

## IN MEMORIAM DR. JÓZEF DĄBROWSKI (1940-2019)

From Anna Kulnicz I received the sad news of the death of her father Józef Dąbrowski December 30th 2019, together with the beautiful photo. He was a most gifted and respected scientist and for over fifty years he dedicated his life to research into the history of paper. Józef Dąbrowski was born in Warsaw and graduated 1962 in chemistry with a specialization in pulp and paper technology from the Technical University of Lodz. At this centre of papermaking and bibliographic studies in Poland he received his Ph.D in 1974 and in 1989 was appointed Assistant Professor. From 1992 until his retirement 2005 he worked as Scientific Secretary at the Pulp and Paper Institute (ICP), where his research in the history and development of paper production and technology was especially focussed on the permanence and durability of hand- and machine-made paper production.

Józef Dąbrowski was introduced into the field of paper history by Honorary Member of IPH Prof. Jadwiga Siniarska-Czaplicka (1913-1986) in Lodz. Here they worked together on the Polish monograph REKOD-ZIEŁO PAPIERNICZE (The Papermaking Craft) that was published in 1991. The detailed English summaries of part I and II 'Papermaking craft in the world' and 'Polish papermaking craft' with bibliographies make this Polish publication a most valuable and unique contribution to the history of paper to non-Polish paper historians as well.

When I met Józef Dąbrowski in 1994 at the 22nd IPH Congress in Annonay he gave me a copy of this Polish monograph with the following handwritten text 'This copy of the book entitled 'The papermaking craft' – which is entirely devoted to the ancient and most noble art of papermaking, and which commemorates five centuries of Polish papermaking – is dedicated to Mrs Anna-Grethe Rischel; with warm regards – Józef Dąbrowski, co-author of this book, 5 September 1994, Annonay, France.'

Two years earlier Józef Dąbrowski had presented his paper 'THE BEGINNINGS OF PAPERMAKING IN POLAND' at the 21st IPH Congress in Vienna (Austria), where he was elected as corresponding member of IPH. Except for the 25th IPH Congress in Dortmund 2000 (Germany) he participated in all IPH congresses



from 1992 – 2008 with valuable contributions within the history and development of handmade and machine-made paper and its permanence and durability.

His cooperation for more than ten years with Honorary Member of IPH Dr. John S. G. Simmons of All Souls College in Oxford is illustrated with their joint papers presented at the 22nd IPH Congress 1994 in Annonay (France) and at the 24th IPH Congress 1998 in Porto (Portugal). Dąbrowski was a member of Dr. John S. G. Simmons' Codrington Club 'Four C's Club', built on the four fundamental concepts for the society of scholars devoted to the book: Conserve, Consider, Contribute, and Cooperate.

Józef Dąbrowski was elected President of IPH at the 27th IPH Congress in Duszniki Zdrój – Kraków (Poland). During his IPH presidency 2004 - 2008 two important paper historical congresses took place in 2006 – 'European Paper Days' in June in Fabriano (Italy), organized by the Cartiere Miliani Fabriano – Fedrigoni Group – and the 28th IPH Congress in Capellades – Montserrat, Barcelona (Spain) in October.

During the planning of the 28th IPH Congress in Stockholm 2008 (Sweden) Göran Wohlfahrt, President of the Nordic association of Paper Historians (NPH) and I were in close contact as congress coordinators with Józef Dąbrowski and the IPH Council.

After Dąbrowski's retirement as President of IPH 2008,

he contributed with valuable articles to the restarted periodical 'IPH Paper History' and our contact through correspondence since 1994 continued. In spite of severe health problems during his last years he finally succeeded together with Andrzej Ulewicz to finish his studies of watermarks with the Polish monograph *FILIGRANY – w zasobie Archiwum Państwowego w Olsztynie* (Watermarks in the resource of AP at Olsztyn). It was published in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the State Archives (AP). I received a copy of the monograph with a dedication, dated 2018-11-18, Łódź, Poland from Józef Dąbrowski.

I learned from his last letter to me in December 2018 how important it was to him that the corrected version

from the Special Edition of the 2006 IPH Congress Book was available on [www.paperhistory.org](http://www.paperhistory.org) of his paper 'Remarks on the invention of true paper by Cai Lun'. This version is in gratitude published in Volume 24, Year 2020 Issue 1 of our periodical IPH Paper History to the memory of Józef Dąbrowski, 6th President of IPH 2004 – 2008, Honorary Member of the scientific board of FFF Fondazione Fedrigoni Fabriano and member of 'Four C's Club'.

Anna-Grethe Rischel

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