
CHRONICLE

Anna Zofia Krygowska
30th anniversary of death

The year 2018 marked 30 years since the death of Professor Anna Zofia Krygowska. She was doctor honoris causa of the Pedagogical College in Cracow (now Pedagogical University of Cracow), honorary member of the Polish Mathematical Society, founder and first editor of *Didactica Mathematicae*. Her great scientific authority and the international recognition of her achievements resulted in the resolution of the General Assembly of the Polish Mathematical Society (PTM) of September 15, 1979, to establish the Series V of *Annales Societatis Mathematicae Polonae – Dydaktyka Matematyki* (this was the original name of the journal). She considered the founding of this journal as one of her most important achievements, to which she devoted a great deal of time and energy in the last years of her life.



Figure 1: Anna Zofia Krygowska 1904–1988.

Professor Anna Zofia Krygowska died on May 16th, 1988.

Polish didactics of mathematics owes her a lot. She developed a theory of mathematics teaching and learning (published in Polish only) based on a careful analysis of mathematics in various aspects, and on theses from psychological, chiefly Piagetian, theories. She took care of promoting international

contacts for Polish researchers, which at that time (of the communist system in Poland) was not so easy. She participated in many international ventures related to the teaching of mathematics, especially those undertaken by the International Commission for the Study and Improvement of Mathematics Teaching (CIEAEM), of which she was the president and then the honorary president.

A wider description of her activities has been included in volume 12 of *Dydaktyka Matematyki* (along with the list of all her published books and articles). Among others, the research topics undertaken in doctoral theses whose supervisor was Professor Krygowska, are elaborated. In that study, the topic of education of future teachers of mathematics was additionally discussed; this issue was one of those in which Professor was strongly involved. Below, there is a fragment of the characterization of mathematics teachers' studies concept:

“The development of the didactics of the major subjects, as autonomous, though interdisciplinary, fields, constituted an important element of the concept of a higher education school educating teachers, developed at the Pedagogical College in Cracow from the very beginning of its existence. In this concept, the preparation of a future teacher in a college should include not only a deep study of the discipline, but also seriously studying the other disciplines, in particular psychological and pedagogical, and in the area of study, didactics of the scientific discipline as the subject having very important, special place. This special function of didactics of the major discipline, which *inter alia*, integrate the whole of the studies, can only be fulfilled if it develops as a field of research at the scientific level. Hence, the very concept of educating teachers of mathematics at the Pedagogical University in Cracow resulted in activities in the field of didactics of mathematics with the following objectives: *firstly* – to create the theoretical and methodological foundations of this new scientific discipline, growing in equal degree from mathematics, psychology, general didactics, philosophy and methodology of science; *secondly* – creating the legal and organizational conditions for the education of scientific staff in this new discipline; *thirdly* – based on theoretical and experimental research in the field of didactics of mathematics in Poland and in the world, constantly improving the teaching of mathematics in Polish schools, at various levels” (Nowecki, 1984, 13–14).

It is our deep duty to continue her work, despite of the difficulties that arise.

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The studies on Professor Krygowska's life and work one can also find in:

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