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ON THE 10TH OF JUNE, 2003 Katarzyna Urbaniak-Walczak, archaeologist and Coptologist, keeper of the Coptic collection at the National Museum in Warsaw prematurely died. Katarzyna studied archaeology at Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw in 1977–1982. There she met her first teacher of Coptic language, prof. Wincenty Myszor, who awakened her interest in the language and culture of Coptic Egypt and there she made her first translations from Coptic published in the Academy periodicals. Having obtained her diploma, she took up assistantship in the Department of Egyptology of Warsaw University. The turning point in her scholarly career was a meeting with professor Martin Krause, first at the Third International Congress of Coptic Studies in Warsaw (August 1984) and then in 1985 in Egypt, where she was furthering her knowledge as a scholarship-holder of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Professor Krause encouraged her to continue her studies of Coptic in Germany, at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster. The years 1987–90 Katarzyna spent in Muenster deepening her knowledge and preparing her doctoral dissertation *Die "conceptio per aurem". Untersuchungen zum Marienbild in Aegypten unter besonderer Beruecksichtigung der Malereien in E-Bagawat* which she presented in 1991 and published in *Arbeiten zum spätantiken und koptischen Ägypten 2* in 1992. In the same year she accepted a position at the National Museum in Warsaw, first in the Ancient Art Gallery, then in the Collection of Eastern Christian Art where she worked as a keeper of the Coptic collection until her tragic death. Always perfectly organised Katarzyna shared her time between the museum and the Warsaw University, where she taught the Cop-

tic to students at the Department of Egyptology and at the Institute of Archaeology. Her greatest dream was to establish in Warsaw a separate centre of Coptic studies where the young scholars could broaden their interest in the language and culture of Christian Egypt. She was always very happy to give a helpful hand to every student truly interested in Coptic.

In 1995 she took part in the excavations in Deir el-Naqlun (Egypt). The result of her work on this site was translation of some Coptic texts found during the field works in the Coptic monastery. The last four years of her life Katarzyna devoted to the works connected with reopening a permanent exhibition of Coptic art in the National Museum in Warsaw. She headed a program devoted to the study and conservation of Coptic textiles in the museum's collections. A few weeks before her sudden death she proudly opened the exhibition "Late Antique Textiles from Egypt" presenting the results of this project in the Warsaw National Museum. She was also the author of a catalogue of textiles shown there for the first time after the restoration works. With this small publication she announced the second, much wider publication of all textiles in the museum's collections which she planned to finish soon.

Katarzyna was a very modest and calm person passionately involved in everything that she did. Despite a sensitive nature she had this kind of tenacity that is so often lacking in young researchers today. She won the respect and admiration of colleagues and students for her industry, consistency and perseverance in work. She was a most gifted and reliable person, a promising research worker. Polish Coptology has lost a scholar whose work and personality will long be remembered and the archaeological community has lost in her a kind and learned colleague.

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