

**Czesław Pachucki (Česlovas Pakuckas). Kartka z dziejów
litewsko-polskich relacji w środowisku geologów**

**Czesław Pachucki (Česlovas Pakuckas). A page from the
history of Lithuanian-Polish ties between geologists**

SUMMARY

After World War One, the newly-independent Lithuanian state engaged in the task of building up its own intelligentsia. One of the ways in which that was done consisted in encouraging talented young people from Poland to come to Lithuania, training them in Lithuanian secondary schools, and subsequently sending them to study at universities in Austria and Germany. This is how Czesław Pachucki (1898-1965) found himself in Kaunas (the capital of Lithuania in the inter-war period). He passed his school-leaving examinations in Kaunas 1922, and then went to study geology at Münster in Germany and Vienna in Austria. In 1927 he was awarded a doctoral degree, for which he had written the dissertation *Die Nachtraege zur mittleren und oberen Trias-Fauna vor den Insel Timor. Ammonoidea trachyostratyca*. Later, after having taught for some time at a secondary school in Klaipeda (Memel), he became a research and teaching assistant at Kaunas University. In 1934, he was awarded the degree of Doctor Habilitatus for his dissertations on Jurassic sediments at Popielany near Kaunas.

In 1939, the Lithuanian authorities empowered him to take over the property of the chairs of geology at the Polish Stefan Batory University in Wilno (now Vilnius), which had become part of Lithuania. Not much later, after Lithuania itself was incorporated into the Soviet Union, the authorities made Pachucki head of the Lithuania state geological institute. He retained that position also under German occupation (until 1943), at the same time heading the chair of Geology at the Lithuanian University of Vilnius. At the geological institute he managed to employ geologists, geographers and other specialists from the closed Polish university, thus giving them a chance to survive the hardships of wartime.

Towards the end of World War Two, Pachucki found himself in Vienna and then in Reutlingen in Württemberg. From there he returned to his home region of Suwałki in Poland. Thanks to the forethought of Poles who had formerly worked at the Lithuanian state geological institute, he soon received Polish citizenship and found work in the Chair of Stratigraphic Geology of Wrocław University, headed at that time by Professor Józef Zwierzycki. The chair offered him very good conditions to carry on with his research work. In 1952 he moved to the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin, where he became head of the Chair of Geology.

Pachucki was a great authority in the field of research on the stratigraphy of Jurassic sediments and the geomorphology of the Quaternary. He was admired as a person and as a teacher, wherever he studied and worked: in Lithuania and Poland, as well as the USSR, Austria and Germany. People described him as a true European.

In his heart, he was always connected with Lithuania and Poland. Through his work and good natured attitude towards people he tried to pave the way towards the overcoming of the resentment that divided the two historically close nations in second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries.

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