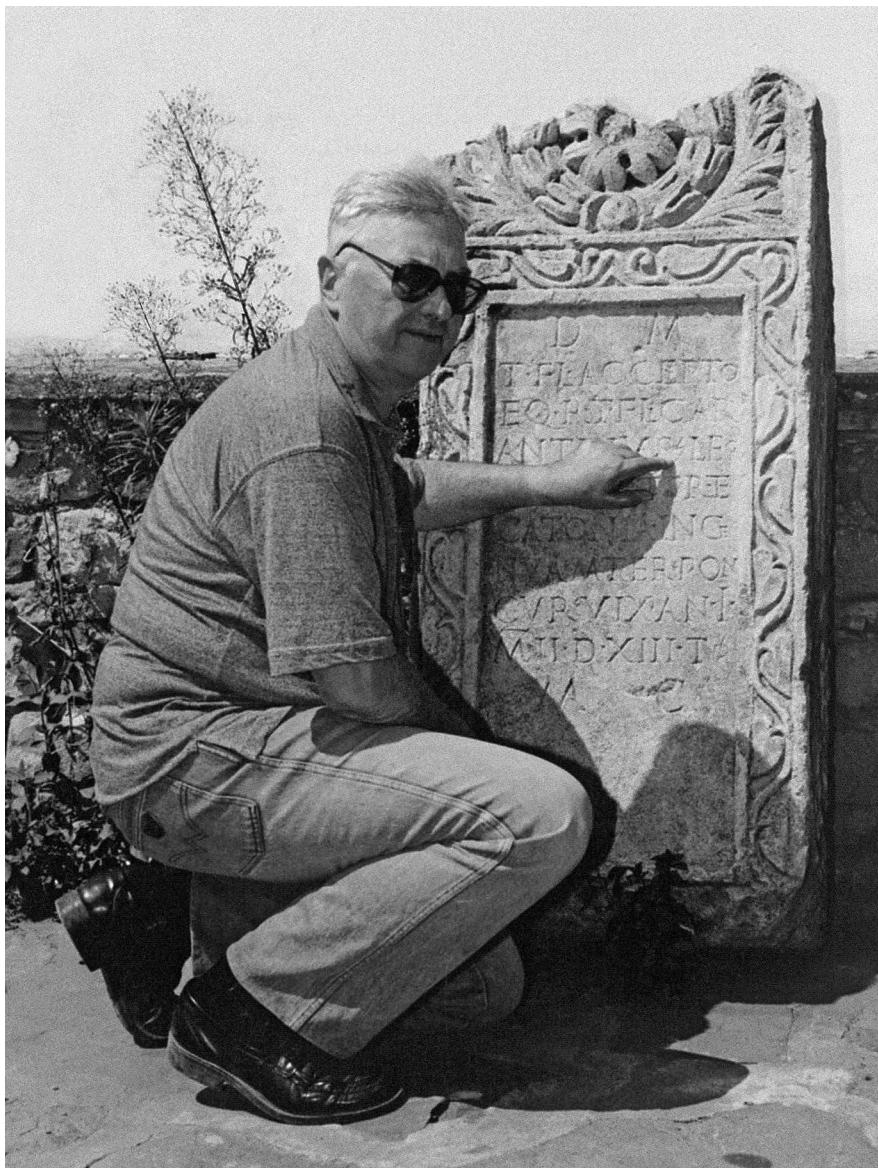




Jerzy Kolendo
(1933–2014)

PREFACE

There is no need to dwell at length on what a loss for students of antiquity has been the passing of Professor Jerzy Kolendo; but for us, his colleagues from University of Warsaw, who met him on everyday basis, who till the end worked with him or gained from his learning and intellectual generosity in their own research, it was and still is particularly painful. There is truly only one way in which academics can honour their Master: with publications. Our friends from the Institute of Archaeology, in which the Professor worked and taught during the greater part of his scholarly career, have already done so with two *Festschriften* – to honour his sixtieth and seventieth anniversary¹ – and, on his sixty-fifth, with two volumes assembling his by now classic articles on contacts between the Greco-Roman world and the *Barbaricum*, and on the history of the Polish antiquarianism.² The Centre of Research on the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe, with which he was associated as *emeritus*, published his unfinished work, which the Professor treated as his scholarly testament: a critical edition of Greek and Latin sources for the earliest history of Polish lands.³ We, ancient historians, have decided to dedicate to his memory the consecutive volume of our *Palamedes*, of whose Editorial Board the Professor was a member and in which he published one of the most important texts of the last years of His life.⁴ A lot has been written on the Professor's astonishing erudition and polymathy;⁵ but this practising historian, archaeologist, epigraphist and numismatist,

¹ A. Bursche, M. Mielczarek, W. Nowakowski (eds), *Nunc de Suebis dicendum est. Studia archaeologica et historica Georgii Kolendo ab amicis et discipulis dicata*, Warszawa 1995; A. Bursche, R. Ciołek (eds), *Antiquity and Barbarians. A Volume dedicated to Professor Jerzy Kolendo on His Seventieth Anniversary*, Warszawa 2003.

² J. Kolendo, *The Antique World and the Barbarians. Written Records, Finds, Reflection on the Past* 1-2, Warszawa 1998.

³ J. Kolendo, T. Pióciennik, *Vistula amne discreta. Greek and Latin Sources for the Earliest History of Polish Lands*, Warszawa 2015.

⁴ J. Kolendo, 'The embassy of Masyos, king of Semnones, and the description of Suebia in Tacitus' *Germania*', *Palamedes* 3, (2008), 167-188.

⁵ See prefaces to the volumes mentioned above and obituary reminiscences by A. Bursche, 'Wspomnienie o Profesorze Jerzym Kolendo (1933–2014)', *Archeo UW* 2, 2014, 130–140; P. Dyczek, 'Jerzy Kolendo In Memoriam', *Novensia* 25, 2014, 7–12; P. Dyczek, 'Jerzy Kolendo

was above all a historian or, in his own words, a historian of the ancient world settled in the archaeological milieu. François Favory recalls in his contribution to this volume that his works on ancient agriculture were sometimes criticised for relying too much on written sources (p. 120 and n. 8); but analytical *akribeia* was his greatest forte (not to mention trifles like practical knowledge of agricultural techniques little different from those used in Roman times, which enabled him to draw from the said sources much more than his colleagues did).

The formula which we adopted was to ask for contributions to our *Denkschrift* scholarly partners of the Professor, those with whom he worked, debated and disputed, in which group the first generation of his pupils managed to find place as well. Unfortunately, not all those to whom we sent our invitation were able to offer their texts. For example, Jerzy Linderski while writing his fell victim to an illness from which he is still recovering. The more grateful are we to all those who sent their contributions.

Finally, taking the opportunity as a member of the *Palamedes*' Editorial Board, as the Professor's chronologically first pupil and as the author of this short preface, I take the liberty to add a few words of my own. Writing a contribution to a *Denkschrift* naturally leads to reminiscences about the person to whose memory the volume is dedicated. I know that all those who had the chance to meet the Professor have retained similarly warm recollection of him. For my part, the remembrance of Jerzy Kolendo brings back to my mind most strongly the period from mid-1977 to the end of 1979, grim for my country, but for me marvellous and unforgettable, when I was working on my Ph.D. dissertation under his supervision: weekly visits to the then site of the Chair of Polish and General Archaeology, once an apartment in an old Varsavian tenement house, crammed with tables, cupboards and book-cases; endless modifying, correcting and polishing successive chapters, in which the supervisor was always finding factual, logical or stylistic shortcomings (Professor Kolendo refused to accept anything like a rough copy or a preliminary version; he used to say: «everything you bring me ought to have the form as if it were to go straight to the publisher»); but most of all imbibing with every pore His learning, working methods and personality. I think that few were as lucky as I: two-and-a-half years of incredibly intensive apprenticing with a teacher such as Him in the perfect, rarely encountered pairing – one Master and one apprentice.

Adam Ziółkowski

(natus d. 9 Iunii A.D. MCMXXXIII, obit d. 28 Februarii A.D. MMXIV)', *Archeologia* 62–63, (2011–2012) [2014], 121–125; A. Zawadzka, 'Wspomnienie o Profesorze Jerzym Kolendo (9 czerwca 1933 – 28 lutego 2014)', *Meander* 69, (2014), 13–26; A. Zawadzka, 'Jerzy Kolendo (9 czerwca 1933 – 28 lutego 2014)', *Wiadomości Numizmatyczne* 58, (2014), 318–332; A. Bursche, 'Wspomnienie o Profesorze Jerzym Kolendo, *Światowit* 13 (54), (2014) (in print).