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ZDZISŁAW KAPERA

A CURRICULUM VITAE OF REV. PROF. ALEKSY KLAWEK (1890—1969)

1890

Born on May 14, 1890 in Rogoźno Wielkopolskie (Great Poland), in a teacher's family, of Ignatius and Anna Kruppik.

1909

Finished secondary education in Rogoźno 9-year Gymnasium and passed maturity examination in April 1909. Then entered the Theological Seminary in Poznań, where received introductory Biblical education as a pupil of Rev. Władysław Hozakowski.

1913

After three years of practical theological studies received holy orders from the hands of Rev. Bp Wilhelm Kloske on Febr. 15, 1913. One year as a curate in Wonieść (Leszno District).

1914

Left Great Poland to study in Münster (Westfalen). Entered the Theological Faculty of the Münster Academy. Studies under the direction of Biblical scholars Wilhelm Engelkemper and Max Meinertz.

1916

Finished Ph. D. dissertation in the field of New Testament studies: „Prayer to Jesus” in autumn 1916.

1917

Passed the doctoral exams and defended his dissertation in spring 1917. Received the title Doctor of Theology *summa cum laude*. Scholarly visits to München and Wrocław to collect materials for a habilitation (post-doctoral) dissertation. Participation in the Old and New Testament seminars in Wrocław University, as well as collaboration with professors Józef Sichenberger and J. Nikel.

1918

Return to parish work first in Granów, then in Rydzyna (near Leszno), both villages in Great Poland. Begins lecture course in the Theological Seminary in Gniezno.

From June 1918 beginning of cooperation and numerous lectures (mostly on New Testament research) in the Theological Committee of the Scholarly Society in Poznań (Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk). For several years vice-president of the Committee.

6—19 October: short visit to Berlin to see the Oriental Seminary of Humboldt University and to collect materials for scholarly work in the Bibliotheca Regia Berolinensis.

1919

Spring 1919: appointment by archbishop Dalbor to the post of professor of New Testament exegesis at the Theological Seminary in Poznań.

1921

Obtained habilitation at the Johannes Casimirus University (Lwów) in the field of Biblical, or more specifically New Testament studies. Part of his post-doctoral dissertation appeared in St. Adalbertus Printing Office (Księgarnia św. Wojciecha) in the form of a pamphlet: *Noc Betlejemka — Historia czy legenda? Obrona*

wiarygodności Łk 2, 1—20, Poznań 1921, 8°, pp. 63 (+1) [= *Sprawy Biblijne* 2] (The Bethlehem Night. History or legend? In defence of credibility of Luke 2, 1—20). Numerous reviews:

Przegląd Teologiczny 2 (1921), pp. 319—322 (by S. Szydelski); Gazeta Kościelna 28 (1921), pp. 257 f (by P. Stach); Z wydawnictw Księgarni św. Wojciecha, Wiadomości dla Duchowieństwa 9 (1922), no. 11, pp. 205—206 (by anonym); Miesięcznik Katechetyczny i Wychowawczy 11 (1922), pp. 204—207 (by W. Michalski); Biblica 3 (1922), p. 244 (by W. Szczepański); Przegląd Powszechny 39, T. 153/4 (1922) pp. 277 f (by J. Urban); Biblische Zeitschrift 16 (1924), p. 282 (by anonym). Cf. Klawek's answer to a review: *W odpowiedzi na recenzję pracy: Noc Betlejemka, Historia czy Legenda?* Miesięcznik Katechetyczny i Wychowawczy 12 (1923), pp. 95 f.

His Ph. D. dissertation was eventually published in the series „Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen”, edited by M. Meinertz (vol. 6, fasc. 5:) *Das Gebet zu Jesus. Seine Berichtigung und Übung nach den Schriften des Neuen Testaments. Eine biblisch-theologische Studie* von A. Klawek, Münster i. W. 1921, Verlag der Aschendorfschen Verlagsbuchhandlung, 8°, pp. XI, 119. Numerous, mostly foreign reviews:

Theologie und Glaube 14 (1922), p. 178 (by B. Bartmann); Przegląd Powszechny 39, T. 153/4 (1922), pp. 287 f (by J. Urban); Theologisches Literaturblatt 43 (1922), pp. 251 f (by Schultzen); Theologische Revue 22 (1923), pp. 194 f (by K. Kastner); Recherches de Science Religieuse 14 (1924), pp. 336 f (by J. Lebreton); Revue des Sciences Philosophiques et Theologiques 13 (1924), pp. 105 f; Biblische Zeitschrift 16 (1924), pp. 254 f (by anonym).

1922

Six months in France to study the assyriology and history of the Ancient Near East. Post of curate at the church of Notre Dame du Travail in Paris.

Awaiting the opening of a Theological Faculty at Poznań University. As the faculty was not opened, left for Lwów University at the end of the year.

1923

April 1923 — appointment to the chair of Old Testament Biblical studies at the Johannes Casimirus University in Lwów.

Beginning of cooperation with quarterly „Przegląd Teologiczny” (Theological Review).

1924

1924/5—1926/7 additional lectures in Biblical archaeology and in 1924/5—1932/33 on exegesis of the Biblical Hebrew texts.
Secretary general of the Polish Theological Society from 1924.
Co-editor of „Przegląd Teologiczny” (with Rev. Prof. T. Długosz) from vol. 5, 1924.

1925

1925/6 and 1926/7 — dean of the Theological Faculty.
Elected full member of the Lwów Scholarly Society (Towarzystwo Naukowe we Lwowie).
First publication in the field of Biblical onomastics. The most important work „The name Jesus in the light of Biblical philology” (in Polish) remained unpublished. Cf. summary: *Imię Jezus w świetle filologii biblijnej*, Sprawozdania Towarzystwa Naukowego we Lwowie 5 (1925), pp. 3 f.

1927

Elected ordinary member of the Polish Oriental Society.
Member of presidium of the Society for numerous years.
Editor of „Przegląd Teologiczny” from vol. 8, 1927.
Commences organisation of academic ministry for students in Lwów. Also acted as curator of the Union of Catholic Students.
1927/8 — vice-dean of the Theological Faculty.

1928

Preparation of the first Polish map of Palestine (scale 1 : 200.000) in cooperation with professors E. Romer and Z. Smogorzewski.

Organisation in Lwów of the first Congress of Polish Theological Society in April 11—12, 1928 in cooperation with Sz. Szydełski, T. Długosz and P. Stach.

Participation in the VIth International Congress of the Historical Sciences, Oslo.

1929

Appointed full professor.

Participation in the Vth International Congress of the History of Religions, Lund, August 27—29, 1929.

First publication on the book of Psalms [*O Psalmie 110 (109)*, *Przegląd Teologiczny* 10 (1929), pp. 154—156].

1929—1932 editor of the „Ruch Teologiczny” (Theological Movement) the popular supplement to „Przegląd Teologiczny”.

1930

1930s co-founder (with Rev. P. Urban Atanazy Fic) of the first Polish Museum of Biblical Antiquities at Lwów University.

Editing of materials from the first Congress of the Polish Theological Society [Cf. *Nasza Myśl Teologiczna. I. Pamiętnik Pierwszego Zjazdu Naukowego Polskiego Tow. Teologicznego odbytego we Lwowie roku 1928*, Lwów 1930, Tow. „Biblioteka Religijna”, 8°, pp. VIII, 271].

1931

Definitive change of „Przegląd Teologiczny” into a theological journal of international character named „Collectanea Theologica” (from vol. 12, 1931).

1932

Two months stay in Rome to contact editorial boards of Roman scholarly journals.

Beginning of cooperation with the Oriental Committee of the Cracow Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Umiejętności).

Appointed as deputy professor to the chair of Oriental Sciences of the Near East (Faculty of Humanities, Lwów University).

1933

Appointed the Home Prelate of the Pope.

1933/4 elected pro-rector of Lwów University.

Secretary of the Section of the History of Religions at the VIIth International Congress of Historical Sciences in Warsaw.

1934

Organisation of the first scholarly excursion of Polish priests to the Holy Land. Visit to Palestine, where met among others Rev. P. J.-M. Lagrange.

1937

Participation in the 1st Meeting of the Polish Biblical Scholars (Cracow, March 31 — April 1, 1937). Elected member of a sub-committee of Old Testament translators (The committee was obliged to prepare a new Polish translation of the Bible from original languages).

1938

Publication of the new Polish translation of the Psalms from Vulgate, but with confrontation with Hebrew text: *Psalterz. Nowy przekład tekstu Wulgaty*, Łwów 1938, Nakładem Tow. „Biblioteka Religijna”, 16°, pp. 319. Numerous reviews:

Miesięcznik Diecezji Chełmińskiej 82 (1938), pp. 703 f (by S. Bieszk); Roczniki Katolickie 16 (1939), p. 363 (by N. Cieszyński); Przegląd Biblijny 3 (1939), pp. 109—111 (by A. Fic); Teologia Praktyczna 1 (1939), pp. 73 f (by S. Kowalski); Ateneum Kapłańskie 25, T. 43 (1939), pp. 93—99 (by F. Mączynski); Przegląd Powszechny 55, T. 220 (1938), pp. 384—387 (by W. Prokulski); Duszpasterz 3 (1939), p. 58 (by s.k.); Gazeta Kościelna 45 (1938), pp. 744 f (*Ewangelia i Psalm*y, by W. Smereka); Szkoła Chrystusowa 10, T. 18 (1939), p. 126 (by J. Woroniecki) [+10 anonymous reviews].

1939

Arrested by German invaders in September 1939. Imprisoned in the Fort VII in Poznań.

1941

Released at the end of 1941 and forced to leave Warthegau (i.e. Poznań district) and to stay in the so-called Generalgouvernement.

1942—1944

Refuge in Tarnów district: Błonie, Szynwałd, Biała Niżna (near Grybów). Active participation in underground teaching and maturity exams.

1945

After the liberation of Cracow accepted the chair of Biblical exegesis of the Old Testament at the Theological Faculty of the Jagiellonian University.

1946

Co-organizer with W. Wicher of the 1st post-war congress of the Polish Theological Society in Lublin.

1948

Co-organizer of the 2nd congress of Theological Society in Kraków in connection with 550th anniversary of the Theological Faculty of the Jagiellonian University.

1948—1952 Dean of the Theological Faculty.

1949

Jubilee Session on the 350th anniversary of the Polish translation of the Bible by Rev. J. Wujek.

Elected correspondent-member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Umiejętności in Cracow).

Creation and editorship (till 1956) of a new Polish Biblical journal „Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny” (Biblical and Liturgical Movement).

1954

From 1954 lecturer in Biblical studies in Cracow, Częstochowa and Silesia Seminaries in Cracow. Lecturer in Semitics at the Department of Oriental Philology, Jagiellonian University.

1956

Co-founder of the Oriental Committee and elected member of the Linguistics Committee of the Cracow Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Nauk, Oddział w Krakowie).

1959

Elected member of the editorial board of the „Folia Orientalia”.

1960

He initiated a new Polish translation of the Bible directly from the original languages. [It appeared in 1972—75, edited by his pupils M. Peter and M. Wolniewicz, and known as the so-called „Poznań Bible”: *Pismo Święte Starego i Nowego Testamentu w przekładzie z języków oryginalnych ze wstępami i komentarzami*, Poznań 1973—5, vols. 1—3, published by Księgarnia św. Wojciecha].

1964

Active participation in the Vaticanum II Council discussions in Poland. Translations and commentaries of documents concerning Biblical and theological problems.

1966

Retired, but still active at the Jagiellonian University as part-time Professor in Semitics.

Elected Honorary Member of the Polish Oriental Society.

1969

Died in Katowice on Nov. 22, 1969. Buried in his birth-place, Rogoźno in Great Poland.

*

During his industrious life Rev. Prof. A. Klawek had over two thousand pupils, not only from different parts of Poland but also from Roumania and America. He educated over 40 lecturers in Biblical sciences for Theological Institutes, Universities and Seminaries. He promoted 16 professors, including Karol Wojtyła, the present pope John Paul II, in the early 1950s. His Biblical seminary in Lwów University before the 2nd World War was really oecumenical, even before this word came to be used. Among his pupils there were not only Roman catholic priests, but even Jews Rabbis and Armenians. He lectured on new literary trends in the interpretation of the Bible even before they were officially accepted by the Catholic Church during the Vatican Council II.

His bibliography was published by Z. J. Kapera in 1971 Cf. *Bibliografia prac księdza Aleksego Klawka* (1890—1969), *profesora UJK i UJ*, *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* 23 (1971), No. 6, pp. 319—336. Additions to the bibliography have appeared recently: Z. J. Kapera, *Uzupełnienia do bibliografii ks. Aleksego Klawka*, *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* 33 (1980), No. 4, pp. 227—232. Reprint of the bibliography with some additional items will be included in the introduction to a volume under preparation of Klawek's reprints on Biblical onomastics.



Palestine, 1934: Prof. Klawek's homage to Rev. J.-M. Lagrange.