



## Edward Rühle (1905—1988)

an outstanding scientist, a creator of the Polish school of geology of Quaternary and geological cartography, died in Warsaw on August 24, 1988.

Professor Edward Rühle was born in Warsaw and after graduation from a high school he studied at the University of Warsaw, where in 1931 he received a Master of Science degree in philosophy at the Department Mathematics and Natural Science. For five years, while he was a student, he has carried out the geological investigations and remained in constant contact with this subject till the very last days of his life. In 1935 he took part in the Polish Caucasian Expedition and in 1937 he started his long-term scientific work at the State Institute of Geology in Warsaw. In 1939 he received his doctor's degree at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow.

During the World War II he was active in the resistance movement of the Home Army. Within this movement he had a position of the second in command in the Cartographic Service of the quartermaster department of the main headquarters. The main task of this Service was to provide plans and many thousands of the military maps which were essential for the diversion and for the combatant underground army. In 1943 he was honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit with Swords and just after the World War II—with the Warsaw Insurgent Cross.

In 1954 he was appointed a professor of the State Institute of Geology in Warsaw. Just before 1954 he was appointed a deputy director of this Institute. He had a prominent place in activity of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of Polish Academy of Sciences (particularly in the field of marine geology) and in editorial work of this Committee.

His long-lasting (1931—1988) activity in a vast range of geological problems comprises over 260 bibliographical positions. Of these, 40 deal with cartography and this fact places Prof. Rühle at the top of Polish geological cartographers. The professor's name, as a representative of Poland, can be found among the co-authors of many synthetic maps which have been published by the international scientific organizations. *The Geological Atlas of Poland* was his latest written position and it contains 5 maps being the synthesis of meso-Cainozoic formations (1972—1986). His papers and books, among others, include: *The glacial formations in the western part of Polesie Wolyńskie* (1937); *The glacial morphology of Czerek Balkarski River basin in the Central Caucasus* (1939); *The Cretaceous and Tertiary of the western Polesie* (1948); *The Quaternary of Poland*—the synthesis of Poland prepared for INQUA Congress held in the USA (1965); *The Atlantic Ocean* (1982)—a collective monography; *The geological structure of Southern Baltic*—a chapter in the book entitled *The Geology of the Baltic Sea* (1982); *The mineral resources of the ocean bottom*—a manuscript prepared as a part of the book to be published together with Prof. S. Depowski (1988).

The publishing and editorial activity of Prof. Rühle amounts to fifty volumes of works on geology. Some of them have been published in many volumes, eg *The natural minerals of the world* by K. Bohdanowicz, 4 volumes (1952–1953); *The Quaternary of Central and Eastern Europe*—2 volumes (1969); *The investigations of the Polish Quaternary*—the first 12 volumes were edited by Prof. Rühle(1952–1967). He also was a co-author of some other publications (the Quaternary catalogues, geographical atlases *ect*).

Prof. Rühle also was a member of boards in a number of institutions and a member of committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was a deputy director of the International Union of Geological Sciences (1968–1970), a member of Geological Commission of COMECON (1956–1966) and a member of many other organizations.

It is worth to mention that a few generations of students and scientists had a very close co-operation with Prof. Rühle, whose experience and goodwill were commonly known.

Prof. Rühle, for his contribution to the Polish geology, was awarded with: The Golden Cross of Merit (1947), The Order of Polonia Restituta 2nd and 3rd class (1960, 1977), the Banner of Labour Order 1st class and some other honour distinctions.

The Polish science sustained a great loss in his death.

Peace to his memory!

*Leonard Bohdziewicz*