

---

# Notes about the Authors.

---

Analecta Nipponica 1, 205-206

---

2011

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

## PROF. JOLANTA TUBIELEWICZ (1931–2003)

We present a reprint of the first part of a book by professor Jolanta Tubielewicz (1931–2003), entitled *Superstition, Magic and Mantic Practices in the Heian Period*, which constituted her habilitation (postdoctoral dissertation) defended in 1978. This book was published in English by Warsaw University Press in 1977, though its print-run was small and it is unknown among scholars of Japan abroad.

Professor Tubielewicz was an eminent scholar of Japanese studies and one of the founders of the postwar Warsaw school of Japanese studies. Her interest in this distant country dated back to childhood. “It seemed to me that it was something unusually delicate, something that could crack if touched, something unique in the world,” she said 30 January 1996, when the ambassador of Japan in Poland, Hyōdō Nagao, presented her the Order of the Rising Sun – Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, which was awarded by the Emperor of Japan in recognition of her outstanding services in the field of promoting knowledge about Japan in Poland and academic cooperation between Poland and Japan.

She pursued her academic interest in Japan as a student at Warsaw University (1949–1953). Because there was no Japanese studies at the time, she enrolled as a student of Sinology, attending every course and lecture concerning her favorite country that she could. She learned the grammar of Japanese from Professor Wiesław Kotański, whom she called My Great Master, and the history of Japan from Professor Witold Jabłoński. She also studied Japanese at the Department of Eastern Languages and Affairs at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (1948–1950). After completing her undergraduate studies she became fascinated with the aristocracy of the Heian Period (794–1192), in particular one of the most influential political figures of that era, Fujiwara Michinaga, who became the subject of her doctoral dissertation (*Fujiwara Michinaga – the Most Prominent Statesman of the Heian Period*), defended in 1971. In the years that followed, Professor Tubielewicz continued to explore the Heian Period and Japanese antiquity, focusing on superstitions, augury and magic.

The result of this research was her postdoctoral dissertation *Superstition, Magic and Mantic Practices in the Heian Period*. This work became the basis for her elevation to Assistant Professor in 1979. After further research, teaching and organizational work, she was awarded the title of Professor of the Humanities (1987).

She visited Japan many times, under academic fellowships (from the Society for the Promotion of Knowledge about Japan, 1965–1967; the Heian Museum in Kyoto, 1971–1972, and the Japanese Foundation, 1983–1984) as well as private visits. “A feeling of gratitude to Japan grew inside me day by day until I began to think about it as my second homeland”. Professor Tubielewicz later described her Japanese experiences and fascinations in a very personal book entitled *Japan – changing or unchanging* (Wydawnictwo TRIO, 1998). She conveyed her expert knowledge in numerous publications, including: *Mythology of Japan* (WaiF, 1977), *Nara and Kyoto* (WaiF, 1985), *History of Japan* (Ossolineum, 1984), *Culture of Japan. A Dictionary* (WsiP, 1996), *Great Discoveries and Mysteries of Japanese Archeology* (Wydawnictwo Trio, 1996), *Men and Women in Ancient Japan* (Nozomi, 2000). Her last lectures for students of Japanese Studies at Warsaw University were published posthumously as a book entitled *From Myth to History* (Wydawnictwo TRIO, 2006).

A tireless researcher plumbing the secrets of ancient Japanese history, she also had the time and energy to actively participate in the Institute of Oriental Studies. Starting in 1981 she performed the function of Deputy Director of the Institute, then Director in 1985–1986 and finally Dean of the Faculty of Modern Languages in 1985–1990. Through all these years she was simultaneously a teacher and mentor for successive generations of Japanese Studies students. While demanding and strict in academic matters, she demonstrated inexhaustible patience and kindness to her students. Even in the last years of her life, when illness made it impossible for her to come to the university, she conducted master’s seminars in her home and tape-recorded lectures for every new class of students. We all remember her fascinating lectures, which were never the same because she was always enriching them with her latest findings. Some of them assumed the form of articles which appeared later in the journal *Japonica*.

Professor Tubielewicz imbued us, her disciples, with a love for Japanese culture and a passion for scholarship. Her erudition, intellectual honesty and engagement in the life of the university were always a source of support and a model for us.

Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska