

## EDITORIAL



Professor Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka

Sadly, our friend, teacher, mentor, and colleague, Professor Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka, is retiring this year. She is a person without whom the Polish traceology school would probably not exist and certainly would not be as strong and dynamic as it has been for many years. It is tough for us to believe that the time has come when we will no longer see Jola so often at congresses and conferences (especially those on traceology), in the corridors of Institutes and Faculties of Archaeology, or simply in the field (though we hope this will still happen from time to time). We will greatly miss conducting with her joint archaeological experiments and engaging in discussions about use-wear traces, archaeological theory, and ordinary conversations about life. We sincerely hope, Jola, that you will still honour us with your presence and invaluable advice, even though you have decided that the time has come to rest and devote more time to matters more important than archaeology, namely yourself and your family.

Professor Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka was born on September 4, 1955, in Lubsko, where she completed her high school education. She graduated with a degree in archaeology from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, where she defended her master's thesis in 1980. Since 1982, she has been associated with the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, working her way up from an intern assistant to assistant, adjunct, and finally professor at the University. She defended her doctoral thesis in archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Her doctoral thesis, titled *Krzemieniarstwo społeczności wczesno rolniczych ziemi chełmińskiej w II poł. VI-IV tysiącleciu p.n.e* [*The Flintworking of Early Agricultural Communities in the Chełmno Land in the Second Half of the 6<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Millennium BCE*] was supervised by Professor Jacek Lech and was defended in 1992. An important milestone in her career was the translation of Galina Fyodorovna Korobkova's traceology textbook into Polish, titled *Narzędzia w pradziejach Podstawy badania funkcji metodą traseologiczną* [*Prehistoric tools: Basis for the traceological method of functional study*] which was published in 1999. In 1995, Prof. Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka had participated with a group of students in a traceological camp in Izhevsk (Udmurt Republic, Russian Federation) organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences. As a result of the established cooperation, a two-week course of traceological analysis (the first in Poland) was organized at the Institute of Archaeology NCU in Toruń in April 1996.

In 2002, Professor J. Małecka-Kukawka earned her habilitation degree in the humanities in the discipline of archaeology from the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences at the University of Wrocław, based on her academic achievements and habilitation thesis titled *Między formą a funkcją. Traseologia neolitycznych zabytków krzemiennych z ziemi chełmińskiej* [*Between Form and Function. Traceological Analysis of the Neolithic Flint Assemblages from Chełmno Land*]. In 2008, thanks to her efforts, the first official Traceology Laboratory in Poland was established at the Institute of Archaeology at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, which she headed for many years (from 2008 to 2019).

Another stage in Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka's research career involved studying flint materials from mining sites outside the Polish Lowlands. This work culminated in another monograph titled: *Traseologia w studiach nad pradziejowym krzemieniarstwem. Przykłady z osad i kopalń krzemienia w dorzeczach Wisły i Odry (neolit – epoka brązu – wczesna epoka żelaza* [*The use-wear analysis in studies of the prehistoric flint working – examples from settlements and flint mines from the Vistula and Odra basins (the Neolithic – Bronze Age – Early Iron Age)*], published in 2017. This book also served as the basis for Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka's application for and subsequent attainment of the title of professor in 2019.

Since 2008, Professor Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka has been a member of the Commission for Anthropology of Prehistory and the Middle Ages of The Committee of Pre- and Protohistorical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences and, since 2012, a member of the International Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP). Since 2006,

she has also been a member of the commission for Flint Mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times within the UISPP Permanent Committee. She is the author of four books and the author or co-author of nearly seventy scientific articles. She has supervised 56 bachelor's and master's students, as well as 4 doctoral students.

We all owe a lot to Jola and greatly appreciate her contribution to the development of Polish archaeology, especially the Polish traceology school. Therefore, as a tribute to her, we have decided to dedicate this volume to her, which, in our opinion, well reflects the current state of traceological research in Poland. We have also included several articles devoted to the history of archaeology, a subject that has always been very close to Jola's heart. Dear Friend and Teacher, we sincerely hope you will enjoy this volume.

*Grzegorz Osipowicz, Justyna Orłowska*

