In Search of Dinosaurs

A new exhibition dedicated to the Polish-Mongolian paleontological expeditions to the Gobi Desert decades ago has been unveiled at the PAS Museum of the Earth.

The Polish paleontological expeditions to the Gobi Desert in the 1960s and early 1970s were something of a “golden era” for paleontology in our country. The fossils brought back from these expeditions formed the basis for a unique collection of dinosaur skeletons, birds, mammals, turtles, crocodiles, lizards, snakes, as well as invertebrates and plants. These discoveries greatly contributed to the advancement of paleontological science, and the collection is one of the most extensive in the world.

This year, on June 22, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the discovery of the skeleton of a Tarbosaurus, a predatory dinosaur, in Mongolia. The discovery was made by Gwidon Jakubowski, a participant in the second Polish-Mongolian paleontological expedition to the Gobi Desert. The fossil was carefully protected and brought back to Poland. Once here, the skeleton was cleaned, a cast was prepared to preserve the authentic position of the bones, and it was then reconstructed. The cast of the original is very valuable because it shows the dinosaur’s position at the moment of its death, which is also important information for researchers.

At the current exhibition in the PAS Museum of the Earth in Warsaw, the way in which the Tarbosaurus skeleton was arranged after death is presented, along with historical photographs documenting the field research and the history of this discovery. It is truly a treat for paleontology enthusiasts.