

## “Prof. dr phil. Stanisław Pawłowski, 1882-1940”

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Stanisław Pawłowski was born on 16th March 1882 in Dębowiec, South of Poland (Galicya in those days). He lost His Mother at the age of 13 years and from a very early age had to live on his own, giving private lessons and/or working as a teacher. His father was a travelling salesman of textiles who had little time for his children (pages 11 & 12).

After attending primary and secondary schools, he studied at Lvov and Vienna Universities, first history and then later on geography (under the famous professor Eugenius Romer). His scientific carrier was brilliant: Doctor in Geography (1910), Docent in Geography (1913), University Professor (1918) (pages 23-27).

In 1919, he was appointed as a Professor of newly opened Poznań University (page 30). Within a few years, he had organized an Institute of Geography. From 1927 to 1928, he was the Dean of the Faculty, and from 1932 to 1933, he was appointed as Rector of the University (pages 35 & 36). Active on the international scene, he was also appointed Secretary-General of the XIV International Congress of Geography organized in Warsaw in 1934. He was elected as Vice-President of the XV International Geographical Union at the Congress in Amsterdam in 1938 (page 34).

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 1940, after some months of imprisonment, he was executed at the German Concentration Camp (Fort VII) in Poznań (pages 54-63).

In 2010, since he was a creator of Poznan School of Geography, he was nominated as the Patron of Collegium Geographicum in the newly built Poznan University Campus (pages 67-70).

He was a well-known scientist, devoted teacher, experienced organizer, beloved Husband and Father, trying to find his way through the real and complex world, remaining straightforward and honest.

During his life and work, he was used to forward thinking towards the years to come.

The year before Poland obtained its formal independence in 1918, Stanisław Pawłowski was an author of two editions of “Geografia Polski” (Geography of Poland). The country borders were not yet established but in this textbook they were stretched between Sudeten and Oder



Krynica – Poland (1934)

river in the west to Dniestr river in the east. The need for economic independence for the country was stressed as extremely important (page 28).

He understood geography in its wider context: physical aspects of the earth structures, anthropogeography, economy (agriculture, industry, communication ways, trade, tourism), political and historic geography. He was convinced that a good knowledge of geography is of an utmost importance for the development of any society. Very early on (1910), he elaborated the programme of teaching geography in all categories in schools and later on he personally wrote several middle-school textbooks (pages 29, 39, 40, 46).

At the Rector’s inaugural speech “on Renaissance of the political geography” he clearly stated that “there is one world and one man on it” and emphasized the need for nations to live in cooperation and peace. These words were announced 12 years before the creation of the United Nations system and decades before the creation of European Community (page 37).

As early as 1925, he was invited to create in Poznań a scientific Institute for studies of the Polish-German relationship. The idea was realized in 1944 in Warsaw by the creation of the Instytut Zachodni (Western Institute), transferred in 1945 to Poznań and is still continuing to work on a mutual understanding between these two countries (page 40). He also belonged to a group of scientists, supporting the return of Polish people to their historic territories in the West to Poland (page 41).

He was involved in finding three talented mathematicians from the University of Poznań, who uncovered the secrets of “Enigma” – the German Army coding machine. One of these was for some time a student of geography at his Institute and was seen often at his home (page 38).

In 1930, he expected the German invasion into Poland and an era of domination of some larger nations over some smaller ones (page 38).

Working hard all the time, Professor Stanisław Pawłowski felt uncomfortable at not spending so much time with his family and was afraid that something tragic may happen to his family members. Unfortunately, that vision became a reality (pages 42, 51-53).

His students and followers still celebrate his great personality as well as his scientific and teaching achievements, even 74 years after his tragic death in the year of 1940.