

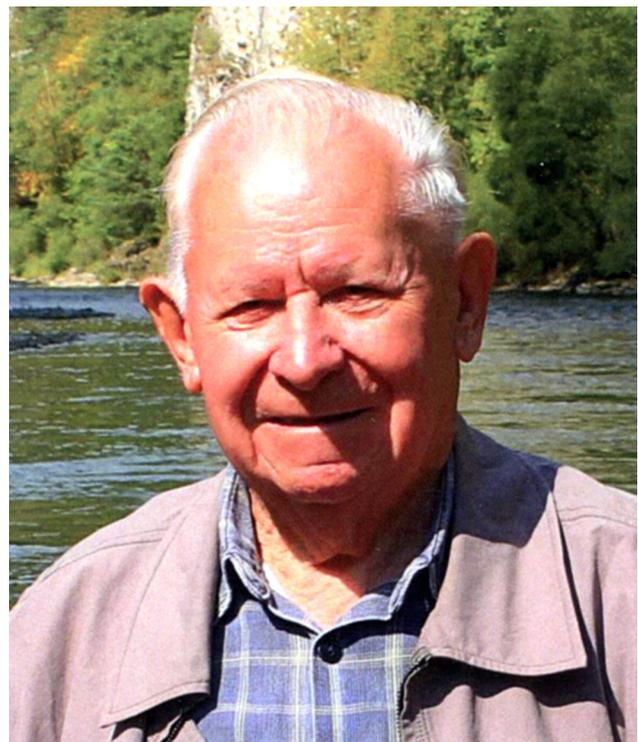
ANDRZEJ SAMEK (1924–2018) – OBITUARY¹

On January 19th 2018 at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków we said our last farewells to our dear friend Andrzej Samek, professor of Kraków Polytechnics and Kraków Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, and honorary member of the Association of Polish Malacologists. He passed away on January 14th 2018.

Prof. dr hab. eng. Andrzej Samek was born on June 22nd 1924 in Kraków. A soldier of Home Army during the occupation, 1950 graduate of the Aviation Division of Polytechnic Faculties of Kraków Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, teacher and head of the Extramural Faculty of Mechanical College in 1950-1957, since 1956 he was associated with Kraków Polytechnics, where he obtained degrees of doctor (1963) and habilitated doctor (1968), as well as titles of extraordinary professor (1983) and ordinary professor (1991); he lectured also at Wrocław Polytechnics. Having reached retirement age, Andrzej Samek continued his scientific work and since 2003 till his death remained associated with the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Kraków. His outstanding scientific, teaching and organisational achievements were associated with his work at those universities. He was author of more than 250 scientific publications, including several academic handbooks, textbooks “Designing technological equipment” (PWN Warszawa–Kraków, 1976), “Designing technological processes” (Kraków Polytechnics, Kraków, 1986), “Bionics in education” (Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Kraków, 2013), as well as monographs “Bionics – natural history knowledge for engineers” (Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Kraków, 2010) and “Engineer education: history – observations – proposals” (Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Kraków, 2017). He supervised 9 doctoral theses. He used his engineering knowledge while designing numerous devices and technological processes, mainly for aircraft factories.

At the universities he was entrusted a variety of positions, among others deputy head of the Institute of Machine Technology (1973-1975) and deputy dean of the Faculty of Mechanics (1975–1978) of Kraków Polytechnics; he was also member of numerous scientific and editorial boards. His activities and achievements were widely recognised; among other distinctions he was awarded Cavalier’s Cross of the Order of Poland’s Renaissance, Silver and Golden Cross of Merit, Medal of the National Education Commission, Golden Medal of the 50th Anniversary of Kraków Polytechnics, Golden Award of Kraków Polytechnics, Award for Merits for the Kraków Region, Award for Social Work for the City of Kraków, Golden Honorary Award of Scouts’ Friends, and others.

Professor Samek did not limit his interests to scientific work. One of his extra-professional passions was cardboard model-making (Fig. 1). In 1953–



¹ We used the publication „Profesor Andrzej Samek – naturalist, malacologist, populariser of natural sciences (Andrzej Lesicki, In: Jubileusz 90-lecia urodzin Profesora Andrzeja Samka, AGH, Kraków, 2014).

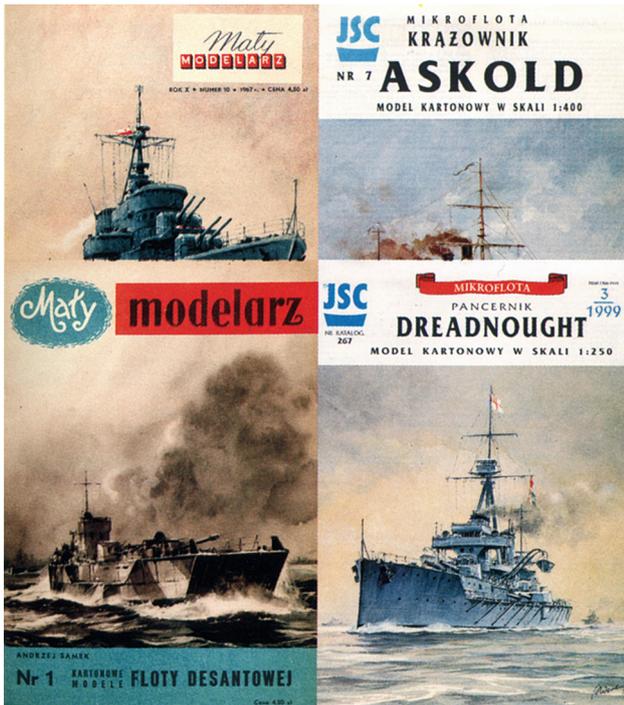


Fig. 1. Covers of cardboard-model publications by Prof. Andrzej Samek

1967 he designed more than a hundred models of airplanes and ships, as well as vehicles, mainly for the journals “Mały Modelarz” [Small Model-maker] and other publications of the Ministry of National Defence. He wrote articles for the weekly “Motor i Skrzydła” [Motor and Wings], and then “Skrzydłata Polska” [Winged Poland]. He produced a kind of handbook “Designing paper ship models” (League of Soldier’s Friends, 1956).

As a result of his interest in aviation, since 1948 he was associated with the Kraków Flying Club, of which he was president during two terms of office (2003–2007). Samek’s book “Kraków Flying Club, part I, 1928–1939” was published in 2008. In recog-



Fig. 2. First natural history drawings by Prof. Andrzej Samek of 1954–1956

nition of his merits for aviation he was awarded the title of honorary member of the Polish Flying Club.

His interest in the navy resulted in an unusual book “Navy which isn’t any more: origin, development and actions of the Habsburg Monarchy Navy”, published by Kraków Polytechnics in 2011. Andrzej Samek devoted another book to the aviation of Austro-Hungarian Empire “Forgotten wings: origin, development and activities of the Austro-Hungarian airforce” (Kraków Polytechnics, Kraków, 2015). In 2015 an Olsztyn publishing office Mantis published his book for children “Little hedgehog’s adventures” with stories he invented in the 1970s for his little daughter.

Samek’s navy interests evolved into other passions – travel and diving, and most of all, generally speaking, admiration for the beauty of the surrounding nature. Of nature he favoured the beauty of marine snail shells.

Since childhood Andrzej Samek observed the world and tried to preserve its image, on the one hand using photography, but since virtually till the 1990s colour photography was highly unsatisfactory, he decided to depict the beauty of nature in paintings. Painting was yet another of his passions. His first paintings were produced already in 1954–56: insects, among others butterflies and dragonflies, excellently rendering the beauty of their colours (Fig. 2). It is more difficult to say when exactly Prof. Samek became interested in mollusc shells. In the early 1970s Professor Adolf Riedel, the late senior of Polish malacology, met Andrzej Samek, when the latter was taking photographs of snail shells in the collection of the Warsaw Zoological Museum and Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences. It can be assumed that the first specimens in Prof. Samek’s collection date from much earlier. Over the years he amassed an imposing collection of snail shells worldwide, and the collection occupied numerous shelves in the cabinets in his home (Fig. 3). He devoted special attention to some families, for example the Patellidae. He most valued shells he found himself and brought from expeditions to the coasts of Cuba, Mexico, Egypt and Sudan. He did not only collect shells; he wanted to infect other people with his passion. His book “The world of shells” (Fig. 4) was published in 1976 by Wydawnictwo Morskie. It was the first in Poland popular scientific handbook of malacology, and at the same time conchology – zoological disciplines dealing with both molluscs and their shells. The book was illustrated with numerous photographs, almost all of them from the collection of the Zoological Museum and Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences. Prof. Riedel commented that the book “was a positive oddity, something surprisingly new in our naturalist literature”. Only a year later the Wrocław publishing office Ossolineum



Fig. 3. Fragment of Prof. Samek's sea shell collection

published “Conchological collections of the Central Marine Museum”, written and illustrated by Prof. Samek. It is a small book, but its introduction contains concise scientific descriptions of the mollusc classes. The book describes (and also presents photos of) snail shells which were donated to the collection of the Marine Museum in Gdańsk by Edward Michno, a Pole living in Florida, and bivalves from the Museum's collection. Another book “The world of coral reefs” (Fig. 4), published by Wydawnictwo Morskie in 1985, was an effect of expeditions to

tropical coasts, organised by the Diving Club of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy “Krab”, in which Andrzej Samek participated. Subsequent scientific books were: “Historia naturalna obejmująca zwierząt opisanie...” [Natural history including descriptions of animals...] published in 1992 by the State Publishing Agency, and “Marine shells” published in the same year by the Natural History Museum of the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków. The latter is a guide for shell collectors; on the one hand it con-

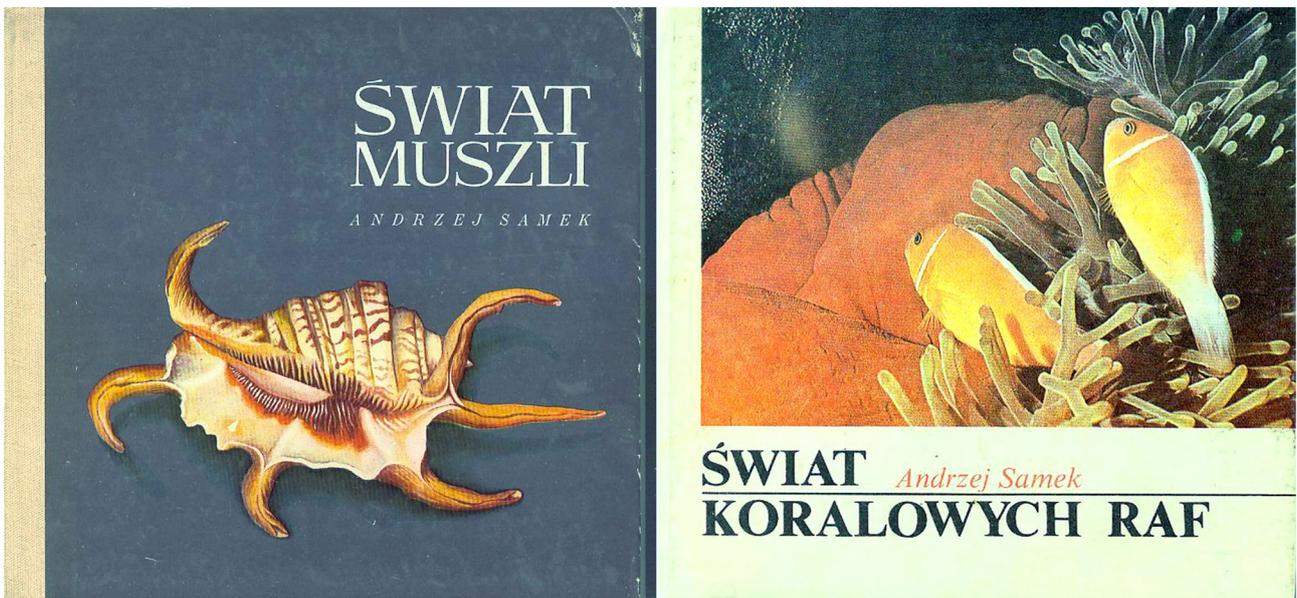


Fig. 4. Prof. Samek's first books popularising knowledge of molluscs and their shells

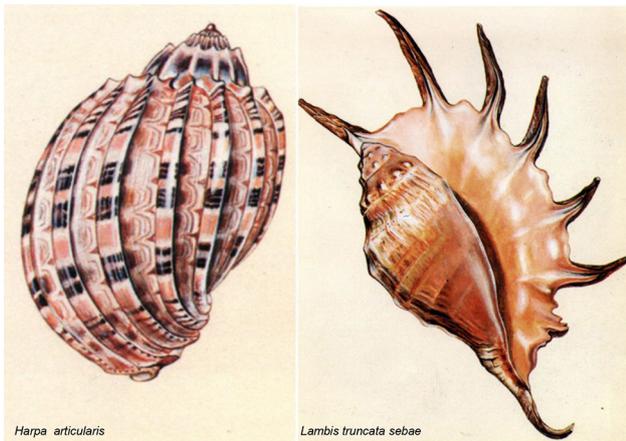


Fig. 5. One of Prof. Samek's passions was painting portraits of snail shells

tains scientific characteristics of families of marine snails and bivalves and their representatives, on the other a concise description of history of shell collecting with advice to collectors and a dictionary which facilitates using scientific literature. At that time it was a pioneer book on our market. It was only later that books imported from Germany, England or USA, as well as translations of publications by western authors appeared in Poland. Probably not satisfied with the quality of photographs which were illustrations in those books, Professor Samek during many years painted pictures of snail and bivalve shells, mainly specimens from his own collection (Fig. 5). Painted with gouache technique, they are beautiful portraits of the specimens, which are – to quote Prof. Riedel once more – “rendered so perfectly that not only the snail species, but also the specimen depicted could be recognised among other individuals of the species”. Nearly 500 of those pictures formed the bulk of Prof. Samek's “Atlas of marine snail shells” published in 2004 by Mantis from Olsztyn (Fig. 6). The book was Andrzej Samek's greatest popular-scientific achievement. His death put an end to his work on a



Fig. 6. Some of the 500 pictures painted by Prof. Samek for the “Atlas of marine snail shells”



Fig. 7. The Kraków exhibition of shells from Prof. Samek's collection (Art Gallery of Kraków Polytechnics) was accompanied by a brochure with his pictures

nearly finished monograph on cephalopods. To bring this unusual and outstanding work to publication is a challenge to us, Polish malacologists.

Apart from the books, Prof. Samek popularised his passion in several dozen articles in such journals as *Morze* [Sea], *Wszechświat* [Universe], *Przekrój*



Fig. 8. Fragment of the exhibition “Sea shells – shapes and colours” (2003, gallery Stara Polana in Zakopane)



[Cross-section] and others, sometimes combining malacology with his other interests (e.g. stamp collecting). In “Wszczęświat” Prof. Samek wrote about early illustrations depicting molluscs, and about stamps with malacological motives, or about myths and legends about giant cephalopods. The titles of some of his articles in *Przekrój* sound intriguing: “Rekin rekinowi nierówny” [One shark is not equal to another] (no. 1604 of 1976), “Cesarska purpura” [Caesarean purple] (no. 1872 of 1981), “Monstra z morskiej otchłani” [Monsters from sea depths] (no. 1918 of 1982), “Zwierzęta kupców i szalbierzy” [Animals of merchants and swindlers] (no. 1971 of 1983), or “Symbol bogini i tabakierka wieszczka” [The goddess’ symbol and the bard’s snuff-box] (no. 1984 of 1983).

Another form of popularising malacological, conchological and also artistic interests by Prof. Samek was organisation of exhibitions at which he presented his collections and pictures. One of the most important was the one in the Art Gallery of Kraków Polytechnics “Unusual passions of a technologist”; its opening took place on September 28th 2000. During the next few months it enjoyed the interest of Kraków citizens as well as tourists. The brochure published on that occasion (Fig. 7) contained, among others, shell paintings by Andrzej Samek – the brochure was a kind of announcement of the future “Atlas of marine snail shells”. Another exhibition “Marine shells



Fig. 10. Participants of the IX Polish Malacological Seminar in Mysłów, 1993 (Prof. A. Samek in the last row, marked with asterisk)

Our Polish Shell Painter

By Trudi Ernst*

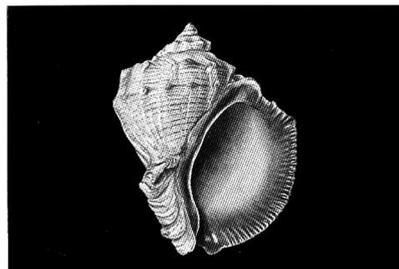
One of Hawaiian Malacological Society's newest members is Professor Andrzej Samek from Kraków, Poland. He began to correspond with me when I was the recording secretary, initially asking about shells, the availability of shell books and back issues of HSN. A long string of letters and packages to and from Poland resulted in the creation of several new friendships. Andrzej, a professor and technologist at the Technical Academy in Kraków, leads a scientific group specialising in automation, machining and flexible production systems. A far cry from seashells since he works with students, computers and machine tools. His letters are in English but he states that his spoken French and German is better than his English. Andrzej has a daughter who is a student at the university.

more complicated forms, such as *Muricanus*, *Strombidus*, *Cyprididae*, and *Cyrtoidae*. Andrzej prefers to paint shells in a scale of 1:1 unless it is necessary to enlarge them for clarity. Each of his shell paintings appears to be an exact replica of the original in line, form and color, truly beautiful to behold. The medium, gouache (opaque water color), lends itself to soft colored mats and naturally finished Hawaiian koa wood frames.

Several of his works are now hanging in prominent places within the home of HSN members. These pictures were traded for scientific books, publications and shells since it is next to impossible to exchange Polish and American currency. My husband, a retired USAF Officer who is now an airline pilot, traded additional shells for books about Polish aircraft when he found that Andrzej's other hobbies included belonging to a pilot club in Kraków.



Professor Andrzej Samek, Kraków, Poland, 1990



Ripana thomasiensis Cross. Paintings by Samek.

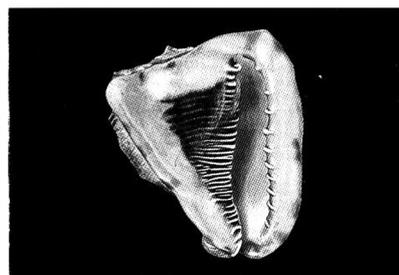
Professor Samek's personal collection of shells contains over 110 cones and several other families, along with most of the common specimens from the Western Pacific. At this time he is finishing his second book on seashells. The first, published in 1976, *The World of the Shells*, was the first book about sea shells in Poland and is now completely sold out.

Raising these books further stimulated his interest in the painting of shells, since he was not completely satisfied with his photographs for his first book.

Early in February 1991, Dr. Beata Polyzynko, a Polish malacologist and an expert on *Papillioidea*, in Hlaskolka helping the Malacology staff at the Bishop Museum presented the February program for the HSN. She provided additional comments about Samek, his interest in malacology and skill as a painter.

HSN members who wish to write to Andrzej about trading shells, books or paintings may do so at: Andrzej Samek, Krowoderskich 72uchow 51/3, 31-271 Kraków, Poland.

Very early in his life he attended a private painting school where he developed into an accomplished painter. Later, his interest in seashells became a hobby and naturally led to his painting. He likes to paint the



Cuvieria tuberosa Linnéus.

Fig. 9. Hawaiian Shell News wrote about the passion of Prof. Samek

– shapes and colours” during two months, starting February 14th 2003, could be admired in Zakopane, in the gallery “Stara Polana” [Old Glade] of Kraków Polytechnics (Fig. 8). The artistic passions of the conchologist and malacologist from Kraków became world-famous; articles on the topic appeared in collectors’ journals, for example *Hawaiian Shell News* (Fig. 9), illustrated with his shell pictures.

Contacts with Polish malacologists were a natural consequence of Prof. Samek's malacological interests. Andrzej Samek was a regular participant of the Polish Malacological Seminars, organised annually since 1985 (Figs 10–11). The first seminars (till 1991) were held in Krościenko, subsequent ones in many other places in Poland, but anyway the malacologists for a long time called them “krościenkos” (small “k”). Prof. Samek often presented interesting topics, for example at the XXIV Seminar in Gdynia in 2008 “Kraken, legenda i rzeczywistość” [Kraken, legend and reality], at the XXVI Seminar in Kudowa Zdrój in 2010 “Przydacznie – największe z małżów” [Tridacnids – the largest bivalves], at the XXXI Seminar in Wieliczka in 2015 (the last one he attended) “Głównonogi – nieznaną świat morskich głębin” [Cephalopods – un unknown world of sea depths]. Sometimes his presentation was a “surprise”, for ex-



Fig. 11. Prof. Andrzej Samek (asterisk) among participants of the XV Polish Malacological Seminar in Łódź, 1999

Kraków 7.10.2000

Drogi Andrzeju!

Ogromnie dziękuję za przesłany kserokopie. Jestem bardzo zainteresowany gatunkiem *Lamellis truncata* sphae. W Sudanie miałem możliwość uzupełnienia około 50 okazów, w tym sporo o znacznie większej wielkości uzupełnke. Niedługo miemy planować nową podróż (wtedy w planujemy wjeżdżać) i analizujemy ich zmieniło statystycznie. Myślę, że to nawet jest więcej o promieniotwórczych uzupełnke. Potem rozważam te pseudo-fadnięcia, ale uważam, że zarówno kilka ich i potworzenie uzupełnke jest dość zmienne. Może warto by przemyśleć do rozważenia. Tymczasem odwieść dwóch gat. *Murex*, duża kolony i nich był w Salspi.

Zdaję sobie sprawę z tego, że mam grupę "pod obserwacją", a także folder mający uzupełnke z okazji 50-lecia działalności poza profesyjną.

Z podziwieniem

Andrzej

Fig. 12. Prof. Samek's letter to one of the authors (AL) of 1.10.2000

ample, at the XX Seminar in Krościenko he showed us ancient illustrations of molluscs. During the seminars he told us about yet another of his passions, using biological knowledge to solve technical problems, about bionics, constructing robots based on biological systems. For example, already at the VIII Seminar in Obrzycko in 1992 he had a lecture "Bioniczne aspekty malakologii" [Bionics aspects of malacology], and later, at the XXVII Seminar in Tleń in 2011 "Mięczaki jako wzorce techniczne" [Molluscs as technical templates]. He published also in zoological journals, for example "Bionika – nauki przyrodnicze i technika" [Bionics – natural sciences and technique] in *Przegląd Zoologiczny* [Zoological Review] (44: 51–62, 2000). At the XXX Seminar in Łopuszna in 2014 he discussed molluscs not only as templates for technical solutions, but also for arts. He always actively participated in discussions and all kinds of meetings. He was an excellent story teller during meetings at a fire or grill, with his lively tales of nature, molluscs and his hobbies.

Prof. Andrzej Samek was member of the Association of Polish Malacologists, established in 1995; in 2007 the Association awarded him honorary membership in recognition of his merit for popularisation of malacology and development of the Association. In the Association he was chairman of Arbitration Commission in 1995–1999 and 1999–2004, member of Prize Commission in 1999–2004 and chairman of Auditors' Commission in 2004–2008 and 2008–2012.

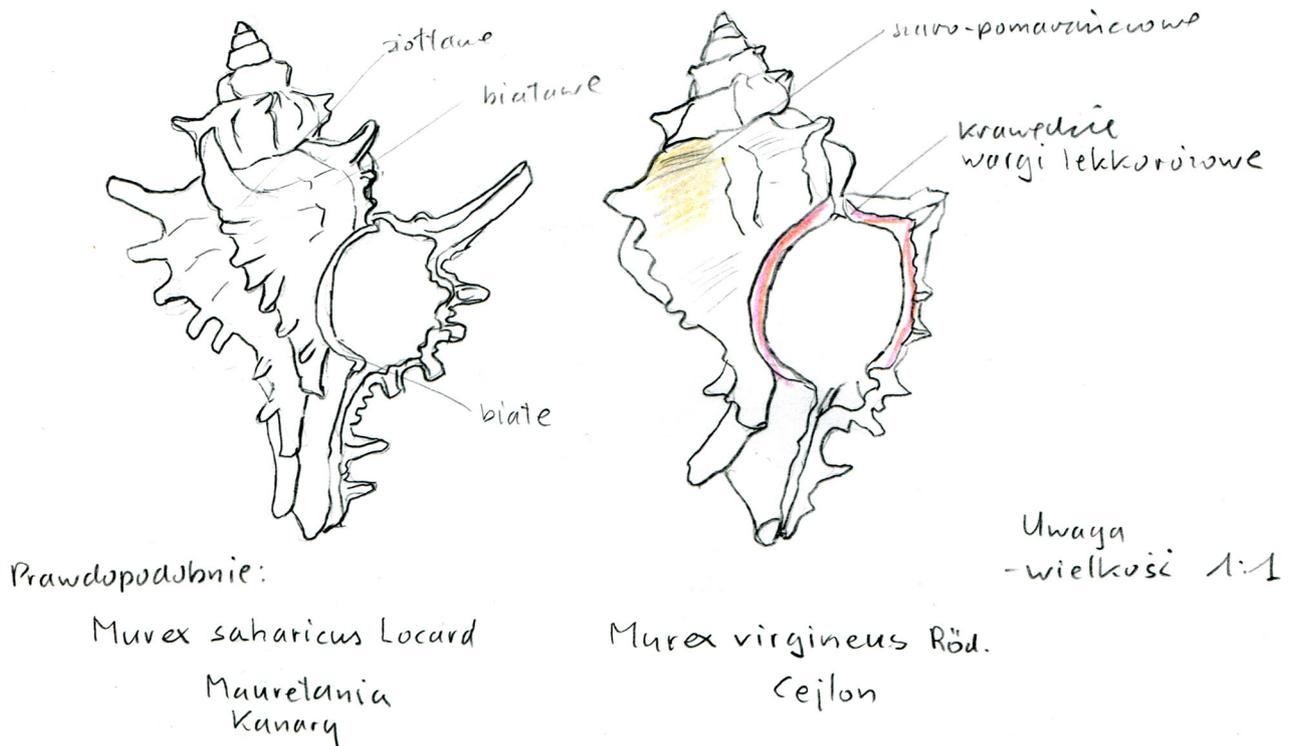


Fig. 13. Prof. Samek's unpublished drawings

Andrzej Samek shared his views and passions with all of us also individually, writing letters with his conchological observations (Fig. 12) and drawings some of which had never been published (Fig. 13). He has been with us for years and we'll miss him a lot.

ANDRZEJ LESICKI
Department of Cell Biology, Faculty of Biology,
Adam Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89,
61-614 Poznań, Poland (e-mail: alesicki@amu.edu.pl)

EWA STWORZEWICZ
Institute of Systematics and Evolution of
Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Sławkowska 17,
31-016 Kraków, Poland
(e-mail: Stworzewicz@isez.pan.krakow.pl)
BEATA M. POKRYSZKO
Museum of Natural History, Wrocław University,
Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland
(e-mail: bepok@biol.Uni.Wroc.Pl)

LIST OF ANDRZEJ SAMEK'S MOST IMPORTANT MALACOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

1976

SAMEK A. Świat muszli. Wydawnictwo Morskie, Gdańsk.

1977

SAMEK A. Zbiory konchologiczne Centralnego Muzeum Morskiego (muszle z daru Edwarda Michny). Ossolineum, Wrocław.

1985

SAMEK A. Świat koralowych raf. Wydawnictwo Morskie, Gdańsk.

1992

SAMEK A. Historia naturalna obejmująca zwierząt opisanie z dykcjonarzów i dzieł dawnych polskich naturalistów zebrane albo jako Polakowi ciekawemu wiadomości z historii naturalnej podawano. KAW, Warszawa.

SAMEK A. Muszle morskie (mały przewodnik kolekcjonera). Muzeum Przyrodnicze Instytutu Systematyki i Ewolucji Zwierząt PAN, Kraków.

2000

SAMEK A. Niecodzienne pasje technologa. Galeria Sztuki Politechniki Krakowskiej „Kanonicza 1”, Kraków.

2004

SAMEK A. Atlas muszli ślimaków morskich. Mantis, Olsztyn.

2018

SAMEK A. Głównonogi – mięczaki niezwykle. Wyd. AGH, Kraków (w druku).