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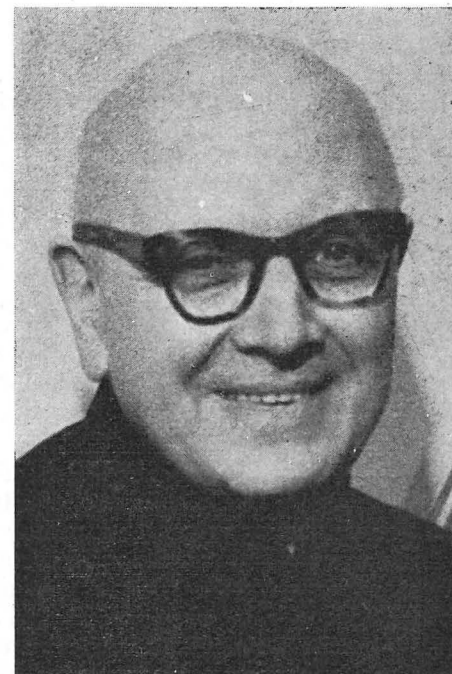
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Notes bibliographiques

REV. PROF. DR. ALEKSY KLAWEK
(1890—1969)



This obituary commemorates a man who made the most important contribution to the development of the modern scientific Biblical studies in contemporary Poland and who was both a highly venerated teacher and a true friend to several generations of Polish Biblical scholars and orientalist in general.

Rev. professor Klawek was born in Rogoźno Wielkopolskie on May 11th 1890. After finishing school in his native town he entered the seminary in Poznań. He continued his study of Biblical philology and Semitics at Münster University where he took his Doctor's degree

summa cum laude in 1917, and at the universities in München, Wrocław and Berlin. Preparing himself for a scholarly career in restored Poland he took his habilitation at Johannes Casimirus University in Lvov in 1921 and after a yearly stay in Paris he was offered the Chair of Old Testament Studies at the same university. Between 1925 and 1927 he was Dean of the Theological Faculty and in 1933—1934 he was vice-rector of the university. Already then he gained the renown of an accomplished scholar highly esteemed by professors from his own and from other faculties¹, of an eminent organizer and a talented and beloved teacher. Throughout this period he gave regular lectures on ancient Semitic languages at the Faculty of Arts and in 1932—1933 he was also professor at the Near Eastern Seminary of the Oriental Institute. One of the oldest and most active members of the Polish Oriental Society and of several other scholarly societies, he was elected due to his talent for organisation and his energy to several posts in POS presidential board since 1929 till 1950. He participated in the editorial work on „Rocznik Orientalistyczny“ and himself founded or reorganized several other periodicals. Member of the Oriental Commission at the Polish Academy of Sciences since 1932 he was nominated a correspondent member of the Academy in 1948. Immediately after the end of the World War II he was given the Chair of the Old Testament Studies at the Jagiellonian University and, in 1948—1952, he was Dean of the Theological Faculty. Since 1956 he was active at the Department of Oriental Philology of this university conducting seminars and giving lectures on Semitic philology for students as well as in the Polish Academy of Sciences and in the Polish Oriental Society. In 1968 he was elected honorary member of POS. He died on November 22d 1969.

Though working primarily at the theological faculties, he always continued to be a first-class philologist and this permitted him to take a strictly scientific philological approach to the Bible and to become a forerunner of many contemporary trends. Apart from his numerous and brilliant publications which range from masterful pieces of erudition to handbooks and publicist articles² he left an even more valuable inheritance — over two thousand alumni over whom he extended a fatherly care. In later days many of them became university professors. With his strong and charming personality, immensely great erudition, original and thought-provoking ideas, energy, temperament, vivacity and friendly approach he fascinated and influenced everybody who had a chance to meet him. He was not only an outstanding

¹ J. Kuryłowicz, W. Taszycki, *Ks. prof. Aleksy Klawek w oczach kolegów świeckich*, „Tygodnik Powszechny“, 50, 1969, p. 1.

² For his bibliography see Z. J. Kapera, *Bibliografia prac Księdza Aleksiego Klawka (1890—1969), profesora UJK i UJ*, „Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny“, 23, no 6, 1970, pp. 319—336.

philologist but a humanist in the full sense of the word looking for the universals of human culture and having an extraordinary feeling for human progress which throughout all his long life put him ahead of most of the recent developments. He was always known for his liberalism and open-mindedness as well as for his courage in expressing sharp criticism of any symptoms of backwardness and injustice. He was a forerunner of modern scientific Biblical studies in Poland not only in his earlier period but till the very end of his days he continued his work on the most current problems. A representative of the past generation conveying the best academic traditions to the young he always remained our true contemporary. We have lost a master and a friend.

Andrzej Zaborski