

FASCICULI ARCHAEOLOGIAE HISTORICAE
FASC. XXVII, PL ISSN 0860-0007

JERZY MAIK

PREFACE

The 12th International Arms and Armour Colloquium entitled “Broń zwierciadłem epoki. Andrzeja Nadolskiego bronioznawcze dokonania i inspiracje” (“Weaponry as a Mirror of the Epoch. Andrzej Nadolski’s Arms and Armour Related Scientific Achievements and Inspirations”) was held in Łódź between November 21st and 22nd, 2013, on the 20th anniversary of Professor Nadolski’s death (1921-1993). Its organisers were: the Centre for Research into Old Technologies of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Polish Academy of Sciences, Łódź Branch.

Andrzej Nadolski was the initiator and first organiser of the colloquium. The initiation of this series of conferences was a consequence of his predominant scientific interests. Ancient weapons were the topic of the professor’s doctoral thesis, entitled *Studia nad uzbrojeniem polskim w X, XI i XII w. (Studies into Polish Weaponry in the 10th, 11th and the 12th Centuries)*, written in 1952 under the supervision of Professor Konrad Jazdzewski and published in 1954. The book still remains a highly popular work. It is frequently read and cited, though often without understanding, by numerous scholars and researchers. This was the way ancient arms and armour had become the main subject matter of Professor Nadolski’s scientific work.

About ten years after obtaining his doctor’s degree, Professor Nadolski began to gather together a group of young people, thus establishing the Polish school of historic arms and armour research. They were the first team of scientists to deal with medieval weaponry in Poland and, most probably, in Europe as well. The seminars conducted by Professor Nadolski soon became important scientific events and the professor’s scientific method and achievements are still referred to today. They remain used and quoted not only by his scientific disciples and their followers, but also other scholars who had never had direct contact with the professor himself.

The crowning achievement of Professor Nadolski’s scientific activity was the excavation of the battlefield of 1410 at Grunwald/Tannenberg, the largest battlefield of the European Middle Ages. This investigation led to the publication of a book entitled *Grunwald – problemy wybrane (Grunwald: Selected Problems)*; first published 1990, second impression 2010).

Besides his scientific career and the creation of the Polish school of historic arms and armour research Professor

Nadolski’s four other accomplishments, still functioning today, should also be mentioned here.

The first one is the Łódź Branch of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences. Established by Professor Konrad Jazdzewski, its first director, it was soon handed over to Professor Andrzej Nadolski, who continued to develop his team of researchers working “in the borderland of archeology”, that is to say, in the borderland of sciences.

“Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae” is Professor Nadolski’s second major achievement. Founded in 1986, this publication is a result of scientific cooperation between the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Polish Academy of Sciences, Łódź Branch. It is published in congress languages. The contributors are both Polish and foreign authors. Thus, “Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae” promotes Polish scientific accomplishments and constitutes a forum where scholars from Poland, Western, Central and Eastern Europe can exchange opinions. The present publication is the 27th fascicle of this magazine.

The above-mentioned International Arms and Armour Colloquium, which has been functioning in European science since 1988, is also part of the professor’s scientific heritage. All the material presented at successive conferences has been published in “Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae”.

The fourth achievement to be mentioned here is a series of books, films and radio programmes popularizing the knowledge of military history, the history of weapons, as well as, broadly speaking, the knowledge of history and archaeology.

On the first day of the International Arms and Armour Colloquium, its participants presented a selection of papers commemorating the life and work of Professor Andrzej Nadolski, his accomplishments in the field of science and other areas of activity. The second day of the conference was devoted to the presentation of the numerous initiatives, undertaken over the last 20 years, aimed at the continuation of Professor Nadolski’s work. These papers have been included in the present fascicle of “Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae”, dedicated to the memory of Professor Andrzej Nadolski.

Łódź, October 2014

(translated by Zuzanna Poklewska-Parra)

