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Professor Bohdan Wiśniewski : a Biographical Note

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PROFESSOR BOHDAN WIŚNIEWSKI: A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE¹

Bohdan Wiśniewski, the son of Felix Joachim Wiśniewski and Emily Czyńska, was born on 4th May 1926 in Łazin, a small village in central Poland, where his father, the professor of physics, owned the lands. After participating in underground courses, he obtained his matriculation certificate during the Second World War.

In 1945, shortly after the Second World War, he started studying Classical Philology at the University of Łódź. His tutor was Jan Oko, primarily professor of Latin at the Stefan Batory University of Vilnius (now in Lithuania), who died in 1946. Because of that Bohdan Wiśniewski had to leave Classical Philology in Łódź and continued his studies at the University of Warsaw, where he studied in 1947 and 1948 under the leadership of the well-known Professors Adam Krokiewicz and Casimir Felix Kumaniecki. In 1948 he graduated with a Master of Arts degree. After that he returned to Łódź, where from 1950 to 1970 he served as a lector of Latin at the Łódź University. When Bohdan Wiśniewski was thirty years old, on February the 1st 1956, he married Jolantha Freyer. They have one daughter Sophia.

Working as a lector of Latin Bohdan Wiśniewski obtained his doctorate in 1965 and habilitation in 1970. In 1971 he became lecturer of

¹ Other biographical materials on Prof. Bohdan Wiśniewski can be found in the following publications: [1] E. Kay (ed.), *Men and Women of Distinction*, Fourth edition, Merlose Press Ltd., Cambridge, England 1992, p. 563; [2] E. Kay (ed.), *Men of Achievement*, Fifteenth edition, International Biographical Centre, Melrose Press Limited, Cambridge, England 1992, p. 862; [3] *Most Admired Men and Women of the Year. The American Biographical Institute's 1992/93 Annual Poll*, American Biographical Institute, Delmar Printing Company, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA 1993, p. 326; [4] *International Who's Who of Intellectuals*, Tenth Edition 1993/94, International Biographical Centre, Melrose Press Limited, Cambridge, England 1993, p. 515-516; [5] *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence*, American Biographic Institute, Delmar Printing Company, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA 1994, p. 347-348.

classical philology. He was the head of the Department of Classical Philology since 1976 to 1996. Between 1986–1990 Bohdan Wiśniewski was appointed Professor Extraordinarius and he has been Professor Ordinarius since 1991.

Professor Wiśniewski's work has been devoted to Greek and Roman philosophy. He created and proved the theory of member as the origin of the Greek philosophy of nature and the influence of the Sophists on the thought of Aristotle, Epicurus, the Stoics and the Sceptics was convincingly demonstrated by him. He has written a great number of articles about Cicero and his dependence on the Sophists. He has also looked into the problem of dualism in the philosophy of the philosophers of nature and the connection between the Sophists, Stoics and the philosophy of nature. He has published his articles in many scholarly periodicals in Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Danmark, Spain and also in Poland. The list of his research studies includes books such as *L'influence des sophistes sur Aristote, Épicure, stoïciens et sceptiques* (1966), *Karneades. Fragmente, Text und Kommentar* (1970) and *Philon von Larissa. Testimonia und Kommentar* (1982).

Professor Bohdan Wiśniewski is a member of many scientific organizations including the Polish Philological Society (PTF), the Committee of Studies of Ancient Culture (KNoKA), the Learned Society of Łódź (ŁTN). He also belonged to the Polish Academy of Sciences till 1993. He was honoured with the Gold Cross of Merit in 1973, the Medal of the Commission of National Education in 1982 and the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1984. In 1979, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1989 he has also received the awards of the Rector of the Łódź University for his academic attainments.