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*Professor Zofia Sztetyllo*  
*Scientific profile*

Zofia Sztetyło was born in 1932 in the town of Pułtusk to a family well known and active in this area. In 1950, she enrolled as a student of classical archaeology at Warsaw University and graduated five years later with an MA degree in Mediterranean Archaeology. In her senior year at the University, she started working as an assistant in the Chair of Classical Archaeology, directed then by Professor Kazimierz Michałowski. For all of her scholarly career, until her retirement in 1993, she remained loyal to the Chair (later a part of the Institute of Archaeology of Warsaw University), rising to a professorial position by the late 1970s, teaching and researching.

In 1964, she received her Ph.D. degree having submitted a doctoral thesis on the subject of “Figural representations on Greek stamped amphora handles”. This was to remain a leading theme of her studies throughout her career. Over the years Zofia Sztetyło collected a substantial set of sources and materials, becoming a renowned specialist in the field of Greek ceramic epigraphy, with publications to her credit that were to throw new light on the history and distribution of several groups of ancient amphorae. Her habilitation dissertation, submitted in 1971, concerned *The role of Myrmekion in the economic life of the Bosporan Kingdom in the 4th–1st centuries B.C.*

Her participation in Polish excavations abroad started already in the early years of her work at the University. In 1957, she took part in the research carried out by K. Michałowski at Myrmeki and M.-L. Bernhard at Kalos Limen, both in the Crimea. She also took part in excavations organized by the Polish Center of Mediterranean Archaeology directed by K. Michałowski in Palmyra (Syria) and Tell Atrib and Alexandria in Egypt. Since 1973, she has participated in the work of the Polish Center’s team directed by W.A. Daszewski, excavating at Nea Paphos in Cyprus and, in 1987-1996, at Marina el-Alamein in Egypt.

Zofia Sztetyło is an eminent scholar engaged in studies focused on the territories of ancient Greece, the Eastern Mediterranean and, naturally, the Black Sea littoral. Her scholarly interests have concentrated around issues of Greek culture, economy and their influence on the peripheries of the ancient world. Foremost in her work are studies of Greek ceramic epigraphy and in this field she has come to be considered as a veritable pioneer in Polish studies. Early in the course of her research, Professor Sztetyło focused on economic issues related to the production and trade in commodities, such as wine and other foodstuffs. This led her to broadly envisaged studies of the distribution of selected stamped amphorae as a source for reconstructing trade patterns and for understanding the iconography of decoration found on trade products. She has been particularly interested in the emblems appearing on stamps impressed on amphorae of various provenance, including Rhodes, Chios, Sinope and many others. The results of her broad research in the field have been published in a number of books and articles, e.g.: *Stamps on Greek Amphorae and Ceramic Building Materials* (in Polish; PWN: Warsaw 1962); “Les contacts commerciaux de Nea Paphos” (*Practica*, Nicosia 1985). Professor Sztetyło’s extended participation in Polish excavations in Egypt and Cyprus has yielded over the years a series of publications of the material (“Stamped Amphora Handles from Polish Excavations in Tell Atrib 1957-1961”, *EOS* LIII, 1963, No. 2; “Timbres céramiques des fouilles polonaises à Alexandrie (1973-1974)”, *EtTrav* X, 1978; *Nea Paphos IV, Pottery stamps (1975-1989)*,

PAN, Warsaw 1991; *Pottery Stamps. Tell Atrib 1985-1995* (together with Karol Myśliwiec), PAN&Neriton, Warsaw 2000). As an eminent specialist in the field, she has also been invited to publish pottery stamps from the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw (*Les timbres ceramiques dans la collection du Musée National de Varsovie*, PWN Warsaw 1983) and together with the finds from Polish excavations, also objects from the private collection of G. Eliades from Paphos, Cyprus (*Nea Paphos I. Les timbres céramiques (1965-1973)*, PWN, Varsovie 1976).

Parallel to her work on Greek ceramic epigraphy, Professor Sztetyło has also published articles (some with W.A. Daszewski) and communiqués, on a variety of subjects connected with the excavations, the history of Paphos, ancient Greek and Roman sculpture, terracotta oil lamps from Marina el-Alamein and others.

A passionate scholar, she has always wanted to share her deep knowledge of Antiquity, whether teaching to students at the university or popularizing knowledge of the ancient world among the Polish public. She readily accepted invitations to take part in public discussions and radio and TV broadcasts for general audiences. She was a kind but strict reviewer of the work of others. Her oeuvre includes close to a hundred articles of a scholarly and popularizing character on ancient art, including items for a variety of encyclopedic works, of which of special value is an overview of Greek art published as part of the Polish-language encyclopedia *Art of the World (Sztuka Świata*, Arkady: Warszawa 1990). Recently, she has contributed over a hundred entries to a new *Encyclopedia of Ancient Art* (published in Polish by Arkady).

For many years, Professor Sztetyło has served on various scholarly committees, such as the Committee of Ancient Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the scientific boards of Warsaw University and of the Research Center for Mediterranean Archaeology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She has worked as the editor of “*Studia Archeologiczne*” (Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University) and as a member of the editorial board of the Polish periodical “*Meander*” treating on ancient art.

Academic teaching always figured prominently in Professor Sztetyło’s scholarly life. She lectured for a great number of students of classical archaeology and philology, and of history of art, at Warsaw University as well as at other academic centers in Poland (Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw, Łódź University). Not only did she lecture, but she also supervised several MA and Ph.D. theses written by students of archaeology and archaeologists from Poland, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lebanon and Egypt. She has written scripts for students of archaeology on Greek ceramic epigraphy (*Grecka epigrafika ceramiczna*, Warszawa 1971) and the archaeology of ancient Greece (*Archeologia starożytnej Grecji*, Warszawa 1975) and the ancient world in general (with M. Gawlikowski, *Zarys cywilizacji starożytnego świata*, Warszawa 1986). Her students have benefited from the clarity and attractiveness of her lecturing style, while valuing her personal warmth and generosity, and her ever present readiness to help.

Wherever her work took her, whether it was the Hermitage in St. Petersburg or the Polish Center in Cairo, or the various archaeological sites where she excavated, she always

made close friends in the archaeological community, as well as among the local authorities, residents and expatriates. She has kept up these close friendships over the years.

She continues to be a great admirer of classical music and theater.

And whenever autumn comes, you can never reach her at home – she's out in the woods picking mushrooms in the beauty and quiet of the forest. Like in other things, in this, too, she is a great specialist.

W.A. Daszewski