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Professor Ewaryst Jaskólski (1932-2007) A prominent scholar in the field of combat sports and martial arts

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We said good-bye to Professor Ewaryst Jaskólski on 2 July 2007 at the Cemetery of the Holy Family in Wrocław (Poland). The funeral procession somehow reflected the Professor's broad activity and authority in various circles. Next to family and numerous friends not connected with his professional activity, he was paid the last tribute by scholars from all over the country, artists, students of Wrocław universities, activists, coaches and competitors from all Wrocław judo clubs (among them World, European and Polish Championships medallists) and from other national clubs, a populous group of hunters, representatives of the military, the police, prison guards, as well as holders of Ph.D. and M.A. titles and judo coaches promoted by the Professor.

For the people of science this was farewell only in the formal sense. The Professor's works will be studied and quoted by scholars and by next generations of students interested not only in the issues of sports and martial arts. A significant scope of Professor Jaskólski's scholarly exploration was focused around the issues of selection and preparation of candidates to military, police and prison formations, issues of physiotherapy as well as the theory of training and the holistically perceived theory and practice of physical education. The mainstream of Professor Jaskólski's



research concerns various issues of sports and martial arts placed both within the scopes of biomedical and social sciences, or their combination. Still, many application postulates from this research are formulated for the use of institutions and persons connected with widely understood individual and communal safety.

To a certain extent Professor Jaskólski's research technique reflects his personality and life experience. In the course of his studies and during cooperation with scholars representing medical, exact and technical sciences, he developed the ability to perceive phenomena from various perspectives. This ability also refers to the wisdom of a savvy hunter who

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observed the laws of nature and animals living in the wild, with which on many occasions he took up the fight while respecting the tradition and the hunters' code. He grew up in the difficult times of World War 2. He survived the occupation of Poland in the years 1939-1944, and after the war, when he already was an academic teacher, he was the first one in Wrocław to teach students self-defence, ju-jitsu and judo. He was justly declared the creator of Wrocław judo by the expert circles (1954-1962). He was an academic teacher since 1953 and he was invariably until his death affiliated with the Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław.

During 1962-1963 he had an internship in the rehabilitation centre in Konstancin, where he carried out research for his future Ph.D. dissertation. He was one of the first in Poland Doctors of Philosophy in the field of Physical Education (now: Physical Culture Science). Professor Ewaryst Jaskólski's unique research and methodological achievements in that period include, among others, the experiment of teaching safe falls by persons with amputation of lower limbs. The effect of further studies and experiments in that respect was to work out, together with Zbigniew Nowacki, the theory of safe falls (1972). With passion he dealt with the problem of using elements of martial arts at various stages of people's rehabilitation, including the prophylaxis of body injuries. One of the Professor's last works in that field (co-author A. Mroczkowski) is published in the current volume of *Archives of Budo*. Better than most he understood the nature of a person's character formation through a competent combination of sport and physical education. He included many scientific arguments and methodological solutions to this problem in one of the latest published manuals (co-authors L. Wolkow, W. Jagiełło) *Biologiczne i pedagogiczne podstawy systemu szkolenia sportowego [Biological and Pedagogical Bases of the System of Sports Training]*, COS, Warszawa, 2005. This publication is a must for students of physical education and sport in numerous academic institutions.

I had an opportunity to discover meritorious values of Professor Jaskólski's scholarly and didactic skills not only in the course of my studies while achieving coach's qualifications and writing a Master's thesis under his supervision, but also after my graduation. I had two scholarly internships (1977 and 1998) – then under the supervision of Reader E. Jaskólski – during which we studied young judokas from Austria while running specialist trainings during a summer judo school in a sports centre in the Alps. At that time, Ewaryst Jaskólski was a sports and methodological consultant of a group of Vienna judo schools. I had

the pleasure to be the Professor's first Ph.D. student, which I consider a great privilege and also a great obligation for two reasons. Firstly, Professor Jaskólski is the first in Poland and one of few in the world titular professors of sciences of physical culture (in other countries its equivalent is sport science or kinesiology), who simultaneously holds the championship qualifications in combat sports (5 dan in judo). Secondly, the Professor took an active part in each successive stage of my scholarly career – he was a reviewer in my postdoctoral degree conferral procedures and recommended me in the procedure of conferring the title of a professor. This huge obligation comes from being a member of the elitist scientific school of the Professor and judo teacher Ewaryst Jaskólski. Professor Jaskólski played a similar role only in the academic career of Prof. Stanisław Sterkowicz (a specialist on combat sports and martial arts) – from the review of his Ph.D. dissertation and postdoctoral thesis till the final reviews in the procedure of conferring a professor's title. Nevertheless, Professor Jaskólski was a direct superior for Prof. Władysław Jagiełło (then Doctor) for four years as the holder of Chair of the Combat Sports at the Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław. The latter, despite completing his studies and achieving further academic titles in the State University of Physical Education and Sport of Ukraine in Kiev, still considers the Professor as his most important teacher. Professor Ewaryst Jaskólski – which is unanimously emphasised by my colleagues – will remain forever our unattainable Master, a true authority.

The Professor's authority is confirmed, among others, by the functions he performed by elections (during 1985-1988 he was a Science Vice-rector of the Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław), by numerous reviews in procedures for conferring academic degrees, by very high esteem among his peers with regard to his activity on editorial boards of scholarly magazines (including *Archives of Budo*) and in scholarly institutions. The Military Section of the Polish Scientific Physical Education Association



appeared the closest to the Professor's scholarly interests. He was its member since the moment of its creation (1995). He actively participated in most of the nine Polish scientific conferences organised by the Section in 1996-2007. He was a member of scientific committees of those conferences, a reviewer of presented and published papers; he chaired the subject sections and discussion panels.

Professor Ewaryst Jaskólski did not shun from harsh, but at the same time friendly criticism. He had the courage to say "no" not only during academic disputes. He was liked and respected for his kindness, courage, knowledge, modesty, sense of humour, a balanced distance, perceptiveness of judgement, breaking the barriers of inertia, for many other virtues – he was a Master.

