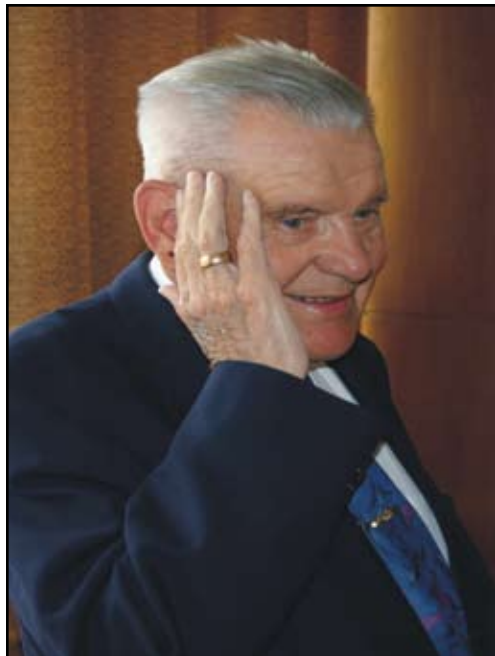


In memoriam

Professor Bogusław Marian Rosa (04 05 1925–01 02 2008)



Professor Bogusław Marian Rosa dedicated over sixty years to scholarly work and active research into the south Baltic coast, history of the Baltic Sea and the Quaternary topographic profile.

Professor Rosa was a man of remarkably broad research interests which embraced glacial geomorphology, littoral dynamics, paleogeography of the Quaternary, marine geology in the South Baltic Region and in the area of the South China Sea and Vietnam shelf.

He was member of the Polish Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) (1965–1990), member of the Geophysical and Geological Section of PAN, member of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), Sub-Commission on Quaternary Shorelines of Northern and Western Europe, National Reporter (1967–), member of the Polish Geographical Association PTG (1960–) – head of Gdańsk Division (1993–1999), member of Gdańsk Science Association GTN (1970–) – head of the 5th Faculty of Earth Sciences (1982–1991), editor of six volumes of *Peribalticum*.

Professor Bogusław Rosa was born on 4 May 1925 in Warsaw. In the schoolyear 1938/1939 he was a student at the Bolesław Prus Junior Secondary School in Siedlce. During the Nazi occupation he was working and studying for the so-called small *matura*, secondary-school examination. In August 1944 he was admitted to the Pedagogical Secondary School in Siedlce, from which he graduated in 1946.

In autumn 1947 he enrolled to Geology and Geography studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (UMK). In his second academic year he was selected to a student research group which investigated early glacial areas (the Slupia River basin).

He graduated in 1951 and started his three-year postgraduate internship at the Chair of Physical Geography at UMK. At that time he developed an interest in coastal topics, which remained his major preoccupation throughout the rest of his scientific career. His research resulted in a doctoral thesis on the Morphological Development of the Polish Coast in the Light of Former Coastal Forms, defended in 1962. In his dissertation on the contemporary history of Polish coast development, Prof. Rosa was the first to introduce and attempt to prove that the contemporary evolution of this region had always been related to the lowering of the delta region of the Vistula River and the Vistula Spit, to the raising of the Łeba and Łeba Spit region, and to the slow lowering of the Koszalin Bay.

While working on his doctoral thesis, Professor Rosa was actively engaged in organising the INQUA congress which was held in Poland in 1961. He collaborated with Dr Ludmiła Roszkówna on a morphogenetic map of the Lower Vistula Region, and later on his own, a map of Kociewie and the eastern part of the Mazurian Lake District. During the congress Prof. Rosa was responsible for a one-day scientific trip from Władysławowo to Bydgoszcz.

While working on his doctoral dissertation, Professor Rosa was on research traineeship at Moscow University and later at the ANZSRR coastal station in Gelendzhik (Russia).

In his postdoctoral dissertation (for the habilitation degree) “Morphological Analysis of the South Baltic Bed” (1967), Professor Rosa attempted to prove the thesis that the littoral steps and terraces preserved in the seabed were a major result of the Baltic Sea transgression. They reflect a phasic nature of transgressions over time, similarly to consecutive, increasingly younger, ridge dunes resulting from phasic marine withdrawal and the sand filling of the bay (e. g., Świna Gate).

After he had obtained the postgraduate habilitation degree, Professor Rosa worked at the Physical Geography Department of UMK. At the same time the Department of Geomorphology was established; it was headed by Prof. Rosa. Until 1970, the year when Professor Rosa moved to Gdańsk University, he had been a deputy dean at Nicolaus Copernicus University. He was also on two research scholarships – one in the former East Germany (GDR) and another in Bulgaria.

During summer seasons Professor Rosa was involved in organising the so-called marine seminars. The institution in charge of their organisation was the Geological-Geographical Section of the Committee on Oceanic Research of PAN. The seminars were

held in various coastal towns and were always accompanied by research trips. Professor Rosa usually led the trips and offered his commentaries.

In 1970s, Professor Rosa moved to the newly established University of Gdańsk. This decision was motivated by Professor's intention to continue his research into the subject of the South Baltic Coast which was more accessible from the Gdańsk Agglomeration. Professor became a researcher at the Gdynia-based Oceanography Institute of Gdansk University.

Towards the end of 1970s he was elected Dean of the then-current Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences.

In 1972, Prof. Rosa moved to geography studies and in the following year, in cooperation with Professor Bolesław Augustowski, he established the Quaternary Geomorphology and Geology Department in the Geography Institute of Gdańsk University. The aim of the newly established department was to conduct research on geomorphology, littology, sedimentology, geochemistry, paleography, including geochronology, and to educate geography graduates in these fields.

Professor Rosa's undeniable achievement was his efforts to establish the 5th Faculty of Earth Sciences of the Gdańsk Science Association (in cooperation with Prof. B. Augustowski) and publish *Peribalticum* as part of the Faculty's activities.

In 1975, Professor Rosa was appointed to the team of specialists working in Hai Fong in Vietnam. The team was composed of planners, architects and urbanists. Their task was to scheme the post-war growth of the city and the harbour. Professor Rosa's responsibility was to devise a method to maintain the harbour accessible to large seagoing ships in the natural conditions of the local coast. Prof. Rosa left a suitable disquisition in Hai Fong, recommending what and how should be done to use the harbour.

When Professor Rosa returned to Poland in 1976, he continued his research into coastal issues. In addition to general scientific problems, Professor Rosa was interested in forms, sediments and processes related to the great Holocene transgression of the south Baltic Sea.

In the 1980s and 1990s Prof. Rosa presented numerous papers in Minsk, Kaliningrad and Kiel.

Towards the end of the 1980s, the Chair of Quaternary Geomorphology and Geology was established, and Professor Rosa headed the unit until 1995, the year of his retirement.

After retirement Professor Rosa continued his teaching and research activities.

As a teacher, he supervised five successful doctoral theses and hundreds of master theses.

During his long and busy scientific career, Professor Rosa was honoured with the following awards and decorations: several awards by the Rector of Gdańsk University, the Minister of National Education, the General Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences (team distinction), Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, medals: the Distinguished of Gdańsk Region, of University of Gdańsk, of the Polish Geological Institute, of the Maritime Institute in Gdańsk, of the Gdańsk Science Association, of the Maritime Division of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society in Gdynia, of the Gdynia City.

In total, Professor Rosa wrote several dozens of scientific publications. A few of the most prominent ones are listed below:

O rozwoju morfologicznym wybrzeża Polski w świetle dawnych form brzegowych, Toruń, 1963r;

Analiza morfologiczna dna południowego Bałtyku, Toruń, 1967.

Brodniewicz I., Rosa B., The boring hole and the Fauna AT Czolpino, Poland, *Baltica* 3, Vilnius.

O rozwoju geomorfologicznym i paleogeograficznym obszaru wybrzeża południowobałtyckiego, KNGeol PAN, Komisja Geol. Inżynierskiej, Sprawozdania, Warszawa–Gdańsk, 1981.

Zagadnienie zmian poziomu Bałtyku południowego – dotychczasowe rozpoznania i perspektywy dalszych badań, *Peribalticum* V, GTN – Ossolineum. 57–75.

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