Philosopher

Law VI: “Humans’ ability to determine the development of humanity is proportional to their knowledge.”

Prof. Wojciechowski is the originator of the theory of the ecology of knowledge, a study of the relationship existing between humans and the body of knowledge. Knowledge is viewed in this theory as a distinct element of the human environment and a rapidly growing factor in human life. He published a systematic exposition of his ideas on this subject in the book Ecology of Knowledge, issued by the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy.

Jerzy Wojciechowski was born in Brzesc, Poland. After completing his secondary education, he studied at the Warsaw Technological University. During the war he served in the underground Polish Home Army (1942–44) and fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the German occupiers (he was twice wounded and awarded the Cross of Valour). After the war, he studied philosophy at the University of Louvain, Belgium, and at Laval University in Quebec, where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1953, four years after his arrival in Canada.

Before moving to Ottawa, he taught in Montreal and at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Promoted from Associate Professor to full Professor of Philosophy at the University of Ottawa in 1965, Wojciechowski specialized in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of nature. He chaired many conferences and lectured at over sixty universities in Canada and overseas. Among his numerous distinguished positions, he was the President of the Ottawa Chapter of the Humanities Association of Canada; elected Fellow of the International Institute for Advanced Studies in Systems Research; member of the Executive Committee of the Humanities Research Council of Canada; Chairman, Committee on External Relations of the Humanities Research Council of Canada. Prof. Wojciechowski was appointed the First Honorary Life Member of the Canadian Philosophical Association.

Also active in the Polish Canadian community, he was Vice-President of the Canadian Polish Congress and a board member of the Polish Canadian Research Institute. In recognition of his achievements, he was awarded the Officer’s Cross of Polonia Restituta by the Polish government in 1990.

Photos from top left clockwise:
• Prof. Jerzy Wojciechowski / Photo – family archive
• The Conference of Polish Scientists, Ottawa / Photos – private archive
• A facsimile of Prof. J. Wojciechowski’s philosophical paper
• Prof. J. Wojciechowski, member of the Polish delegation to Ottawa / Photo – Murray Mosher, Photo Features Ltd.