



Aleksander Jagodziński

In commemoration of the seventieth birthday anniversary

His road to geophysics was through geology, which he first learned about in his childhood from two of Poland's eminent geologists, Professor Jan Samsonowicz and Professor Władysław Pożaryski, both of whom visited his parents' home while conducting important geological research in the Holy Cross Mountains region in east-central Poland. Even closer ties developed during the period of Nazi terror when Aleksander Jagodziński's father helped to save the families of scholars living in Warsaw from starvation.

Aleksander Jagodziński studied geology at Warsaw University, completing his diploma work in 1956 under Samsonowicz's supervision. Having completed his university studies, he immediately took up a position with the Geophysical Research

Enterprise in Warsaw, which he remained faithful to for the rest of his professional career. He worked in the field of geoelectric research and participated in many important projects carried out by the company for the needs of Polish mining and industry. Indeed, as one of the most experienced interpreters of soundings in Poland, Jagodziński, even though he is retired, continues to help out in shallow geological-engineering projects throughout Poland.

His adventure with archaeology started in 1969 when he was approached by Professor Stanisław Tabaczyński and Dr. Jacek Przeniosło from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology with a request to carry out electrical resistivity measurements at the *Collegium Gostomianum*, a 17th century Jesuit school in Sandomierz. This led to his participation in a team working under the auspices of UNESCO on a big archaeological and geophysical project at Carthage in Tunisia.

The IAE Geophysical Laboratory was established at this time and Aleksander Jagodziński remained a close associate until the mid 1990s. He also participated in dozens of research projects in Poland, the most important being the Medieval urban complex at Gniew, explorations of subterranean complexes in churches, such as the cathedral churches in Tarnów and Warsaw, the Cistercian abbey in Oliwa (Gdańsk), as well as in some Medieval castles in Cieszyn, Czersk, Dębno, Inowódz.

Aleksander Jagodziński then had the opportunity to work in Italy as part of the cooperation project between IAE and the Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. He also was prospecting Murano island, a project undertaken by IAE in association with the Institute of Archaeology of Venice University.

The staff of the IAE Geophysical Laboratory (just Tomasz Herbich and Krzysztof Misiewicz today) all were required to have an archaeological academic background. As for experience in electrical resistivity research, for this the Lab is deeply indebted to Aleksander Jagodziński. The resistive tomography technique, which was introduced to archaeology in the late 1980s, was from the very start our daily cup of tea. Thanks to this approach – we laboriously did hundreds of vertical geoelectric soundings – we were able to count among the Lab's successes the extremely difficult geophysical surveying of prehistoric flint mines. And always during our work we could and still can count on Aleksander Jagodziński to be there and to be ready with his assistance and advice.

Tomasz Herbich