

DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA IN KATOWICE



Ceremony of awarding the Doctor Honoris Causa, November 11, 2017

SCIENTIFIC WORK OF PROFESSOR JERZY MIKUŁOWSKI POMORSKI IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA

Without a doubt Professor Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski has played a leading role in educating the staff of the Department of Journalism at the University of Silesia in Katowice. As a manager, not only has he coordinated the research projects of his collaborators but he has also supported them in obtaining higher positions and promotions.

Thanks to Professor Mikułowski Pomorski's supervising and conducting higher seminars in local journalism and communication in the late 1980s, the Department of Journalism was able to set up a vibrant group of scholars focused on media research in the area of local journalism. The results of his seminars were as follows: four doctoral dissertations in the years 1987–1989, based on the empirical data on local journalism. Professor Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski, together with Dr. Józef Mądry have put an emphasis on the full process of communication when shaping the topics of Ph.D. candidates. As a result, Marek Jachimowski analyzed both journalism society and disposers of local press in the previous political regime. Marian Gierula, basing his research on content analysis, made up theoretical models of journalistic implementation of local magazines in Poland, whereas Stanisław Mi-

chalczyk and Zbigniew Oniszczyk tackled the reception and social functioning of local magazines.

After years, it is thought that the described works have become an important contribution of the Silesian press research center to the general achievements of media studies in Poland. In the preceding years, other dissertations on local and regional issues have been completed under the supervision of professor Mikułowski Pomorski. Respectively, Ilza Kowol did a fine job on local press in Germany. Bernard Grzonka analyzed the reception and social functioning of regional broadcaster Radio Katowice. Therefore it can be said that thanks to the Professor, a new research center has been set up. As a consequence of its functioning, the staff have successfully applied for four habilitations and one professorship based on the scientific achievements on the practice of local and regional communication. During the last decade, the academic staff associated with Professor Mikułowski Pomorski have been supervisors of doctoral dissertations about local and regional communication, especially in Upper Silesia.

Marian Gierula
University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland

A LANDOWNER AS A SCHOLAR IN SOCIALISM — PROFESSOR JERZY MIKUŁOWSKI POMORSKI

One of the most respectable persons who had a great influence on my scientific life and who also affected my perception of both the big and small world was Professor Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski. I met the Professor when I was a young researcher working on the media at the beginning of the 1980s. In 1984 I was his PhD student, who saw the Professor not only as a scholar and a master but also as a man. Professor Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski has been a scholar who impressed me by his ordinariness and friendliness. He did not hide his landowner's origins and his homesickness for his place in the Sandomierz region in the times of real socialism. He did it naturally without fear and superiority. He shared his knowledge and experience from his scientific travels to the West and he passed on what was not socialistic in science. This behavior enriched and inspired us and it also protected us from "the achievements of Soviet science" which was popularized by four Soviet professors who were the residents in the Chair of Journalism of the Institute of Political Sciences in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Silesia in the 1980s. Thus we can say that as far as the scientific rivalry in the Chair of Journalism was concerned, the ratio was four to one. But only one person was a supervisor of young research workers and thanks to his knowledge they gained a doctorate and later subsequent degrees.

I am particularly indebted to Professor Mikułowski Pomorski. It was due to him that I was not sent to "get a doctor's degree" to the Soviet Union and exactly to