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NÉCROLOGIE

STANISŁAW JAN GĄSIOROWSKI

(*26. VI. 1897 †13. IX. 1962)

Professor Stanisław Jan Gąsiorowski, an eminent scientist and a man of great rectitude and character, died at Kraków on September 13th, 1962. He was a distinguished specialist in the field of ancient and medieval cultures of the Mediterranean countries, devoted especially to the problems of the history of art and material culture. Much of his work is of great interest to orientalists of different branches.

Throughout all his scientific activity Professor Gąsiorowski was uncompromising in his search for truth and he showed a highly developed critical insight and methodological experience linked with a vast erudition, not only in the domain of his specialization. Furthermore, he combined precise observations and accuracy in his investigations with the ability to find the essential problems and the originality of conceptions. He also had a great feeling for comparative studies with a deep theoretical background.

In his attitude toward others he was known to help wisely everybody who sought his advice, not imposing his own ideas but rather stimulating everyone to form their own point of view.

Born on June 26th, 1897 at Warszawa Professor Gąsiorowski received a careful education in a secondary school of the classical type. In 1917 he started his studies at the Jagellonian University of Kraków, and was there a disciple of Professor Piotr Bienkowski in Classical Archaeology and attended lectures of several specialists in the History of Art, Philosophy, Orientalistics and Comparative Linguistics. Having prepared a thesis on Classical Archaeology after several months of studies at the University of Vienna, he obtained the degree of doctor of philosophy at the

Jagellonian University in 1924. Then, in 1927 he received *veniam legendi* from the Chair of Classical and Early Christian Archaeology at the same University. In 1928 he was charged there with the lectures on Classical Archaeology; in 1930 he was nominated professor extraordinary; in 1937 — professor (Head of the Department of Classical Archaeology), which post he held up to the outbreak of the World War II.

He made several scientific voyages abroad: in 1923 to Austria; in 1924—1925 to France, England, Italy, Egypt, Palestine and Turkey; in 1931 and 1934 again to Italy; 1929 and 1938 to Greece; in 1948 once more to France.

In November 1939 he was arrested by the Germans together with other professors of the Jagellonian University and first sent to the prison in Wrocław, then put in to the concentration-camp at Sachsenhausen near Berlin. In February 1940 he was released with some other senior professors. For the next two years he continued privately his scientific studies. In 1942 he was invited by the owner of the Czartoryski Museum to assume the duties of Director, and he held this post till 1951. In January 1945 he returned to his post as professor at the Jagellonian University. Also in 1945 he became a correspondent-member and in 1946 an active-member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. In 1952 he was put in charge of the Departments of Prehistoric Archaeology, Mediterranean Archaeology and Ethnography forming together a separate Section at the Jagellonian University. In 1953 his work in that University was interrupted and his main scientific activity was confined to the Polish Academy of Sciences — from 1953 in the Institute of the History of Material Culture; from 1956 in the Institute of the Mediterranean Archaeology. Since 1954 up to his death, as part of his duties, he also directed the works of a team in Kraków, belonging successively to these Institutes. Before and after World War II he was a member of various commissions of the Academy of Sciences and Letters, in 1957 he became a foundation-member of the Commission of the Orientalistics of the Academy of Sciences. Besides he was a member of various scientific societies in Poland and abroad (APXAIOLORIKH ETAIPEIA in Athens, Societatea Numismatică Română in Bucarest, Société d'Études Paléoméditerranéennes in Paris,



Prof. Stanisław Jan Gąsiorowski

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Berlin) and also of the UNESCO (ICOM). Finally from 1931 he was a member of the editorial staff of the magazine „Wiadomości Numizmatyczno-Archeologiczne“ (Kraków) and from 1938 — for a time — of the magazine „Dawna Sztuka“ (Lwów).

The publications of Professor Gąsiorowski may be divided into the following groups:

- I. the methodological dissertations concerning the theory of archaeological investigation, typological method, ergological classification, the relation between Art and Material Culture, and between Nature and both of the above;
- II. the papers discussing the relation of Classical Archeology with other disciplines, its organization and teaching;
- III. the papers concerning the history and achievements of the Classical Archaeology in Poland;
- IV. the studies on antiquities (Hellenistic, Roman, Early-Christian and Islamic) belonging to Polish (and in one case to foreign) collections as well as publications concerning some antiquities found in Poland;
- V. the papers evaluating the results and the discussions of some problems of archaeological investigations in various mediterranean countries (Anatolia, Iran, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt);
- VI. the studies of a general character in the domain of the History of Art (Classical and Early Christian);—
- VII. the studies concerning some branches of art and the history of some decorative motives of the mediterranean cultures;
- VIII. the studies on some problems or general reviews of the material culture of the ancient mediterranean cultures (Rome, Greece, Western Asia, Egypt);
- IX. the critical reviews referring to the publications dealing with different ancient mediterranean cultures (Rome, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Iran, Palestine, Egypt, East Africa).

A great number of these publications is devoted to Oriental Archaeology (including Asia and Africa); in almost all there are references to it. The greatest individual achievements of Professor

Gąsiorowski in this domain of research is presented in the following publications:

from group IV and VII: his paper for docent degree *Malarstwo minjaturowe grecko-rzymskie i jego tradycje w średniowieczu* (Graeco-Roman miniature painting and its tradition in the Middle Age), Kraków 1928 — and the following papers: *Późnohellenistyczne i wczesnochrześcijańskie tkaniny egipskie w zbiorach polskich* (The Late Hellenistic and Early Christian textiles from Egypt in Polish collections), „Prace Komisji Historii Sztuki P. A. U.“, IV, Kraków 1928; *Motyw wazy w ornamentyce starożytnej* (The motive of vase in the ancient ornamentation), „Przegląd Archeologiczny“, IV Poznań 1929; *Das Motive des Lebensbaumes und die s. g. Kandelabermotive in der antiken Ornamentik. Eine typologische Studie*, „Bulletin de l'Académie Polonaise des Sciences et des Lettres“, Cracovie 1930, pp. 3—10; *A fragment of a Greek illustrated Papyrus from Antinoë*, „Journal of Egyptian Archaeology“, XVII, May 1931, pp. 1—9; *La tente orientale du Musée Czartoryski à Cracovie*, „Folia Orientalia“, I, 2, Kraków 1960, pp. 303—321; *Histoire des formes décoratives de quelques tissus orientaux de Cracovie*, „Folia Orientalia“, II, Kraków 1961, pp. 103—152;

from group I and VIII: *Le problème de la classification ergologique et de la relation de l'art à la culture matérielle*, „Bulletin Internationale de l'Académie Polonaise des Sciences et des Lettres“ Cracovie 1936, No. suppl. I (see the chapter: *La culture matérielle paléoméditerranéenne*); *Sur les débuts de la metallurgie du cuivre et du bronze en Egypte et en Asie*, „Bulletin Internationale de l'Académie Polonaise des Sciences et des Lettres“, Cracovie 1939, pp. 102—107; *Studium historii kultury materialnej starożytnego Egiptu* (A short review of the history of the material culture of Ancient Egypt), „Sprawozdania P. A. U.“, LII, 8, Kraków 1951, pp. 643—648; *Tradycyjne i nowe elementy w kulturze materialnej Cesarstwa Rzymskiego* (Traditional and new elements in the material culture of the Roman Empire), „Archeologia“, VII, 1, Warszawa—Wrocław 1957, pp. 12—54.

Certain original interpretations, generalizations or points of view may also be found in some publications of group V and VI: i. e. in the text-book *Sztuka Starożytna* (Ancient Art), *Historia Sztuki*, I, Lwów 1934, pp. 71—440 — the first publication of this

character in Polish — as well as in the following papers: *Wykopalska i badania archeologiczne Pontyfikalnego Instytutu Biblijnego w Dolinie Jordanu na tle archeologii palestyńskiej* (Archaeological excavations and investigations of the Biblical Pontifical Institute in the Jordan Valley in relation to Palestinian Archaeology), „Światowit“, XVI, 1934/1935, Warszawa 1936, pp. 255—272; *Zagadnienia archeologii etruskiej. Uwagi na marginesie książki Prof. Bulandy* (The problems of the Etruscan Archaeology...), „Światowit“, XVII, 1936/1937, Warszawa 1938, pp. 423—440; *Stan badań archeologicznych Starożytnego Wschodu* (The state of the archaeological investigations of the Ancient East), „Sprawozdania z posiedzeń Komisji Oddziału P. A. N. w Krakowie“, I—VI 1959, pp. 1—5; *Interpretacja natury w sztuce starożytnej Mezopotamii* (The interpretation of Nature in the Art of Ancient Mesopotamia), „Sprawozdania z posiedzeń Komisji Oddziału P. A. N. w Krakowie“, I—VI 1960, pp. 1—5.

Finally in some of his critical reviews, especially in those which discuss the publications on the archaeology of Palestine and the penetration of the Islamic Art into Poland, Professor Gąsiorowski made valuable contributions.

Professor Gąsiorowski died leaving a great amount of scientific materials, especially concerning the cultures of Ancient Mesopotamia and some papers almost completed or partially prepared for publication. Among these last the most interesting for the orientologists is the study on the tent in Asia and Africa in ancient and medieval times — his last work in which he realized once more the typological-genetical method, so frequently applied by him in his scientific research — as well as the confrontation of different kind of data i. e. the ergological (equally archaeological and ethnographical), the iconographical and those offered by written sources.

T. Marszewski