

Remembering Professor Roman Teisseyre

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I met Professor Roman Teisseyre in the spring of 1963 when I decided to apply for employment at the then Department of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences. For the preceding two years I had been working as a research assistant to Professor Tadeusz Olczak in the Lithosphere Physics Department, one of the Departments of Geophysics, University of Warsaw. However, I did not see my future in theoretical research, since I was more interested in exploring the Earth through experimental investigations, while in the Seismology Department I was hired, such opportunities could not be expected. Professor Olczak accepted my resignation with true regret, but also with understanding, encouraging me to remain in regular contact with him, which I continued, with great benefits, until Professor's death.

Following the advice of Professor Olczak, I decided to apply for a job at the Department of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences. I was hired by Professor Roman Teisseyre, the Deputy Head of the Department, who at that time was already after the doctorate and defended his habilitation. It was then that I met Roman Teisseyre, commonly referred to as RT, in person for the first time. Heavily grey-haired, with a youthful personality, eager to make jokes, he was quick to break the ice and establish lively contact with his interlocutor. Although I did not fit RT's personal preference, since as an eminent theoretical physicist he wanted to develop theoretical approach to study the earthquake mechanisms and be a mentor for young geophysicists in this field, I was hired as a senior research assistant. He initially tried to encourage me to change my interests by presenting relevant problems to be solved in theoretical seismology, but seeing the lack of enthusiasm on my part, he assigned me to the experimental lithosphere research laboratory. It was not an easy start. Geophysics at PAS, particularly seismology, suffered from a lack of highly qualified personnel. None of the seismology staff, apart from RT, was a PhD holder. So independence and maximum activity were required, while the foreign contacts were very limited. There was, by the standards of the time, a well-supplied library, and this was the basic source of knowledge for young seismologists. In such conditions, it was only possible to work effectively with the support and friendliness of management and colleagues, and such an atmosphere was created by RT.

One of the first tasks I was given was to organize, under the patronage of RT, nationwide geodynamic symposia in Jabłonna near Warsaw, in order to integrate various Earth researchers. These symposia, usually three days long, were very popular, provided opportunities for formal and informal discussions, and initiated joint research projects. The papers presented from 1975

onwards were published in *Publications of the Institute of Geophysics, PAS* (IG PAS 1976, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1991).

When, after several years of work and having completed my doctorate, I was already well acquainted with the research capabilities of the Department of Geophysics, PAS, and the cooperating institutions, first and foremost the Polish Geological Institute (PGI) and the Geophysical Exploration Company (presently the PBG Geophysical Exploration Ltd.) in Warsaw, and the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, I presented to RT a more detailed program of deep lithosphere research by means of deep seismic soundings in Poland. I then had a key conversation with RT. He made it clear that he would not give me any professional help, but that I could always count on his goodwill and support. It was a very frank conversation, and, over the long years of my scientific activity, I have always felt RT's support. He was full of enthusiasm and encouragement for ambitious research projects, and willingness to promote young scientists. Whenever he saw a chance of success for a research project presented to him, he always offered help and, thanks to his wide international acquaintances, facilitated contacts with foreign geophysicists.

Our few joint publications were sort of summaries resulting from discussions between the results obtained from experimental studies and those expected from theoretical models of lithosphere structure (Guterch et al. 1968, 1980, 1981; Teisseyre et al. 2007).

RT was an enthusiast of polar research in the Arctic and Antarctic. Among other actions, he promoted a long-term, very fruitful cooperation between the Institute of Geophysics, PAS, and Professor Markvard A. Sellevoll from the University of Bergen in Norway in the study of the Earth's crust structure. The cooperation with Norwegian geophysicists still goes on.

Numerous scientific conferences we have attended together with RT have also provided an opportunity to discuss the state of geophysics and, in particular, seismology in Poland.

We were in close personal contact with Roman and his wife Elżbieta. It became customary that visits of foreign guests to the Institute were occasions for social gatherings in private homes, most often at the home of Roman and Elżbieta Teisseyre, Kacper Rafał Rybicki and his wife Alina Wołowska, or at the home of myself and my wife Barbara. Ms. Elżbieta Teisseyre and Ms. Alina Wołowska were masters at preparing simple yet exquisite dishes, which, especially in the 1980s in Poland, during the coarse period of the communist regime, with a notorious shortage of everything and particularly acute shortage of foodstuffs, was quite an art and an undoubted attraction. Additional attractions of our social gatherings were trips, usually in summer, to the home of Kacper Rybicki and Alina Wołowska on the Pilica River.

I have not done any common research with RT, but as long as he could formally help, being the Director or Vice Director of the Institute, he always did, never refusing. Hence my great gratitude to the Professor. This is how my collaboration with Professor Roman Teisseyre went over the years. It was my side path by the road of Roman Teisseyre, to paraphrase Polish poet Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna (1989).

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