



ANDRZEJ OBERC
(1920—1981)

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On 24th August 1981, the Polish Mineralogical Society lost one of its distinguished charter members. Professor Andrzej Oberc died suddenly in Wisła, where he was supervising a training course in geology for students of Cracow Polytechnic.

Andrzej Oberc was born in Jasło on October 7, 1920. After finishing grammar school in his native town, he entered the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów, where he studied geology under the supervision of prof. Wojciech Rogala and prof. Julian Tokarski at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science. He graduated in 1941. During the German occupation, in 1942, he began working for the Beskiden Erdöl Gewinnungs Gesellschaft and then for the Karpathen Öl enterprise in Lwów. Together with prof. Tokarski, he studied the occurrence of heavy minerals in Flysch Carpathian rocks. Arrested in 1944, he was put in gaol in Jasło, from where he was sent to a forced labour camp at Grybów and then at Stróża. In December 1944 he escaped, and the offensive of the Soviet Army brought him liberation. In April 1945 he came to Cracow and found employment as professor Tokarski's assistant at the Institute of Pedology of the Jagiellonian University. In May 1945 he went to Wrocław with a group of workers headed by prof. Kulczyński to make an inventory of the property of Wrocław University saved after the war. He returned to Cracow in September and two months later he presented a dissertation on the "*Geology of the Carpathian Forefield*", whereupon he received an M. A. in geology and palaeontology from the Jagiellonian University. From November 1946 he worked as Assistant Lecturer at the University. In June 1947 he presented his doctor's thesis on the "*Stratigraphy of the Krosno Beds on the basis of heavy minerals*" and obtained his Ph. D. degree.

On August 1, 1947 he was appointed Lecturer at the Department of Petrography, created for professor Tokarski at the Faculty of Geology and Surveying of the Academy of Mining in Cracow. He worked there till December 1, 1961, carrying out research on a variety of subjects, mainly in the fields of petrography and mineralogy.

Worth noting are his studies of heavy minerals and the possibility of their use for correlation of strata. He also carried out field works, mainly in the areas of occurrence of limestones within the Silesian-Cracow Jurassic and in the Holy Cross Mts, participated in the making of a soil map of Cracow conurbation and the mapping of Crystalline Island in the Tatra Mts. From 1950 to 1953 he made investigations of the Filipowice tuffs near Krzeszowice. In 1954 he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Mineralogy and Petrography, the Faculty of Geology and Geological Prospecting of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy. Parallel to his research work, he held responsible offices at the Academy. From 1955 to 1959 he was Vice-President for education and then Deputy for students' welfare. In 1953/4 he stayed for five weeks in China, where he collected materials concerning the mineralogy and petrography of loesses from the provinces of Szen-Si and Szan-Si.

After the death of prof. Tokarski, Andrzej Oberc was offered the Chair of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering at the Faculty of Hydraulic Engineering of Cracow Polytechnic, which he took over on December 1, 1961. He also set about organizing the Department of Engineering Geology, selecting his associates, having the premises adapted and furnished with modern equipment, research facilities and didactic aids. This new establishment carried out both didactic activities and research on a variety of subjects, e.g. mineralogical and petrographic studies of copper ore deposits near Lubin, Sieroszowice and Polkowice, zinc and lead ore deposits near Olkusz, as well as investigations of the geologic aspects of hydraulic engineering. In the latter field, professor Oberc initiated and carried out studies of the bottom detrital material of Carpathian rivers, the shore abrasion of water basins, and of the foundation conditions of dams in Flysch rocks. To solve these problems with maximum efficiency, he organized a special geophysical team. He widened the scope of his mineralogical and petrographic interests by studies pertaining to the preservation of historical monuments, such as the determination of the mineralogical composition of masonry mortars, architectonic materials and ancient works of art.

His scientific, didactic and organizational activities at Cracow Polytechnic were interrupted by tragic events. In 1963, in consequence of a serious illness, he had to have a leg amputated. He lost the other leg in 1968 and although mutilated for life, he retained his cheerful disposition, warm-heartedness and optimism. His attitude towards his associates, junior members of the staff and students was, as it had been before, kind and friendly, he was always ready to help them with all their problems. His extraordinary fortitude, enthusiasm for scientific work and teaching, and the community spirit with the university enabled him to resume his work after each period of convalescence. He continued his research, gave professional advice to junior research workers, had lectures and classes for students, and even took part in field investigations. In February 1975, in recognition of his scientific and didactic achievements, he was appointed to a professorship at Cracow Polytechnic.

Professor Andrzej Oberc worthily represented Polish science abroad, participating in many conferences, symposia and congresses, e.g. in Miskolc, Hungary (1959), China (1959/60), Košice, Czechoslovakia (1963). He actively co-operated with several scientific institutions and organizations, such as the Polish Mineralogical Society, Committees for Mineralogical and Geological Sciences of the Cracow Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Geological Society, Polish Pedological Society, Mineral Oil Institute, Geological Institute, Institute of Meteorology and Water Economics.

Professor Andrzej Oberc was also an active social worker. He was a member of the Polish Teachers' Association from 1947 and vice-president of its Regional Board in Cracow in the years 1962—66. He was chairman of the University Commis-

sion for Enrolment several times. His last functions were those of chairman of the Commission for Degrees and Research Staff at the Faculty of Sanitary and Hydraulic Engineering of Cracow Polytechnic and chairman of the Board of the Institute of Geotechnics at Cracow Polytechnic.

Professor Oberc is the author of some dozen papers and studies covering a wide spectrum of subjects in the fields of mineralogy, petrography and engineering geology. He also wrote several university textbooks. He supervised the writing of a number of doctor's theses and reviewed many of them. During his university career he was awarded several medals and decorations for distinguished public service. He is a holder of the Gold Cross of Merit (1959) and the Knight's Cross of Polonia Restituta (1967).

Professor Andrzej Oberc, a distinguished scholar and teacher, died at his post but he will long live in the memory of those who had the opportunity to meet him and work under his supervision.

A list of papers of professor Oberc's authorship will be published in the Annals of the Polish Geological Society.

Włodzimierz Parachoniak

24 sierpnia 1981 r. zmarł w wieku 61 lat prof. dr Andrzej Oberc, członek-założyciel Polskiego Towarzystwa Mineralogicznego. W latach 1945—1961 pracował w Katedrze Petrografii Akademii Górniczo-Hutniczej w Krakowie, pełniąc w tym czasie przez 5 lat funkcję prorektora uczelni. W latach 1964—1981 związany był z Politechniką Krakowską, w której zorganizował Katedrę Geologii Inżynierskiej. Prace naukowe Andrzeja Oberca dotyczyły m.in. minerałów ciężkich fliszu karpackiego, lessów, tufitów rejonu Krzeszowic, zagadnień geologiczno-inżynierskich z zakresu budowy zbiorników i zapór wodnych, a także problemów mineralogiczno-petrograficznych związanych z konserwacją zabytków

24 августа 1981 г. в возрасте 61 лет скончался профессор д-р Анджей Обэрц, член-основатель Польского Минералогического Общества. В 1945—1961 г.г. работал на Кафедре Петрографии Горно-Металлургической Академии в Кракове, будучи в это время в течение 5-и лет ее проректором. В 1961—1981 г.г. связан был с Краковским Политехническим Институтом, в котором организовал Кафедру Инженерной Геологии. Научные труды Анджея Обэрца посвящены были в частности минералам тяжелой фракции карпатского флиша, лёссам, туффи́там района Кшешовиц, инженерно-геологическим вопросам в области строительства водохранилищ и плотин, а также минералогическо-петрографическим проблемам, связанным с консервацией памятников старины.