

Halina Pugaczewska (1921–1997)

On July 17th, 1997, our colleague and friend, Halina Pugaczewska (Hala to us), passed away after a long illness.

Hala was born on April 23rd, 1921, in Warsaw and attended school in the small town of Włocławek. In 1939 her education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. Włocławek was annexed by the Nazis as part of the Third Reich and Poles were forcibly relocated to General Gouvovernment territories. Hala and her family spent the war in Włoszczowa where she worked in an office of a steel factory. After the war she resumed her high school education and then studied at the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Faculty of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, obtaining a Master's Degree in Natural Sciences in 1952. In 1950 she was appointed a junior research assistant in the Department of Geology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University. In 1952 she moved to Warsaw, where at the University of Warsaw, the Faculty of Geology was being organized. At the beginning she was an assistant in the Department of Geology, and from 1953 in the Department of Paleontology led by Professor Roman Kozłowski.

She started her research in paleontology with an investigation of Jurassic belemnites. The monograph of this fauna 'Belemnoids from the Jurassic of Poland' (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 6, 1961) was her doctoral dissertation and she was awarded her Ph.D. in 1961. The work on Jurassic belemnites was followed by studies of epifaunal fossils found on their rostra. She later became interested in other groups of mollusks, particularly Jurassic bivalves, which dominated her subsequent researches. She also described selected elements of Cretaceous and Tertiary bivalve faunas, as well as Tertiary serpulides from Poland, and participated in the description of fossil bivalves from Spitsbergen.

In 1972, on the basis of the monograph: 'Jurassic Ostreidae of Poland' (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 16, 1971) she was granted by the University of Warsaw a second scientific degree in the Polish system, called 'Habilitation' (corresponding to Dr. Sc.) and was appointed a Docent.

In 1970 Halina Pugaczewska obtained a position at the Institute of Paleobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and worked there until her retirement in 1981.

She was a devoted teacher. When working at the University of Warsaw (1953–1970) she had classes in paleontology for students of geology and paleontology, and her students often sought her help for their problems and always remember her as a joyful, smiling and understanding person. These qualities made Hala a joy to work with. Despite numerous obstacles of everyday life, her enthusiasm and good humor never failed. We are left with the memory of her smile, which never disappeared from her face.

