

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR DR. ANANIASZ ZAJĄCZKOWSKI

TURCOLOGY HAS SUFFERED a grievous loss by the sudden death of Ananiasz Zajączkowski, Professor of Turkish in the University of Warsaw and head of the Oriental Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. A great scholar and a charming companion, he was as well known to scholars of Western Europe and the western hemisphere as he was to those of Eastern Europe. He was a constant and much liked attendee at international gatherings, particularly those of the Permanent International Altaic Conference. He died suddenly in Rome on 6th April, 1970, while the guest of the Accademia dei Lincei at a conference of Iranists in that city.

The Zajączkowskis are an old Karaim family with their roots in Troki near Wilno. Ananiasz was born in Wilno on 12th November, 1903, and spoke Karaim in the home from his earliest years. A loyal Karaim as well as a loyal Pole he held a distinguished position in the small Polish Karaim community. This Karaim connection has given Polish scholars a unique position in the international family of Turcologists. Even though they have now lost their doyen, we may hope that they will always retain this position. It was Ananiasz's teacher, Tadeusz Kowalski, who wrote the standard work on Karaim, *Karaimische Texte im Dialekt von Troki*, Krakow, 1929, and his first published work, *Les suffixes nominaux et verbaux dans la langue des Karaims occidentaux*, Krakow, 1932, was in the same field. He then for a time turned his attention to a cognate language and published *Études sur la langue vieille-Osmanlie* in two parts, Krakow, 1934 and 1937. But it was the north-western Turkish languages that lay nearest to his heart and over the next thirty years and more he published a number of Kıpçak texts, the last quite recently. The most important of these were his editions of the Arabic-Kıpçak vocabulary, *Bulyat al-muštāq fī luyat at-turk wa'l-qifjāq*, Krakow, 1938, and Warsaw, 1954, and Quṭb's Kıpçak translation of the *Ḥusrāv u Širīn of Nizāmī*, Warsaw, text 1958; facsimile 1958; vocabulary 1961. Among his minor works was *Études sur le problème des Khazars* (in Polish with a French summary), Krakow, 1947, a subject in which he took a personal interest since he believed, perhaps rightly, that the Khazars might be numbered among his ancestors. He was buried in the small Karaim cemetery in Warsaw on 15th April. Perhaps I may be permitted to close this brief tribute, as he himself would have wished, with the Karaim phrase, *T'ehri ani iarliyašagej*, "may God have mercy upon him".

GERARD CLAUSEN.