

**Andrzej Wierzbowski**  
**60 years of scientific research in Jurassic geology**



Prof. A. Wierzbowski was born on September 1, 1938 in Warsaw. He graduated in 1961 at the Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw. In 1961 he joined the Department of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, where he started postgraduate studies of Jurassic ammonites under the supervision of a famous geologist and palaeontologist – Prof. E. Passendorfer. He obtained a Ph.D. degree in 1965 after presentation of a thesis entitled: “*Upper Oxfordian and Lower Kimmeridgian of the Wieluń Upland (In Polish)*”. Since that time he has been engaged in stratigraphical studies of the Upper Jurassic sediments. Till today he is faithful to this topic.

In 1967 Prof. A. Wierzbowski began work at the Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw, initially at the Department of General Geology, then, after re-organization of the Faculty, at the Department of Dynamic Geology. In the years 1971–1973 he participated in geological studies in Cuba, where he began to prepare a Doctor of Science thesis entitled “*Oxfordian ammonites of Pinar del Rio Province (western Cuba): their revision and stratigraphical significance*”. He obtained a D.Sc. degree in 1977, which was given by the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Geology. His D.Sc. thesis was later awarded by the Ministry of Higher Education and Technics. He was employed at the Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw as an associate professor starting from 1983, and attained a full professorship in 1995. After he retired from the Faculty of Geology, from 2011 to 2016, he worked in the Museum of the Polish Geological Institute–National Research Institute. In 2014 he was awarded a medal “Rewarded for Polish Geology” by the Ministry of the Environment.

Prof. A. Wierzbowski’s scientific activity is mainly focused on the stratigraphy of the Jurassic, as well as on the sedimentology, palaeogeography and microfacies of this system. He primarily deals with ammonite palaeontology, palaeoecology and biostratigraphy. For many years he has been conducting studies of the Jurassic rocks in the Polish Jura Chain (especially in the Wieluń Upland), in the border of the Holy Cross Mountains, in the Pieniny Klippen Belt, the Kujawy area, and the Peri-Baltic Syncline in Poland. He was also engaged

in studies of the Jurassic deposits of Cuba (1971–1973), Spitsbergen (1979), Barents and Norwegian seas (1985–1992), Scotland (2001–2003), Slovakia (since 1997), Ukraine (2001–2004), and Russia (2007–2012). His principal achievements in the area of ammonite biostratigraphy include: (1) documentation of the palaeogeographical differentiation of global ammonite faunas based on the comparison of coeval Oxfordian ammonites from Europe and Cuba. (2) determination of the detailed biostratigraphy of the Toarcian–Kimmeridgian succession of Spitsbergen. (3) determination of the detailed biostratigraphy of Jurassic and lowermost Cretaceous deposits from wells drilled on the shelves of the Barents and Norwegian seas (in cooperation with Norwegian IKU). (4) documentation of the biostratigraphy, lithology and facies changes of the Oxfordian and the Lower Kimmeridgian in the Polish Jura Chain and adjacent areas. (5) presentation of a proposal of the Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) for the Oxfordian–Kimmeridgian boundary in the Flodigarry section in Isle of Skye (Scotland) and its correlation with auxiliary sections in the Subboreal Province (Russia) and the Submediterranean Province (Poland and Spain). (6) studies of the Tithonian ammonites of the Rogoźnik Coquina Member in the Pieniny Klippen Belt (awarded by a Science Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences), and the Tithonian ammonites from the Tomaszów Syncline, Holy Cross Mts. (7) documentation of the biostratigraphy and correlation between various Jurassic rocks of the Czorsztyn, Niedzica and Czertezik successions of the Pieniny Klippen Belt. (8) biostratigraphical and lithological investigations of the Upper Jurassic of the Wapienno and the Bielawy sections in the Kujawy area of Poland. (9) determination of the biostratigraphy of the Middle Jurassic Ore-bearing Częstochowa Clay Formation, (10) palaeontological studies of the factors determining ontogenetic development of ammonite shells.

Prof. A. Wierzbowski is a co-author or principal author of about 160 publications devoted to the Jurassic rocks and their biostratigraphy, which have been published both in international and Polish journals, as well as of about 120 short comments, reviews and summaries. In addition, he has participated in many geological conferences, including all the Jurassic congresses, where he has given several tens of lectures. He was the chairman of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Jurassic System in Kraków in 2006. He also took part in many grant projects funded by Polish and International Organizations.

Prof. A. Wierzbowski, for many years, has conducted tutorials and has given lectures for students of the Faculty of Geology, the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, as well as for students of the Inter-Faculty Studies in Environmental Protection of the University of Warsaw. He has given lectures on general or dynamic geology and palaeoecology, conducted tutorials and seminars on the same subject and conducted geological trips for students – to the coast of the Baltic Sea and to the Holy Cross Mountains in Central Poland. He was a supervisor of 40 M.Sc. theses and 5 Ph.D. theses. In addition, he has contributed to popularization of geological knowledge by taking part in radio broadcasts, an UNI-KIDS project, and cyclic broadcasts of the Polish (“Such a landscape”), and of the Polish and Slovak televisions (“Through the Carpathians”); for this he was awarded by the Ministry of Education a Medal of National Education.

Prof. A. Wierzbowski acted as a head of the Institute of Basic Geology of the Faculty of Geology (1981–1984), a vice-dean of the Faculty of Geology (1984–1987), a deputy of the

Inter-Faculty Studies in Environmental Protection (1993–1996), a head of the Department of Dynamic Geology of the Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw (till 2009). He was also a member of the scientific councils of the Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Science, of the Inter-Faculty Studies in Environmental Protection, University of Warsaw, of the Committee of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, of the Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw, and of the Polish Geological Institute–National Research Institute. Till now he acts as an editor-in-chief of the *Volumina Jurassica* journal, which is edited by the Polish Geological Institute–National Research Institute and the Faculty of Geology, University of Warsaw, and supported by the International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy (ISJS) of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). In addition, he is a convenor of the Kimmeridgian Working Group of the International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy of the International Commission on Stratigraphy and works actively on the Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) proposal of the Oxfordian–Kimmeridgian boundary. He was also a founding member of the Polish Working Group of the Jurassic System, an initiator of “Jurassica” conferences and actively takes part in work of the society of Jurassic geologists. In addition, he has been participating in the sharing and planning of a lot of geotouristic projects in the area of the Polish Jura Chain as well as in the Opoczno and the Łuków counties in Poland. He has also arranged geological exhibitions including ones for a Museum of the Pieniny National Park in Krościenko nad Dunajcem in Poland.

*Dear Father, on my behalf and on behalf of your colleagues and friends I wish you a lot of other work successes and many joy and happy moments in the circle of your loving family.*

Hubert Wierzbowski