

Dominik Fijałkowski

**Historia Zakładu (Katedry) Systematyki i Geografii Roślin Uniwersytetu
Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie**

**The history of the Division (Chair) of Plant systematics and Geography
of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin**

SUMMARY

The Division (Chair) of Plant Systematics and Geography of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin was established together with the University itself, in October 1945.

The first Head of the Chair was Prof. Józef Motyka; he headed the Chair until his retirement. The Chair was then headed by Prof. Dominik Fijałkowski, a pupil of Prof. Motyka. When Prof. Fijałkowski retired, the Chair was divided into two divisions: the Plant Systematics Division (headed by Prof. Kazimierz Karczmarsz) and the Geobotany Division (headed by Prof. Floria Świąś). Both were trained under Professors Motyka and Fijałkowski. Another of their students, Prof. Jan Bystrek, still works at the Plant Systematics Division.

There were seven other persons who worked in the Chair and obtained the position of Professor (Jan Rydzak – deceased, Tadeusz Krzaczek, Władysław Matuszkiewicz, Henryk Zimny and Iwo Wojciechowski) or Docent (Tadeusz Szynal – deceased, and Marek Jastrzębowski).

The Chair has conferred 28 doctors and 613 master's degrees. Prof. Motyka has supervised 104 master theses, Prof. Fijałkowski – 314, Prof. Bystrek – 98, Prof. Świąś – 43, Prof. Karczmarsz – 32, while senior lecturers have supervised 22 theses.

A Botanical Garden was organized on the initiative and under the direct supervision of Prof. Fijałkowski; it was publically opened in 1970. The Garden had been functioning as an independent unit of the Chair since 1965.

In 1963 a separate Division of Ecology was established, headed by Prof. Krystyn Izdebski.

The Chair's staff have taught classes to full-time and part-time students of the Department of Biology and Earth Sciences; the subjects include botany, geobotany, palaeobotany, evolutionism, biogeography and phytosociology.

The research conducted at the Chair relates to the plant cover of the Lublin region and Poland, as well as plant taxonomy and protection of the natural environment. It has yielded a total of 570 publications, including over twenty books.

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