

KLEMENS SZANIAWSKI (1925-1990)

Klemens Szaniawski, the editor-in-chief of Studia Logica in 1970-1974 died in Warsaw on March 5, 1990.

Born on March 3, 1925 in Warsaw, he studied philosophy at the Underground Warsaw University in 1943-1944; Jan Łukasiewicz, Tadeusz Kotarbiński, Władysław Tatarkiewicz and Maria Ossowska were among his teachers. Klemens Szaniawski was a soldier of the Home Army; after the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 he was prisoned in Nazi's concentration camps, among others in Auschwitz. After World War II he studied at Łódź University. Still as a student he was appointed as an assistent in Department of Philosophy in Łódź. Then he moved to Warszaw and taught in Warsaw University subsequently as a lecturer, associate professor, extraordinary professor and ordinary professor; he was also a close collaborator of Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz and his successor as a professor of logic. Since 1976 he was the president of the Polish Philosophical Society. In 1984 he was elected as the rector of Warsaw University but the Polish government of the time did not accept this election. As a philosopher he continued the tradition of the Lvov-Warsaw School and was mainly influenced by Ajdukiewicz, Kotarbiński and Ossowska. Ethics was his first field but then he turned to logic. He mainly worked on the logical foundations of statistics and probability. He published over 100 scientific works.

Klemens Szaniawski was very active in Polish public life. Yet in the seventies he became one of the main leaders of the Polish democratic opposition. He founded the group "Experience and Future" which worked a diagnosis of Polish problems. In 1981 he was elected the president of the Consultative Committee of Scientific and Artistic Societies. In 1980-1990 he was one of the main counsellors of Lech Walesa and one of the greatest moral authorities in Poland.