

JOLA

Writing an appreciation of an honouree for the purposes of his or her jubilee volume is truly a daunting task. How to convey the truth about one's scholarly achievements and character in a few brief sentences, at the same time avoiding a panegyric tone and going beyond a dry list of dates and titles of published works? This task is all the more difficult when this honouree is Jolanta Młynarczyk, a colourful figure with a remarkably rich biography in both the private and academic spheres and a personality that defies easy definition. In spite of all these difficulties, I shall try.

Jola, as she is frequently called in informal Polish, studied Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw from 1966 to 1971. Her academic mentor was Kazimierz Michałowski, the creator and propagator of this discipline in Poland. Thanks to his strong personality, inexhaustible energy and worldwide contacts in the global academic milieu, at the time of Jola's undergraduate studies Polish archaeology in the Mediterranean saw a remarkably rapid development. Within a few short years (1956–1965), Michałowski launched excavations on several key sites, from the northern coast of the Black Sea (Myrmekion), across Egypt (Tell Atrib, Alexandria, Deir el-Bahari), Sudan (Faras, Dongola) and Syria (Palmyra), to Cyprus (Nea Paphos). He also created the institutional framework for Polish research on ancient Mediterranean civilizations. A central role was assigned to the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw in Cairo, founded in 1959. This was the unit through which all field projects were managed. The Centre was complemented by three institutions in Warsaw: the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, which was responsible for collecting, archiving and processing documentation, as well as publishing the results of archaeological research; the National Museum, which collected, stored and exhibited objects acquired in the course of excavations; and the Chair of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw, which was to train future researchers. As a university professor, Michałowski used to give individual finds or categories of objects excavated at sites he directed to students for their Master's Degree theses. Jola, a student interested in the Classical world, especially Greek culture, was supposed to analyse a group of oil lamps from Tell Atrib. After many years, she told me about a presentation of her interim research results at a seminar. Michałowski was constantly dissatisfied with something and interrupted her discourse with his comments. It was so distracting that at some point, surprising herself as much as the audience, she snapped: "Sir, who is presenting here? Me or you?" Startled, Michałowski answered: "Why, you are, my dear" and remained silent from then on. After her outburst, Jola spoke so well and made such an impression on the professor that he offered her a student internship in the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Several years later, in 1975, this informal arrangement turned into a permanent position. Jola was affiliated to the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology PAS (Polish: ZAŚ PAN) for over thirty years, climbing the career ladder from assistant researcher (1975–1981) through senior researcher (1982–1998) to associate professor (1999–2013). Among her professional responsibilities in this institution, besides research work, was care for archaeological documentation from Nea Paphos submitted after every field season. She also actively participated in publishing work at the Centre as editor of several volumes in the *Nea Paphos* and *Alexandrie* series.

In 2000, still as an employee of the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Jola was offered a teaching position at the University of Warsaw's Institute of Archaeology, in the Department of Near Eastern Archaeology, which she subsequently headed between 2009 and 2013. From 2013 onwards, the University of Warsaw became her main place of employment. Despite the lack of prior teaching experience (excluding contact with student groups that came to excavate at Nea Paphos), Jola turned out to be an excellent university teacher esteemed for her erudition, clarity and precision of expression, and skilful blending of theory with the practical knowledge she had gained during her rich and varied field activity. Testimony to her didactic success is the large number of MA theses and several doctoral dissertations written under her supervision.

Jola's first excavations, like the start of her work as an archaeologist in general, were orchestrated by Kazimierz Michałowski. In the system he created, young, promising Archaeology graduates were offered long-term scholarships at the Research Centre in Cairo, which dispatched them to work on specific sites to hone their vocational skills. Jola was sent to Alexandria, where she spent over two years between 1972 and 1975, taking part in the excavation of a Late Antique residential quarter. Later she returned to Alexandria several times (in 1986, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1993,

1997) to continue work on material given to her for publication. During her stay in Egypt she also paid her first visit to Nea Paphos on Cyprus (1973) – a site which was to capture her interest for many years, practically until today. Between 1975 and 2016, she took part in the work of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw mission uncovering remains of residential architecture from the late Hellenistic and Imperial periods in the Maloutena quarter (years 1975, 1977–78, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1989, 1998, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016). Nea Paphos was the subject of her doctoral dissertation defended at the University of Warsaw in 1981. Recently, in collaboration with Claire Balandier of the University of Avignon, she launched her own project devoted to the study of the Fabrika Hill. Since 2000, she has been participating in the works of New York University on Yeronisos, a small island located in the northwest part of the *chôra* of Paphos, headed by Joan Breton Connelly. She also sporadically took part in the fieldwork of the University of Konstanz in Palea Paphos.

In the 1990s, Jola became involved in archaeology of the Land of Israel. Between 1994 and 1998 she participated in excavations of the late-Hellenistic to early-Roman fortress at Sha'ar ha-Amakim in the northwestern part of the Jezrael Valley, headed by Arthur Segal of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, Haifa University. After completion of the fieldwork, continuing the cooperation with the scholars from Haifa University, Jola moved to Hippos, one of the cities of the Decapolis located on the eastern shores of Lake Galilee. Within the framework of the international Hippos-Sussita Excavation Project, she directed the works of the Polish group in 2000–2009, uncovering the so-called Northwest Church located in the heart of the ancient city, next to the agora. In 2003 she took part in excavations of a Late-Antique Christian cult site at Khirbet Jiljil (Beit Jimal), conducted by Andre Strus of the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome. Between 2011 and 2017 she took part in fieldwork at Akko, headed by Ann Killebrew from Pennsylvania State University. Finally, between 2012 and 2015 she co-operated with the École biblique et archéologique française, Jerusalem, in preparation of the publication of Khirbet Qumran material unearthed during excavations carried out in the 1950s.

Over the last few years, in parallel to her involvement in fieldwork in the Land of Israel, Jola has been active in the archaeology of neighbouring Jordan. In August 2013, she participated in a study season of the Jordanian-French team at Khirbet el-Samra, the site of a Late-Antique village some 50 kilometres to the north of Amman. In 2014 she started, on behalf of the Polish Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, her own project at Beit Ras, ancient Capitolas, which like Hippos was a city of Decapolis that flourished in the Roman Imperial and Late-Antique periods. After the work in Beit Ras was suspended for logistical reasons, she moved to Khirbet Sar, a multiphase occupational site west of Amman. Works on this site, conducted under the auspices of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology UW, have just begun. One hopes that they will continue for many years and bring interesting results.

Since 2014 Jola has also been participating in excavations at Akrai, an ancient town in eastern Sicily, conducted by a mission of the Institute of Archaeology UW directed by Roksana Chowaniec.

As mentioned above, Jola began her professional career as an archaeologist with a Master's Degree thesis on oil lamps from Tell Atrib. For a long time, lamps remained the focus of her scientific interests. The results of these pursuits were three large lychnological volumes: a monograph on the Alexandrian lamp manufacturing centre of the Hellenistic period (*Alexandrian and Alexandria-Influenced Mould-Made Lamps of the Hellenistic Period*, BAR International Series 677, Oxford 1997), as well as publications of lamps uncovered during the Polish-Egyptian excavations at Tell Atrib between the years 1985–1995 (*Tell Atrib 1985–1995 III. Terracotta Oil Lamps*, Warsaw 2012) and from excavations conducted by a mission of the École Biblique at Khirbet Qumran in the 1950s (*Qumran terracotta oil lamps*, [in:] J.-B. Humbert o.p., A. Chambon, J. Młynarczyk, *Khirbet Qumrân et Ain Feshkha. Fouilles du P. Roland de Vaux IIIA. L'archéologie de Qumrân. Reconsidération de l'interprétation. Corpus of the Lamps*, Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus, Series Archaeologica 5a, Göttingen 2016, 447–526). To this one may add minor works devoted mainly to objects uncovered during fieldwork of the mission of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology UW in Nea Paphos. Recently, however, Jola has clearly been limiting her activity in the field of lamp studies. It has reached my ears that she is tired of lychnological material and does not wish to be pigeonholed as a lamp expert. Her main focus in material studies has now become pottery, though not the attractive, superbly made tableware, but plain cooking vessels. Jola goes beyond their formal and material aspects and, perhaps above all, treats them as sources for reconstructing culinary practices and generally everyday life of ancient Mediterranean cultures. To Jola's skill as a ceramicist we owe publications of pottery assemblages primarily from excavations in the Near East (Sha'ar ha-Amakim, Hippos, Akko in the Land of Israel, Yeronisos in Cyprus), as well as in Sicily (Akrai). Jola was also co-organiser (together with Henryk Meyza) of a workshop devoted to pottery of the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the Eastern Mediterranean, which took place in Nieborów in December 1993, and was co-editor of the conference proceedings (H. Meyza, J. Młynarczyk (eds.), *Hellenistic and Roman Pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean – Advances in Scientific Studies. Acts of the II Nieborów Pottery Workshop, Nieborów, 18–20 December 1993*, Warsaw

1995). Regardless of her preferences concerning the study of this or that category of finds, Jola is above all an excellent field archaeologist. She has a profound understanding of chronological and functional relationships of the investigated structures and she accurately places them in their historical and cultural context. In the reconstruction of such contexts she proficiently applies methods of archaeological, but also historical research, relying on textual sources, both literary and epigraphic. A prime example of the use of this method is her doctoral dissertation devoted to Hellenistic Nea Paphos (*Nea Paphos III. Nea Paphos in the Hellenistic Period*, Warsaw 1990). Her reconstruction of the plan of the Hellenistic city takes equal account of the terrain and archaeological remains, and of the political, cultural and religious preconditions of the city's creation and functioning as the capital of the overseas territory of the Ptolemaic kingdom.

Jola is also an avid propagator of knowledge on Classical Antiquity. She authored the book *Sztuka Cypru (Art of Cyprus)*, published in Warsaw in 1982 by Wydawnictwa Artystyczne i Filmowe as part of the series *Sztuka świata (Art of the World)*. In the 1970s and 1980s, the series was immensely popular among Polish readers and played an important cultural role.

The above details of the professional life of the honouree – as researcher, teacher, organiser, editor, and populariser of knowledge – still do not produce a full picture. In order to complete it, one must describe Jola as a private individual. It is all the more justified as both spheres – the professional and the private one – are in Jola's case very closely intertwined.

For over 30 years, Jola has been married to Mariusz Burdajewicz (I had the honour and pleasure of being best man at their wedding, together with Małgorzata Karkowska, who was the maid of honour). As Mariusz is an archaeologist specialising in the Levant and Cyprus, the couple is linked not only by private bonds, but also by professional ties. For many years, since her participation in excavations at Sha'ar ha-Amakim, Jola has conducted most of her fieldwork together with her husband. Mariusz, who is an excellent documentalist, also helps Jola prepare illustrations for her articles and books. Jola is a proud Mum of Kostek and Julia, and Grandma of Sonia and Tomek. Julia, a conservator of paintings by profession, has just received her doctorate from the University of Warsaw. Specialising in archaeological conservation, she often accompanies her parents in the field. Without much exaggeration, one can say that among members of this family are also animals. For many years, these included two mixed-breed dogs, Yarden and Galil, and a glorious black cat named Babel. The dogs, adopted from an animal shelter, were very friendly and sought affection from everyone, while the cat, an independent spirit, was rarely seen by outsiders. Sadly, all three animals have recently passed away having reached a ripe old age, but there is already a new dog – Lusja – saved from homelessness like the others and just as friendly, and a cat named Getty. Jola is a wonderful host. As a frequent guest of Jola and Mariusz, I often had a chance to admire her culinary talent marked by a remarkable inventiveness. Last but not least, Jola is a very social person, a playful and somewhat mischievous soul. I have only heard stories about the merry parties organised in Alexandria by the young scholarship holders, Jola included, in the early 1970s. In the beginning of the 1980s I did get a chance, however, to personally hear her singing the songs of Talaras and Theodorakis in the company of her Cypriot friends in Nea Paphos to the accompaniment of a guitar and a bouzouki. I also recall Jola and I singing a song from the Warsaw street folk repertoire, *Felek Zdankiewicz był chłopak morowy*, while returning from a New Year's Eve celebration on a public bus. I feel a bit awkward putting the latter fact in writing, but I believe that this too is a manifestation of the honouree's personality.

Adam Łajtar

Translated by Dorota Dzierzbicka