

**Droga do wiedzy i stopni naukowych (autobiografia)**

**The path to knowledge and scientific degrees**

SUMMARY

Dominik Fijałkowski was born of the 14th of March 1922, at the village of Huta Borowska, in the Lublin province. He went to elementary school at Trzciniec and Chodel. Being the best school-leaver at the Chodel school, he was given a grant by the Chodel authorities to pay for his further education. In 1939 he finished a three-year Secondary Horticultural School at Kijany.

During the German occupation of Poland, he was a forced farm labourer in Germany, in the vicinity of Halle (Salzminder, Wormsleben, Gerbstedt).

When the war ended, he returned to Poland, where he passed school-leaving exams at J. Zamojski Gimnazjum and Liceum in Lublin. In 1945 he enrolled at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin for a preparatory course, and in 1946 he became a first-year student of biology at that University.

When he was still in his first year studies, Dominik Fijałkowski was offered by Prof. Józef Motyka, Head of the Chair of Plant Systematics and Geography of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University, a chance to do research and to teach, and above all he asked to establish a Botanical Garden in Lublin.

In 1950 Dominik Fijałkowski received his master's degree, for a thesis on geobotanical research of the gullies in the environs of Lublin. In 1959 he was awarded a doctoral degree, after defending a dissertation on ecological research of the forests of the Lublin region. In 1961 he was awarded the degree of "habilitated" doctor and made "docent", for a dissertation on the plant cover of Łęczna-Włodawa lake district. In 1971 he became an associate professor, and in 1991 – a full professor of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University.

In the years 1965-1970 he was Head of the University's Botanical Garden, which he had been responsible for establishing, and in the years 1970-1992 (until his retirement) he was Head of the Division of Plant Systematics and Geography of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University.

Professor Fijałkowski conducts geobotanical research on flora and plant communities. He is an active campaigner for the protection of the natural environment of the Lublin region. He has written 17 books and over 300 scientific and popular science articles.

He is member of the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Geographical Society, and several scientific and public associations in Poland.