

Obituarium

Professor Hanna Wałkowska (1921–2013)



Professor Hanna Wałkowska (born Pachnowska) was born at August 15, 1921 in Grodzisk Mazowiecki near Warsaw. She received her high school diploma 3 months before the outbreak of the Second World War (1939). During the times of war she lived in Warsaw, and was a part of the underground resistance movement. After the fall of Warsaw Uprising, 1944, she moved to Kielce Governorate, where she remained to the

end of the war. In the course of many coincidences, in 1947 she began her studium of Indian philology at the University of Wrocław, and closed it in 1951 with the MA thesis about the social life in Ancient India in the light of the Buddhist tales, *jātaka*. Her Mentor at the University was the renowned Indologist Ludwik Skurzak Ph.D. (1900–1979, Professor from). From 1957 H. Wałkowska was working at the University of Wrocław (Department of Indian Philology). Under supervision of Prof. Skurzak she wrote her Ph.D. thesis *Formy zawierania małżeństw w Indiach starożytnych, ich geneza i rozwój* [“The Forms of Contracting Marriages in Ancient India, Their Genesis and Development”] and defended it in 1964. Reviewers were Prof. E. Słuszkiewicz and A.L. Godlewski. H. Wałkowska devoted her habilitation thesis also to the ethnography of India. It was the book *Kult zmarłych w Indiach starożytnych*, 1973 [The Cult of the Dead in Ancient India]. In 1982 H. Wałkowska received the title of a Professor.

The problems of Sanskrit studies, unwritten law and Indian ethnography were the main topics of her scientific output, but not the only ones. Another field of her interests was: the ancient history of India and the role of Dravidian substrate, religions of this region (e.g. the article on goddess Kali) and the history of Indian studies.

Prof. Wałkowska was esteemed as an academic teacher and as a reviewer of many Ph.D. and habilitation theses. She was a member of Polish Oriental Society, Polish Philological Society, Wrocław Scientific Society and other. She was very active in the life of the University. Prof. Wałkowska became the head of the Department of Indian Philology in the year 1971. In the years 1972–1978 she was also the Deputy Dean of the Philological Faculty, University of Wrocław, and in the years 1987–1990 she held the seat of the Dean. In the years 1978–1981 she was also Deputy Rector of the University. Her scientific achievements were celebrated by her pupils and friends in a Festschrift published in 1993.¹

Professor Hanna Wałkowska passed away at March 18, 2013 in Wrocław.

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1. Books

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¹ J. Sachse, *Hanna Wałkowska – portret indianisty*, in: *Dānasāgarah. Ocean darów dla Hanny Wałkowskiej*, ed. by J. Sachse, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław 1993.

2. Articles

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