.

His first season as a member of the Polish-Egyptian Islamic Architecture Mission was in 1978. For several years he worked on the conservation of the architectural complex of the Emir Qurqumas in Cairo, while constantly offering his services as a

consultant in projects for the preservation and reconstruction of various priceless objects of historic architecture, from the Islamic period, as well as from earlier times. This is his great accomplishment. He put into his work all his vast experience and excellent understanding of the building material in Egypt, and he always worked with a passionate interest in what he did. Ever sensitive, finding joy in life and hope which never left him under the most difficult circumstances. Because of this he never lacked for friends.

Leszek, I am putting your projects into life.

Jerzy Kania