



Photo: H. Królik

Profesor Romuald Schild
at Nabta Playa (Western Desert, Egypt, 2005)
at the quarry of quartzite sandstones used for steles

On the 80th birthday of Professor Romuald Schild

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Liberation from organizational duties as the Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (further: IAE PAS), which Professor Romuald Schild performed from 1990 to 2007, unlocked new energy in him. The professional profile and scientific achievements of the Jubilarian, including the list of 240 books and articles authored or co-authored by him though 2006, have been presented earlier by his friends and pupils on the occasion of his 70th birthday¹.

Professor Schild's activity in the last decade brought many new achievements in different fields. Among the most important ones were his publishing of 40 edited papers, among them three substantial monographs dealing with key European sites (Rydno [2011], Całowanie [2014] and Wilczyce [2014]) explored under his leadership through many excavation seasons (see the list below). All these works, edited by the Jubilarian and published in English, include contributions of numerous co-authors, mainly experts in natural sciences.

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¹ Kozłowski, J.K. and Machnik, J. 2006. Kilka słów o Profesorze Romualdzie Schildzie [About Professor Romuald Schild]. *Archeologia Polski* 50: 7–12.

Ginter, B. and Kobusiewicz, M. 2008. Our Friend. In Z. Sulgostowska and A.J. Tomaszewski (eds), *Man–Millennia–Environment. Studies in honour of Romuald Schild*, 13–14. Warsaw: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology Polish Academy of Sciences.

Balcer, B. 2008. O Profesorze dr. hab. Romualdzie Schildzie [About Professor Romuald Schild]. In W. Borkowski, J. Libera, B. Sałacińska and S. Sałaciński (eds), *Krzemień czekoladowy w pradziejach*. Studia nad gospodarką surowcami krzemiennymi w pradziejach 7, 13–16. Warszawa–Lublin: Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne w Warszawie; Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie; Stowarzyszenie Naukowe Archeologów Polskich, Oddział w Warszawie.

Sulgostowska, Z. and Tomaszewski, A.J. 2008. Profesor Romuald Schild – zarys portretu w ruchu [Professor Romuald Schild – sketching a portrait in motion]. In W. Borkowski, J. Libera, B. Sałacińska and S. Sałaciński (eds), *Krzemień czekoladowy w pradziejach*. Studia nad gospodarką surowcami krzemiennymi w pradziejach 7, 17–23. Warszawa–Lublin: Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne w Warszawie; Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie; Stowarzyszenie Naukowe Archeologów Polskich, Oddział w Warszawie.

Due to the damage to megaliths resulting from increased tourism, Professor Schild initiated moving the megaliths discovered in the Western Desert in Egypt from the Nabta Playa site to the Nubian Museum in Aswan. This action, preceded by detailed recording and mapping of all steles, was completed in 2009. Subsequently, the presumable solar calendar and the seven stone steles, along with a crude sculpture reminiscent of a cow (all made of Nubian sandstone) were placed in the Western Garden of the Museum at Aswan.

Until 2010, he led archaeological excavations at Wilczyce, near Sandomierz, and participated in the geoarchaeological work at the Mesolithic sites at Dąbki in Western Pomerania and at Krzyż Wielkopolski in Greater Poland, excavated by Jacek Kabaciński from IAE PAS in Poznań.

Professor Schild was a precious mentor to young archaeologists, employees at IAE PAS, and at other scientific institutions. He supervised scientific projects financed by the National Science Centre (further: NSC), reviewed doctoral theses, served as a member of commissions for the review and acceptance of PhD theses and habilitations, and evaluated candidates for the title of a full professor.

In addition to academic duties, he served archaeology more broadly as an elected member of the Scientific Council of the IAE PAS (always at the top of the elected list), as a member of the Committee of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Section History and Philosophy.

Professor Schild also has been active in the public sector of archaeology, particularly in public interpretation of the sites he personally examined. In 2015 he led a scientific conference titled 'Rydno – places and people' at the District Museum in Radom and guided field trips to the sites at Rydno and Całowanie. The session was attended by no fewer than a hundred people specializing in the Stone Age from many scientific centers throughout Poland. In 2011, the unusual finds from Wilczyce became a centerpiece of the Polish-German-French exposition on display in Musée National de Préhistoire at Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, titled: 'Mille et une femmes de la fin des temps glaciaires'. The text accompanying the exposition catalogue, written by Professor Schild, brought to the demanding French audience a vivid picture of the eastern frontiers of Magdalenian culture.

Together with his wife Krystyna, they continue to hold elegant parties at their home, attended by specialists from Warsaw, outstanding foreign scientists, and others conducting research on the Stone Age.

The stereotype of a once-active professional resting on his laurels certainly does not apply to Professor Schild! The Jubilarian personifies the exact opposite; his great physical condition and physical activity doubtless contribute to his continuing intellectual writing as well as in all previously mentioned duties.

The only real change we are aware of in Professor Schild's habits are his more frequent outings to his country retreat in the area of Grudziądz, where he devotes himself to scien-

tific work and prepares his next monograph summing up his multi-year research projects in the western desert in Egypt, which he led for over 50 years with the Combined Prehistoric Expedition (together with Prof. Fred Wendorf of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, USA, who died in 2015). Professor Schild is planning further projects with the financial support of NSC.

Finally, we hope that we have not omitted any of the Jubilarian's important achievements. If so, we will happily contribute corrections and additions at his next round birthday anniversary. We are convinced that the coming decade will find Professor Romuald Schild in good health and still active in the field of prehistory. There is still so much to be done.

