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In memory of Professor Andrzej Myrcha

Professor Dr. Andrzej Myrcha passed away on 28 October 1997.

I have known Andrzej since 1956, our first year of studies in the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at the University of Warsaw. If not for our youth, these were the times not worth of mentioning. We finished our studies with the hope for better life. Andrzej and his wife, Alina moved to the town of Białowieża. Years passed and we, having receiving already doctorate degrees, had met again as employees of the Department of Ecological Bioenergetics at the Institute of Ecology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and Andrzej stayed in my Department of Polar Research in Dziekanów Leśny. He promoted two students to doctoral degrees. Andrzej was the scientific leader of the 4th Expedition to Polish *Arctowski* Station in the season of 1979/80, and had wintered over at the station in 1984/85 during the 9th Expedition. Later on He moved to Białystok where He and his wife set the bases for a new Biology Centre at the Białystok Branch of Warsaw University, now Białystok University. While there He remained faithful to polar research and He enhanced the careers of young employees by sending them to Antarctic and Arctic expeditions. His achievements in research of Antarctic birds and Antarctic soils, his advisory work with doctoral students, and his activity in the Committee on Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and in the working groups of Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), gave him one of the first places among our distinguished polar workers.

In August 1997 we participated together in a cruise of the *Arctowski* ship to Belgium to commemorate a centenary of the *Belgica* Expedition. There remain now photographs, a video film, and the memories of our conversations and of good times together. We felt happy then, and I want to thank you Andrzej for this, and for all the years that You were with us.

Stanisław RAKUSA-SUSZCZEWSKI
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