

HENRYK JANKOWSKI

Professor Edward Tryjarski

Edward Tryjarski was born on 31 March 1923 in Warsaw. He was one of the first students who attended seminars and classes offered by the Department of Turkology at Warsaw University when they were resumed after the liberation of Warsaw in 1945. He majored from the Faculty of Law in 1948 as master of law and minored from the Faculty of Arts in 1950 as master of philosophy with the specialization in Turkic studies. Edward Tryjarski was a student of professor Ananiasz Zajączkowski who supervised his doctoral dissertation “The Kipchak dialect of Polish Armenians”, defended in 1961.

Edward Tryjarski started his professional career in 1948 as an assistant at the School of Oriental Languages and Problems, then he worked for Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy publishers between 1951–1954. In 1956 he was employed as a research worker at the Centre of Oriental Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences. After the Centre was closed in 1970, Edward Tryjarski moved to the Institute of the History of Material Culture (from 1992 on Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology) of the Academy where he worked until retirement, from 1974 on as a professor. Meanwhile, in 1966 he got his postdoctoral degree (Habilitation) with his famous *Dictionnaire arméno-kiptchak d'après trois manuscrits de collections viennoises* (published in 1968 – vols I, II, 1969 – vol. III and 1972 – vol. IV).

Edward Tryjarski's list of publications includes more than 300 items, among which there are a few books, many articles, review articles, reviews, bibliographical notes, bibliographies, reports, obituaries, articles contributed to lexicons and encyclopaedias, occasional papers and other writings. His contributions appeared in such Polish periodicals as “Rocznik Orientalistyczny”, “Przegląd Orientalistyczny” and “Folia Orientalia”, as well as in leading international journals such as “Acta Orientalia”, “Acta Orientalia Hungarica”, “Journal Asiatique”, “Journal de la Société Finno-Ougrienne”, “Journal of Turkish Studies”, “Türccica”, “Ural-Altaischer Jahrbücher”, in Turkey mostly in “Türk Dili Araştırmaları Yıllığı Belleten”. Some of his articles came out in international compendia, e.g. *Philologiae Turcicae Fundamenta*, *Handbuch der Türkischen Sprachwissenschaft* (edited by György Haza i) and series such as *Veröffentlichungen der Societas Uralo-Altaica*.

Edward Tryjarski co-authored articles with eminent scholars, e.g. Jean Deny (two papers published in 1964), Pentti Aalto (1967, 1971, 1973), Sir Gerard Clauson (1971),

James Russel Hamilton (1975), Nikolai Baskakov (1975), Sergei Klyashtorny (1990) and others.

Some of his books and papers, e.g. *Dictionnaire arméno-kiptchak* and *Histoire du sage Hikar* (co-authored by Jean Deny), were reviewed by outstanding scholars, among whom there are the names of Annemarie von Gabain, Karl Menges, Gerard Doerfer and Edmond Schütz.

Edward Tryjarski started his career in 1951 with translations from the Turkish literature, just after his graduation from Warsaw University. Among his translations from Turkish there are Sabahattin Ali's *Short Stories* (1953), co-translated by Józef Bielawski and introduced by Nazım Hikmet. His scholarly activities include a wide range of studies on material and spiritual culture, lexicology, lexicography, grammar, dialectology and other aspects of philology. However, there are two domains that have been of special importance throughout Edward Tryjarski's scholarly career, notably Armeno-Kipchak studies and Old Turkic paleography, especially runiform scripts. As for the former, Edward Tryjarski has published many important studies almost yearly since 1959. As for the latter, he authored many articles devoted to Old Turkic runiform and rune-like scripts dispersed on various monuments in Asia and Eastern Europe (e.g. 1965, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1981, 1985, 1990, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004). The discipline of Armeno-Kipchak studies is very difficult for it requires proficiency in both Middle Turkic, Armenian, Latin and other related languages, as well as knowledge of the respective cultures. Edward Tryjarski is certainly one of the best scholars ever acting in this field and should be ranked among such outstanding Turkologists as Jean Deny, Edmond (Ödön) Schütz, Yaroslav Dashkevich (Ярослав Дашкевич) and Oleksandr Harkavets (Олександр Гаркавець). Apart from Armeno-Kipchak, Edward Tryjarski has published a few articles (e.g. 1988) and a book (2001) on Polish Armenians which are unrelated to Turkology. Another field of his research is Turkish dialects in Romania (1978, 1982, 1987) and, on a larger scale, in the Balkans (1990). Some papers of Edward Tryjarski are devoted to Kuman and Crimean Tatar in comparison with Armeno-Kipchak (1992). He has also explored the contribution of Polish scholars and travelers to the history and culture of Turkic (e.g. 1974, 1983, 1998, 2001) and other Altaic peoples (1967, 1969, 1996, 1998).

Edward Tryjarski has published a few important books in Polish, *Kultura ludów tureckich w świetle przekazu Maḥmūda z Kaszgaru* 'The culture of Turkic peoples in the light of Maḥmūd al-Kašġārī's evidence' (1993), *In confinibus Turcarum. Szkice turkologiczne* 'In confinibus Turcarum. Contributions to Turkic Studies' (1995), *Ormianie w Warszawie. Materiały do dziejów* 'Armenians in Warsaw. Historical evidence' (2001). His *Zwyczaj pogrzebowy ludów tureckich na tle ich wierzeń* (1991) was published in Berlin in a German translation as *Bestattungssitten türkischer Völker auf dem Hintergrund ihrer Glaubensvorstellungen* (2001).

One of very important books edited by Edward Tryjarski, to which he contributed two extensive studies, is *Hunowie europejscy, Protobułgarzy, Chazarowie, Pieczyngowie* 'European Huns, Proto-Bulgarians, Khazars, Pechenegs' (1975). Edward Tryjarski's contributions to that volume include a study on Proto-Bulgarians (pp. 147–376) and Pechenegs (pp. 479–625). Unfortunately, this excellent book, written in Polish, escaped the attention

of international Turkology, and only a few short reviews appeared in Eastern Europe and Turkey.

Edward Tryjarski was the secretary of the editorial board of "Rocznik Orientalistyczny" between 1957–1976, then editor-in-chief in the years 1977–2004. In the 1950s and 1960s he edited an Oriental Series (Seria Wschodnia) entitled *Mysli srebrne i złote* 'Silver and Golden Thoughts' which aimed at popularizing the Oriental literature in Polish translation. The volumes of this series were published by Wiedza Powszechna publishing house. He is still a very active member of the Oriental Committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In 1988, Edward Tryjarski was granted an honorary membership of *Türk Dil Kurumu*, a leading institution of Turkish studies in Turkey. His bibliography was presented in a lexicon of Foreign Turkologists in Turkey (*Türklük Bilimi Sözlüğü. I. Yabancı Türkologlar*, edited by Hasan Eren (Ankara: Türk Dil Kurumu, pp. 320–322).

Edward Tryjarski attended dozens of congresses, conferences, symposia and workshops, such as PIAC, CIÉPO and international Turkology congresses in Turkey. He is no doubt one of the best known Polish Turkologists beside Edward Piekarski, Tadeusz Kowalski and his teacher, Ananiasz Zajączkowski. His works were translated into Turkish (e.g. 1977, 1978, 1995, 1996), French (1995), Russian (1997, 2001), German (2001), Bulgarian (1995) and other languages.

Edward Tryjarski was not associated with any university and did little teaching. For this reason, he has no pupil who could continue his work on Armeno-Kipchak, as it was the case with the late Edmond Schütz. However, Professor Edward Tryjarski is always helpful to his younger colleagues, willingly shares his profound knowledge with them and moderates their views. The author of these lines owes much to Professor Edward Tryjarski in this respect.

