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# "SEASHELLS – PROFESSOR ANDRZEJ SAMEK'S PRIVATE COLLECTION AND GOUACHE PAINTINGS"

# AN EXHIBITION IN THE COLLEGIUM BIOLOGICUM LIBRARY, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAŃ, SEPTEMBER 2018–FEBRUARY 2019

Non omnis moriar – these words taken from Horace's songs are often inscribed on tombs, included in obituaries or used in speeches delivered during funeral ceremonies. They remind us that those who have passed away remain alive in the works they have created. They live in the memory of those who lived with the ones who passed away, met them and worked with them or were their disciples.

In 2018 two honorary members of the Association of Polish Malacologists left us forever, namely Professor Maria Jackiewicz and Professor Andrzej Samek. Two papers published in Folia Malacologica commemorated their lives and focused on their achievements (Folia Malacologica 26(2): 57–62, 63–69, 2018).

Professor Andrzej Samek was an extraordinary person. One of the extra-professional passions of this engineer by profession and a professor of the Kraków Polytechnics and AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków was the life of molluscs. Professor Samek popularised knowledge about marine snails, clams and cephalopods and collected their shells. Not only that, he combined his passion with an artistic talent and created gouache paintings of his collection of seashells (Figs 1-3). The crowning achievement of this passion was the "Atlas of marine snail shells" published by Mantis Publishing House, Olsztyn, in 2014. The atlas contained reproductions of his gouache paintings of seashells. Prior to this publication, these paintings were presented at different exhibitions, such as for example, the exhibition







Figs 1-3. Gouaches by Andrzej Samek



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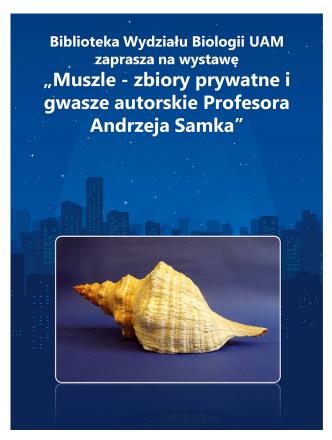


Fig. 4. Poster opening the exhibition

called "Unusual Passions of a technologist" opened on September 28th, 2000 in the Gallery of Arts of the Kraków Polytechnics or the exhibition of Professor Samek's paintings called "Seashells - Shapes and Colours" opened on February 14th, 2003 and hosted for two months in the Stara Polana Gallery of the Kraków Polytechnics in Zakopane.





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Fig. 5. Brochure about the exhibition

Thanks to Krystyna Samek, Professor Samek's wife, and Professor Ewa Stworzewicz of the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków as well as owing to the support offered by Professor Przemysław Wojtaszek, Dean of the Faculty of Biology of Adam



Figs 6–8. Professor Samek's paintings on the exhibition







Figs 9–10. Seashells from Professor Samek's collection

Mickiewicz University, Poznań, the initiative taken by Małgorzata Hankiewicz, the head librarian at the Library of the Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, materialised and a new exhibition of Professor Samek's collection and works



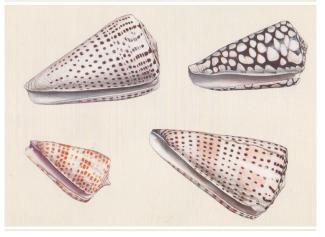
Fig. 11. Professor Samek's other passions ("Little Hedgehog's Adventures", a short story for children – bottom right; original diploma of the title of honorary member of the Association of Polish Malacologists – bottom left)



#### WYDZIAŁ BIOLOGII

### Muszle

## kolekcja prywatna i gwasze autorskie Profesora Andrzeja Samka



Wernisaż, 12 października 2018, godz. 14:00

Biblioteka Wydziału Biologii, ul. Umultowska 89. Wystawa potrwa do końca grudnia 2018

Fig. 12. Leaflet inviting to the exhibition

was opened on September 28th, 2018 (Figs 4–5). Organised in the Library of the Faculty of Biology on the Morasko Campus of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, the exhibition presents 98 seashell portraits painted by Professor Samek (Figs 6-8) and 46 seashells (Figs 9-10) from his collection (mainly those whose paintings are exhibited). The exhibition also features seven books about seashells and 10 academic textbooks authored by Professor Samek. The exhibition also presents Professor Samek's other passions including reproductions of covers of Maly Modelarz (Small Model Maker) as well as publications with paper models designed by him (Fig. 11). "Little Hedgehog's Adventures", a short story for children written by Professor Samek for his small daughter, is yet another exhibit demonstrating Professor Samek's talent versatility.

The exhibition also presents the original diploma of conferring on Professor Samek the title of honorary member of the Association of Polish Malacologists in 2007 (Fig. 11).

The vernissage was held on October 12th, 2018 (Figs 12–13). The event was attended by Professor Samek's wife, the authorities and staff of the Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, students and Professor's friends (Fig. 14). The exhibition will be opened until February next year or even longer since it has raised enormous interest among academics and students visiting the Library of the Faculty of Biology. During "the Researchers'



Fig. 13. Invitation to the vernissage of the exhibition

Night" organised on September 28th, 2018 (Fig. 15), an estimated number of 10,000 young people visited the exhibition. Similar attendance is expected during "the Biologists' Night" to be organised on January 11th, 2019.

It means that Professor Samek's works remain alive not only in the memory of those who met him or were familiar with his passions earlier but also amongst those who now learned about his life and creative work.

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Fig. 15. During the Researchers' Night 2018



Fig. 14. At the vernissage (from left to right): Krystyna Samek, Professor Samek's wife and Andrzej Wiktor, Andrzej Lesicki and Ewa Stworzewicz, Andrzej Samek's friends