



Teresa Maryńska (1937–2019)

Teresa Maryńska, the outstanding dinosaur researcher, passed away on the 3rd of October 2019. She was associated with the Museum of the Earth, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw ever since 1961, and, between 1976 and 2006, she was a vice-director there. She always maintained good, friendly scientific relations with colleagues from other palaeontological institutions in Poland and abroad, and was a member of Scientific Council of the Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw (1981–2006).

Her research was initially on invertebrate palaeontology. Her thesis concerned the Bryozoa, but she was always interested in vertebrates and looked for an opportunity to study them. Eventually, she was invited to participate in the Polish-Mongolian Palaeontological Expeditions to the Gobi desert, and became an active, highly appreciated participant of all four expeditions, beginning with the first one in 1964 up to the last one in 1971 (where she had the position of vice-leader). Along with Halszka Osmólska, the co-author on an array of dinosaur papers, she also took part in several small exploratory trips to the Gobi, and in research projects in the Geological Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in Ulaanbaatar, in cooperation with the Mongolian colleague Rinchen Barsbold. The long-lasting cooperation of Teresa and Halszka resulted in a true friendship, that benefitted, was appreciated by, and will be remembered by their colleagues all over the world.

Teresa started her dinosaur research in the 1970s with studies on ankylosaurians. First (1971) she published a paper on the amazingly complete skull of *Pinacosaurus grangeri*. In 1977 appeared her opus magnum on the anatomy and taxonomy of the Ankylosauridae from Mongolia. In 1974 she co-authored, with Halszka Osmólska, an important study on the Pachycephalosauria, based on a new fascinating material collected by the Polish-Mongolian Palaeontological Expeditions from the Nemegt Basin of the Gobi Desert. Three new genera and species, and, noticeably, a new suborder have been erected and its position within the Ornithischia determined. Then Teresa turned her attention to protoceratopsian and hadrosaurian dinosaurs (1974, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985), all in cooperation with Halszka. An extended analysis of the Oviraptorosauria by Teresa Maryńska, Halszka Osmólska, and Mieczysław Wolsan in 2002, brought an unexpected conclusion about the avialan status of this group.

As a well-known specialist of dinosaurs, Teresa Maryńska was invited to be the co-author of some chapters within “The Dinosauria”, a compendium of dinosaur knowledge published by University of California Press in 2007, unparalleled for its comprehensiveness at the time.



Teresa retired in 2006. She stopped her scientific activities and moved into her private world. But up to this date, she is remembered as one of the legendary Polish women of the Gobi Expeditions, along with her late colleagues, Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska and Halszka Osmólska.

Deeply touched by her demise as we are, we return in our memory to her outstanding personality. We recall her independent nature, her honesty and loyalty, her unselfishness. She was appreciated as a wise, open-minded person, concerned in diversity of the world, fond of literature, not only scientific, sensitive to nature. The wild landscape of Mongolia was always present in her memory.

Magdalena Borsuk-Białynicka [borsuk.b@twarda.pan.pl], Institute of Paleobiology, PAS, ul. Twarda 51/55, 00-818 Warszawa, Poland.

Gwidon Jakubowski [gwidon_jakubowski@o2.pl], Museum of the Earth of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Aleja Na Skarpie 20/26, 00-488 Warszawa, Poland.

Jerzy Lefeld [222gama@gmail.com], Institute of Geological Sciences, PAS, ul. Twarda 51/55, 00-818 Warszawa, Poland.