

## OBITUARY OF KLEMENS SZANIAWSKI (1925–1990)

Klemens Szaniawski, a leading Polish philosopher, 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 imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz. After World War II he studied at Łódź University; while still a student there he was appointed as an assistant in the philosophy department. Then he moved to Warsaw and subsequently taught at Warsaw University as a lecturer, associate professor, extraordinary professor, and ordinary professor; he was also a close collaborator of Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz, and his successor as professor of logic. He was the editor-in-chief of *Studia Logica* from 1970 to 1974. In 1976 he became the president, after Tadeusz Kotarbiński, of the Polish Philosophical Society. In the 70s and 80s he was a member of the Board of Consulting Editors of *Synthese*. In 1984 he was elected as the rector of Warsaw University, but the Polish government of the time did not accept that 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 as well as on applications of logic to the social sciences and ethics. He published over 100 scientific works.

Klemens Szaniawski was very active in Polish public life. In the seventies he became one of the main leaders of the Polish democratic opposition. He founded the group "Experience and Future," which worked out a diagnosis of Polish problems. In 1981 he was elected the president of the Consultative Committee of Scientific and Artistic Societies. During 1980–1990 he was one of the main counselors of Lech Walesa and one of the greatest moral authorities in Poland. Also he was a very close friend of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, a Polish priest killed in 1985 by the Polish Security Service. Szaniawski's death is a great loss for the world philosophical community.

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