

**IN MEMORIAM  
ANTONI OSTRASZ (1929-1996)**

Antoni Ostrasz, who died at midnight on the ninth to tenth October 1996, gave the last 14 years of his life to a meticulous study of the monuments of Jarash. He will be remembered particularly for the long and fruitful work conducted on the hippodrome.

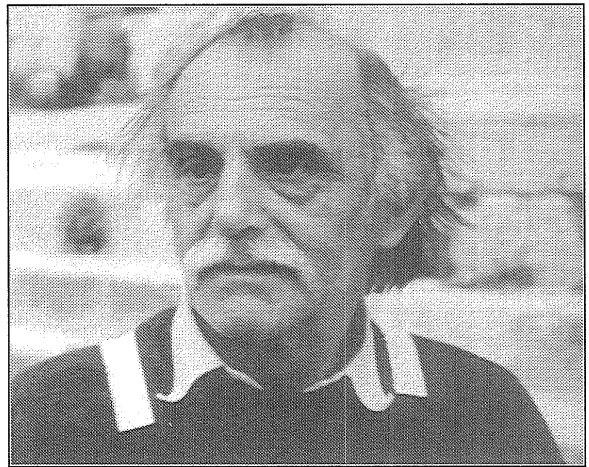
Antoni Ostrasz was born on 23rd June 1929 in Kalwaria, Poland and received his higher education at the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw Polytechnical University. After graduating in 1954 with the degree of B.Eng., he was made a junior assistant professor in the Department of History of Architecture and Art at Warsaw University and was upgraded to senior assistant professor after receiving his M.Eng. in 1958.

Two years later he left for Egypt, where he was appointed research architect at the Warsaw University's Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology in Cairo. So began the work on the ancient monuments of the Middle East, which was to last for the rest of his life.

He remained in Egypt from 1960 to 1967 at both the Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology and the Egyptian Centre for Documentation in Cairo, for which he made the architectural drawings of the site of Dakka in Egyptian Nubia in 1961. He was the architect on the Polish Archaeological Missions at Tell Athrib, Tafeh and Dabod in Egyptian Nubia (1960) and at Faras and Old Dongola in Sudanese Nubia (1961-1966).

However, he also worked with Polish expeditions to Alexandria, Palmyra and Nea Paphos in Cyprus in the same period.

In 1967, he returned to the University of Warsaw to prepare his Ph.D. thesis "Le développement urbanistique de Palmyre antique", receiving his doctorate in 1976. By this time, he had been appointed senior lecturer at the Institute of Geography of the Developing Countries of Warsaw University, a post which he held for ten years taking on the



additional position of director of Post-graduate African Studies, in 1977.

During the period in 1967-1980 he also worked as the architect on excavations at Fustat undertaken by the American Research Centre in Egypt, where he worked closely with Profs. George Scanlon and Vladek Kubiak who became his closest life-long friends.

However, in 1982 he obtained leave of absence from his posts in Warsaw and moved to Jarash as architect of the Polish Archaeological Mission in the International Jarash Project. In the first 18 months he and Prof. Michael Gawlikowski excavated the Church of Bishop Marianos and the Umayyad House, both of which Antoni then consolidated and restored. It was during this period that he met and married Ina Kehrberg, then archaeologist on the Australian team at Jarash, and their son Mark was born in 1984.

In the same year he began work, as expert for the Department of Antiquities, on the hippodrome, by far the largest building at Jarash and the study of which was to absorb him for the rest of his life. The study and the meticulous restoration of the building will remain a monument to this extraordinarily talented archaeologist and architect.

Antoni also found time to carry out studies and then the restoration of the Ayyubid

civic complex at Pella in 1993, funded by the Australian government, and the Ayyubid tower on the Amman Citadel, a USAID project in collaboration with ACOR, which was completed in August 1996.

He was working on the hippodrome right up to the day of his sudden death. However, his work on the final publication was far advanced and Ina will make sure that both the architecture and the archaeology of the site will be published as soon as possible. The Department of Antiquities will complete the last remaining sections of restoration, which Antoni had already planned and prepared.

Antoni was a loved and highly regarded member of the international archaeological community of scholars in the Middle East. He was always ready to support and find the time for those who sought his help and advice. Antoni will be greatly missed for his unfailing generosity, integrity and friendship, and by none greater than his wife Ina and his young son Mark

Michael Macdonald  
Alison McQuitty  
Anne Goguel

### Publications

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- 1966 Etudes sur la restauration du Grand Tétrapyle. *Studia Palmyrenskie*.
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- *Le développement urbanistique de Palmyre antique*. Warsaw : Warsaw University Publishing House (in the press).
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- 1989 The Hippodrome of Gerasa: a Report on Excavations and Research 1982-1987. Pp.51-79 in *Jerash Archaeological Project 1984-1988, II (Syria 66)*. Amman/Paris : Department of Antiquities and IFAPO.
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- 1990 Les courses de chars : une passion contrariée. Pp.36-37 dans *La Pompei de l'Orient - Jerash. Le Monde de la Bible* 62, Jan.-Fev.
- 1991 The Excavation and Restoration of the Hippodrome at Jerash: A Synopsis. *ADAJ* 35: 237-250.
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- 1994 The Hippodrome of Gerasa/Jerash. In Patricia Bikai and D. Kooring (eds) *Archaeology in Jordan. AJA* 98/3.
- 1995 The Hippodrome of Gerasa/Jerash. In Patricia Bikai and D. Kooring (eds) *Archaeology in Jordan. AJA* 99/3.
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- 1997 From Cemetery to Racecourse to Industrial Suburb : 600 years of changes at the site of the Gerasa hippodrome. In *SHAJ VI*. Amman : Department of Antiquities (in the press ; I. Kehrberg and A. Ostrasz).