



Prof. Maria Roman Sławiński (1931–2014)

On 27 November 2014, Professor Maria Roman Sławiński passed away – one of the most eminent Polish sinologists, a researcher with a broad range of interests, including the history of China, especially in the Modern and contemporary era, the ethnology of mainland China and Taiwan, as well as the problems of contemporary Confucianism in East Asia along with its impact on the politics and social life of the PRC.

Born in 1931, in 1950 he started his studies of Oriental philology at the Warsaw University. The following year he left for a scholarship to China, to study at the Qinghua University and Renmin University in Beijing (1951–1955). Having returned, he defended his MA thesis, then his PhD thesis and habilitation (*La Société des Piques Rogues et le mouvement paysan en Chine en 1926–1927*, Warszawa 1975). He was a lecturer of Chinese history and language in the Chinese Studies Department, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Warsaw University until 1981. During those years he was, among others, deputy director of this Institute and deputy dean of the Faculty of Modern Languages.

In 1981 he moved to the Polish Academy of Sciences where he eventually became the head of the Department of Asia Cultures in the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, the founder of the Centre for Studies on Confucianism, one of the founders and editors of the yearbook *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia* (1988–2014). He obtained the Professor title in 1985 and became an Academy member.

Prof. Sławiński also cooperated with other universities. Since 2002 he delivered lectures at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (Chair in the Middle and Far East, Institute of Regional Studies). Since 2004 he was the head of the Far East at the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Cracow University. In the last years of his life he was the co-founder and head of the Chair of Sinology at the Catholic University of Lublin (2012). He was an acute but also kind tutor and reviewer of numerous MA and PhD theses. Among other functions, he was also a temporarily member of the Board of the Asia and Pacific Museum.

During his career, Prof. Sławiński was also a visiting scholar of the universities in Beijing, Taipei, Paris, Moscow, an outstanding expert, active and world-renowned participant of the international community of Chinese studies. He published 13 books on the aforementioned topics, including the Modern history of China, history of Taiwan, origins of the People's Republic of China, and around 160 papers and translations.

The Polish Institute of World Art Studies has lost a great friend and important supporter.

*Joanna Wasilewska*