

Roman Kozłowski Lectures 1991

The Institute of Palaeobiology, Warsaw has initiated the Roman Kozłowski Lectures - a series of presentations on current issues of palaeontology, geology and evolutionary biology. The lectures have a manifold goal.

First of all they are meant to commemorate Professor Roman Kozłowski, one of the grand figures in 20th century palaeontology and the founder of our Institute. Secondly, the lectures were to stimulate our greater participation in the intellectual life of the Warsaw scientific community.

And last but not least we wanted to broaden the function of our Museum of Evolution, making it a meeting place for the scientists. The towering frames of dinosaurs' skeletons provide a dramatic scenery encouraging heated debates (see photo). Frankly speaking this idea has been borrowed from our American colleagues who like to use the magnificent interiors of their Natural History Museums for scientific and social gatherings.

Since April, 1991 eight lectures have been delivered on a wide scope of subjects:

Halszka Osmólska (Warsaw) - *Dinosaurs in numbers.*

Antoni Hoffman (Warsaw) - *Fossil record of speciation events.*

Adolf Seilacher (Tübingen) - *Lost constructions of Precambrian Evolution.*

Karol Sabath (Warsaw) - *On the blind alleys of 'scientific creationism'.*

Krzysztof Jaworowski (Warsaw) - *Million-year-old hieroglyphs.*

Christian Emig (Marseille) - *Bioecological systems and their future past, or taphonomy from a biological point of view.*

Jerzy Trammer (Warsaw) - *'The spindles of life' or the meaning of frequency distribution curves in palaeontology.*

Janusz Uchmański (Warsaw) - *Ecological systems - order or chaos ?*

Lectures are given in Polish or in English in case of our guest-lecturers. Most of the lectures are published in the 'Kosmos', quarterly of the Polish Society of Naturalists. According to a 'public opinion poll' the audience evaluates the meetings as a fortunate novelty, adding a fresh breeze to their routine scientific occupations. The year 1992 will see a continuation of the series along the same general lines.