

WŁADYSŁAW FRANCISZEK ANDRZEJ SZCZEPAŃSKI – HISTORIAN OF PHARMACY AND MEDICINE

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ABSTRACT

Władysław F. A. Szczepański was born on September 20, 1922 in Kalisz, and died on December 31, 2009 in Olsztyn, Poland. In 1947, he graduated from the University of Poznań (Faculty of Pharmacy) and was awarded the title of Master of Pharmacy. He obtained his first job at a pharmacy in Częstochowa. Next, from 1948 to 1949 he worked in the chemical plant PEMOR in Poznań. During his military service between 1949 and 1957 he served as head of a pharmacy and a laboratory. Having completed his military service, he then became a manager of a pharmacy in Częstochowa, and then the Deputy Director of the Częstochowa Department for the Katowice Board of Pharmacies. In 1972 he was appointed Director of Board of Pharmacies in Olsztyn (evolving into the Public Company of Pharmaceutical Supplies CEFARM in Olsztyn), which function he performed till 1988 when he retired. He was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Pharmacy in 1970 and a post-doctoral degree (Assistant Professor) in pharmacy in 1998. He was most active in the field of the history of pharmacy, and also in the field of the history of medicine. He wrote many biographies concerning pharmacists. From 1972 to 1983, he served as the Vice-President of the Polish Medical Association. Between 1980 and 1992 he served as the Vice-President of the Polish Association for History of Medicine and Pharmacy, Division in Olsztyn, and remained its President since 1993. He was a member of the General Board of the Polish Historical Society. He participated in numerous congresses and conferences involving historians of pharmacy and medicine in Poland and abroad. He was honored with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Medal of Rodło and many other regional and professional awards.

Key words: asst. prof. Szczepański, pharmacist, biography, history of pharmacy and medicine

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*Non omnis moriar multaue pars mei
vitabit Libitinam*

Horace, *Carmina* III, 30, 6–7

Władysław Franciszek Andrzej Szczepański was born on September 20, 1922 in Kalisz. In 1947, he graduated from the University of Poznań (Faculty of Pharmacy) and was awarded the title of Master of Pharmacy [3]. He obtained his first job at a pharmacy in Częstochowa. Next, from 1948 to 1949 he was employed in the chemical and pharmaceutical plant PEMOR in Poznań. In 1949 he was drafted for military service as the head of a pharmacy and a laboratory, in the rank of major. He performed this service until 1957. In 1976 he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and in 2001 to full colonel. After completing his military service, he became manager of a pharmacy in Częstochowa. This position allowed him to show his organizational talents. The supervising authorities noticed his efforts and skills and promoted him to the position of Deputy Director of the Częstochowa Division of the Katowice Board of Pharmacies. He remained in this position until 1972. Moreover, during this period of his life he taught pharmacology at the Medical Secondary School in Częstochowa, headed the Aseptic Laboratory of the Katowice Board of Pharmacies, Division in Częstochowa (1962–1971) and between 1957 and 1959 he was manager of the Pharmaceutical Cooperative in Częstochowa.

In 1972 he was appointed Director of Board of Pharmacies in Olsztyn, which was later transformed into the Public Company of Pharmaceutical Supplies CEFARM in Olsztyn. He performed this function until 1988 following which he retired [2, 3, 6].

He had conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy on January 19, 1970 by the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical Academy in Warsaw, on the basis of his thesis entitled *Pharmacies in Częstochowa up till the end of the 19th century*, supervised by prof. Stanisław Konopka, PhD. He obtained his post-doctoral degree on April 12, 1999 on the basis of the work *Pharmaceutical Agents in Old Polish Pharmacopeias (1560–1970)* at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Karol Marcinkowski Medical Academy in Poznań (presently Poznań University of Medical Sciences), reviewed by: Jerzy Lutowski, Jerzy Masiekowski, Dionizy Edward Moska [1, 6].

Among his published works, one of the most significant is his book discussing the history of socialized pharmacies in Olsztyn (*Cefarm Olsztyn. Pięćdziesiąt lat tradycji* [*Cefarm Olsztyn. Fifty years of tradition*], Olsztyn 2001). Moreover, he authored 40 scientific papers concerning the history of pharmacy, 55 biographies of pharmacists, 2 reviews, 10 papers on social matters, and numerous reports, obituaries and chronicles [6].

In 1957 he became a member of the Polish Pharmaceutical Association, and in 1959 he was appointed President of the Częstochowa Division of this Association. Having moved to Olsztyn, he served as the President of the Olsztyn Division of the

Polish Pharmaceutical Association between 1973 and 2003, as well as the Chairman of the History of Pharmacy Section in Olsztyn, and from 1990 to 2003, the Chairman of the History of Pharmacy Section of the Polish Pharmaceutical Association.

From 1972 to 1983, he was the Vice-President of the Polish Medical Association in Olsztyn, between 1980 and 1992 the Vice-President of the Polish Association for History of Medicine and Pharmacy in Olsztyn, and since 1993 of its General Board, between 1974–1996 the Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Controlling Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases. Since 1993 he was the President of the Olsztyn Division of the Polish Association for History of Medicine and Pharmacy [7]. As he once recalled, this position, taken after the late Andrzej Skrobacki, MD, PhD, was an impulse to begin the procedure to be conferred the postdoctoral degree in pharmacy.

Between 1977–1993, he was a member of the General Board of the Polish Historical Society, and since 1995 a member of the Board of the Polish Society of War Veterans, between 1954–1972 a member of the Provincial Committee for Verifying Pharmacists in Katowice, 1965–1972 a tourist-guide and member of the Polish Tourist and Sight-seeing Society [2, 3, 6].

He was skilled at making reasonable decisions and cooperating with others in professional circles, which he did in a most natural, trustworthy manner.

He was very popular among historians both in Poland and abroad. He was especially interested in discovering and describing the history of pharmacy in Poland. Professional ethics was also one of his spheres of interest.

He participated in International Congresses of the Association for History of Pharmacy in Tübingen, Goerlitz, and Lipsk. The pharmacists' profession thanked him for the excellent way in which he organized the symposium on the history of pharmacy in Gietrzwałd and for chairing discussions during conferences in Supraśl, Suchedniów, Wenecja, Łańcut, and Iwonicz Zdrój.

For his many years of professional and social activities, as well as activities referring to the history of pharmacy and medicine he was awarded with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1981), the Ignacy Łukasiewicz Medal (1977), medal for perfect work in healthcare service (1976), Distinguished for National Health badge (1988), Medal of Rodło (1986), Distinguished for the development of the Warmia and Mazury badge (1978), Distinguished for the Katowice Province badge (1962), Golden Cross of Merit (1974), as well as with military medals: The Armed Forces Serving to the Homeland (1955), Medal of Victory and Freedom (1976), Operation Tempest (1995), Veteran Badge of Struggle for Independence (1996) [2, 3, 6].

Associate professor Władysław F. A. Szczepański died on December 31, 2009, following a long and serious disease. He was buried on January 5, 2010 in Gietrzwałd in his family tomb after a ceremonial mass for the dead conducted in Olsztyn.

He was a kind man to and for everyone. He spoke well of those people he met in life and treated them in friendly fashion. Those who knew him, will retain fond

memories of him. His memory will be always vivid to those who will study his works concerning the history of pharmacy and medicine.

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