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KAROLINA IWASZKIEWICZ-GINTOWT (1902-1999)

Abstract. This paper describes the life and scientific achievements of Karolina Iwaszkiewicz-Gintowt, who before World War II worked with Jerzy Sława-Neyman.

Key words: Karolina Iwaszkiewicz-Gintowt.

I. BIOGRAPHY

Karolina Iwaszkiewicz was born in Vilnius on 17 February 1902, the daughter of Antoni, an electrical engineer, and Antonina *née* Błaszkiwicz. She was christened on 24 February in the Roman Catholic parish church of Ostra Brama in Vilnius.



She attended the city's Marian Institute, and after completing the third year was accepted into the Eliza Orzeszkowa eight-year girls' secondary school. She passed her matriculation examination on 1 June 1920, and her examination certificate, made out on 12 June 1920, shows a very good grade for mathematics.

In the school years of 1919/20 and 1920/21 she worked as a teacher at a technical school in Vilnius. From 1 June 1921 she became a junior assistant in the Astronomy Group at the Mathematics and Natural Science Faculty of the city's Stefan Batory University, under Professor Władysław Dziewulski. She worked there until she commenced studies at the Horticultural Faculty of Warsaw Agricultural University in the 1926/27 academic year.

During her first year of studies she attended mathematics lectures given by Antoni Przeborski, and on 25 June 1927 took an examination in that subject, gaining a distinction. In the 1927/28 academic year she attended Jerzy Neyman's

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lectures in the theory of statistics, again gaining a distinction in the examination on 23 June 1928. In 1929/30 she attended Neyman's lectures on special applications of statistics, as well as his statistics seminars. She specialized in the area of fruit cultivation. She wrote a dissertation titled "Application of Poisson's law to counting the molecules of a virus", under the supervision of Neyman in conjunction with Marian Górski, dean of the Horticultural Faculty. Professors Neyman and Górski graded the dissertation as worthy of distinction. After passing her final examination, she received a first degree in horticultural engineering on 30 June 1931.

From 1 December 1929 until 28 February 1938 she was employed at Warsaw Agricultural University. She held the following posts:

- From 1 December 1929 to 30 September 1930, deputy junior assistant in the Meteorology and Climatology Group at the Agricultural Faculty, teaching 30 hours per week;
- From 1 November 1930 to 30 September 1932, deputy junior assistant in the Mathematical Statistics Group at the Horticultural Faculty, teaching 9 hours per week;
- From 1 October 1932 to 30 September 1934, senior assistant in the same Group, teaching 6 hours per week;
- From 1 October 1934 to 28 February 1938 she gave lectures and ran practical classes in the theory of statistics and higher mathematics for students of the Horticultural and Agricultural Faculties, and classes in the methodology of design of field experiments (she was released from these duties at her own request).

In the 1936/37 academic year she headed the Mathematical Statistics Group. At the same time, from 1928 to 1937, she worked in the Biometrics Group of the M. Nencki Institute directed by Jerzy Neyman, who was her academic supervisor. She wrote five joint papers with him.

On 12 November 1932 she applied to the Council of the Horticultural Faculty of Warsaw Agricultural University to be admitted to an examination for the degree of doctor of horticultural sciences, presenting a thesis titled "A generalization of the method of multiple correlation to the case where the eliminated variable is not measurable". Her work was assessed positively by professors Michał Korczewski (dean of the Horticultural Faculty) and Stefan Mazurkiewicz (dean of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Faculty of Warsaw University). She took and passed her final examination in statistics and genetics on 5 July before a committee consisting of professors Michał Korczewski (chairing), Stefan Mazurkiewicz and Edmund Malinowski. On 5 July 1934 the Dean of the Horticultural Faculty, acting on behalf of the Faculty Council, awarded Karolina Iwaszkiewicz the degree of doctor of horticultural sciences. The degree was confirmed by the Academic Senate of Warsaw

Agricultural University at its meeting on 20 January 1938, and the doctoral degree award ceremony took place on 29 January 1938.

Karolina Iwaszkiewicz was a member of the Polish Statistical Society. From 1 March 1938 to 30 April 1943 she worked in the Central Statistical Office of the Executive Board of the City of Vilnius.

In 1940 she married the veterinarian Julian Wiłunas. From 16 March 1947 to 31 July 1952 she worked for the city's horticultural section as a specialist in flower cultivation.

From 1 August 1952 to 30 June 1959 she worked as a senior lecturer at the Botany Department of the National Pedagogical Institute in Vilnius, and between 10 October 1953 and 31 August 1957 also directed the Biological Station of the same Institute.

In 1958 she and Julian Wiłunas divorced.

On 15 August 1959 she took up the post of assistant professor in the Biometry Laboratory of the Research Methodology and Organization Group at the Institute of Cultivation, Fertilization and Soil Science in Puławy.

On 22 January 1963, in Gliwice, she married Romuald Gintowt, son of Aleksander and Adolfina *née* Krupowicz.

On 15 May 1963 she was transferred from Puławy to a post at the Economics Laboratory of the Institute's Vegetable Cultivation Group in Warsaw.

She retired on 1 June 1964. In retirement she remained in Warsaw, and from 1 June 1964 to 30 June 1966 she worked as a part-time assistant professor at the Institute's Biometry Laboratory in Puławy, working one quarter of the hours of a full-time post.

From 1 July 1966 to 31 August 1967 she took an equivalent part-time position at the Institute of Vegetable Cultivation in Skierniewice.

Karolina Iwaszkiewicz-Gintowt was the sister of Maria Ulińska, who before World War II worked with the Biometry Group at the Nencki Institute, and from 1954 also worked at the Biometry Laboratory of the Institute of Cultivation, Fertilization and Soil Science in Puławy. They wrote two books together (see [14] and [15]).

She died in Warsaw on 30 July 1999.

II. PUBLISHED WORKS

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W pracy opisane jest życie i osiągnięcia naukowe Karoliny Iwaszkiewicz-Gintowt, która przed drugą wojną światową współpracowała z Jerzym Sławą-Neymanem.