

Antoni GAWĘŁ

UKD 92 Gaweł A./438/:061.22:549/438/.023.7

Professor Antoni Gaweł was born at Łazy near Cieszyn on 22nd March 1901, in a miner's family. In 1919 he completed his secondary education at Orłowa near Cieszyn, and began studying chemistry, mineralogy and geology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University, taking his degree in 1924.

A. Gaweł entered into close contact with mineralogy as early as 1923, when he became assistant at the Department of Mineralogy of the Jagiellonian University, headed then by Professor Stefan Kreutz, an eminent crystallographer and mineralogist. Two years later A. Gaweł became an associate of the Physiographic Commission of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow. In 1928 he received a Ph. D. degree from the Jagiellonian University, where in 1932 was appointed Assistant Lecturer and then Lecturer in 1938.



During the German occupation Dr. Antoni Gaweł, together with other professors and research workers of the Jagiellonian University and the Academy of Mining in Cracow, was sent by Nazis to the concentration camps in Sachsenhausen and Dachau, where he was prisoner till January 1941.

After the liberation of Cracow in January 1945, Dr. A. Gaweł resumed his functions of Lecturer at the Department of Mineralogy and Petrography of the Jagiellonian University. In the

following years he devoted much of his time and energy to recondition the building at 11 Gołębia Street in Cracow, housing the Department, which was devastated during the war. He initiated there research works, lectures and classes for students, and set up again the Mineralogical Museum. In 1948 he was appointed associate professor and Head of this Department, and in 1957 ordinary professor.

Professor A. Gaweł held many responsible offices at the Jagiellonian University, e.g. he was twice elected to the Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences.

Very characteristic feature of Prof. Gaweł's scientific interests is a wide range of problems he was dealing with in the papers published. In the field of petrology of igneous rocks his original ideas concerned the origin of zonal plagioclases in Carpathian porphyrites, kalification of eruptive rocks in the environs of Cracow, formation of amphibolites in outer parts of magmatic chambers and their pneumatolitic alteration, as well as origin of nephrite in Lower Silesian deposits.

Prof. Gaweł's interests in sedimentary petrology were concentrated in the field of diagenetic dolomitization of Jurassic limestones and silification of some flysch rocks, as well as in the colouration of the Carpathian variegated shales.

Prof. Gaweł is the author of valuable monograph of the Wieliczka salt mine and of several publication on rock salt mineralogy. Using decrepitation method he attempted to reconstruct the depth of Miocene basin during saline sedimentation. He is also very active in the field of history of geological sciences.

Following his professional interests, Professor A. Gaweł took part in several scientific expeditions to different parts of the world: in 1928 to Italy into the Cottian Alps, in 1930 to the Baltic and Scandinavian countries /Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Norway/ and to the island of Rugia, in 1935 to Iceland. In 1937, he was a member of a scientific expedition to Greenland, headed by A. Kosiba, and in 1938 he visited again the Scandinavian countries. In 1957 he made a four months' research excursion to Lebanon.

Prof. A. Gaweł actively participated in many international and Polish congresses and conferences, e.g. in the congresses of the Geological Association of the Carpathian-Balkan Countries in Roumania and in Bulgaria. In 1968 he took part in the International Geological Congress in Prague.

Professor A. Gaweł is a member of a great number of Polish and foreign scientific societies. Since 1960 he has been Head of the Section of the History of Geological Sciences affiliated to the Department of

the History of Sciences and Technology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He is charter member of the Mineralogical Society of Poland and of the Polish Geological Society. He is also member of editorial boards of several mineralogical and geological journals and is actively interested in the affairs of the Branch Commissions of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow: the Commission of Mineralogical Sciences and the Commission of Geological Sciences.

For his distinguished contributions to the development of the research on the history of geological sciences in Poland, Professor A. Gaweł has been elected a corresponding member of the International Committee on the History of Geological Sciences.

Professor Antoni Gaweł is a scholar endowed with an explorative and creative mind. He educated a great number of mineralogists and petrographers of Poland. His scientific output consists of more than 80 papers on mineralogy, geochemistry, petrography and the history of geological sciences.

As a tribute to his distinguished merits to the development of mineralogical sciences in Poland, in September 1979 he was elected a Honorary Member of the Mineralogical Society of Poland.

Wiesław Heflik