

## TO OUR ESTEEMED READERS

### **Professor Witold Żabiński leaves the post of Chief Editor after 35 years at the helm of *Mineralogia Polonica***

At the General Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Poland in Cracow on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2004, Professor Witold Żabiński announced his resignation from the post of Chief Editor of *Mineralogia Polonica*, the function he had held since 1969. As it was his final decision, the participants had to accept it with full respect and understanding but also with real sorrow. They expressed sincere thanks to Professor Żabiński and acknowledged his enormous role and efforts in creation and development of *Mineralogia Polonica*, the scientific journal of the Mineralogical Society of Poland.

Professor Żabiński can for sure include into the list of his various achievements the position “editorial work”. He has been very active in this field for the last 45 years. Shortly after presenting his Ph.D. dissertation he was appointed to a post of Scientific Secretary of a newly formed journal *Prace Geologiczne (Geological Transactions)*, the periodical of the Commission of Geological Sciences, published by the Cracow Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The first volume of the journal came out of print in 1960. When, in turn, in 1964 the Commission of Mineralogical Sciences with its journal *Prace Mineralogiczne (Mineralogical Transactions)* was founded by the Cracow Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Żabiński — as a mineralogist — was duly appointed Scientific Secretary of this new series. He held this function till 1974, participating in issuing the first 35 volumes, and after handing down the post in *Prace Mineralogiczne* to his successor he has remained on its Editorial Board. It was in this period that he worked out, mainly on a basis of his international contacts, an extensive list of the Polish and foreign scientific institutions and libraries, with which an exchange of *Prace Mineralogiczne* got initiated.

In 1969 the Mineralogical Society of Poland was formed. The appointment of Professor Żabiński to the post of Chief Editor of *Mineralogia Polonica* was an obvious choice for the members of the Society. For the successive 35 years he devoted much of his time and skills to shaping the present layout and position of our journal, whose first volume appeared in 1970. During his tenure 35 volumes of *Mineralogia Polonica* were edited; printed in 62 issues they presented over 500 papers. We must bear in mind that as the Chief Editor he also oversaw financial matters of printing, had to cope with censorship,

co-operated with translators, and managed to keep uninterrupted, annual editing of the journal even in the years of an economic crisis in Poland. It should be emphasized that of considerable importance is Professor Żabiński's deeply human personality, which during several decades of his editorial activity facilitated contacts with numerous authors from various countries. He contributed a lot to organizing and then extending the international exchange of *Mineralogia Polonica*. This exchange has formed a basis of the library of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, currently composed of almost 8,000 volumes and representing 145 scientific journals. Again, scientific contacts of Professor Żabiński have resulted in inviting outstanding mineralogists from abroad into the Editorial Board of *Mineralogia Polonica*; their presence has widened a circle of advisers and reviewers of the papers published.

All the members of the Mineralogical Society of Poland express their deep gratitude to Professor Żabiński for his hard work as the Chief Editor of *Mineralogia Polonica*. We are grateful even more: despite his other duties Professor Żabiński still shares his experience in editing our journal: he has remained a member of the Editorial Board and actively co-operates with a new Chief Editor (Dr Andrzej Skowroński).

*Piotr WYSZOMIRSKI*