



PMO - Gdynia Port Meteorological Officer, Jozef Kowalewski, Retires after 45 Years of Service

Jozef Kowalewski, the Gdynia, Poland Port Meteorological Officer, retired from service on August 1, 2001.

Jozef Kowalewski began his official government career 45 years ago when, upon graduating from Gdansk University, he began working with the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (PIM) in Gdynia.

In September 1957, in connection with celebrations of the International Geophysical Year when mandatory observations were introduced on some selected Polish ships, he assumed the duties as PMO in Gdynia.

After introducing the voluntary scheme of observations (VOS) program, the number of participating vessels was grew steadily until it included almost all of polish merchant shipping.

Thanks to Kowalewski's commitment and compassion for the duties of PMO, 428 of 544 vessels that were encouraged by him to join the program responded positively.

During the 45 years of his activity as PMO, 4450 log books were collected with over 762000 observations stored, 90% of which were verified as being sent to appropriate WMO centers

Kowalewski used to conduct about 200 inspections yearly, making over 11000 visits accomplished in the period from 1957 to 2002.

During the course of the routine checking of instruments, and providing instructions and consulting, Kowalewski never missed the opportunity to discuss his shared interest of weather and meteorological phenomena with crew members.

Jozef Kowalewski prepared successive

revised issues of meteorological log books and code books for shipping, adequate for changes in WMO standards. He created indispensable documentation for introducing BATHY and TESAC codes for the Polish fleet. He also took part in the preparation of printing instruction manuals for the TURBO 1 program.

Not one for sitting still, Kowalewski performed PMO duties while also serving as Chief Specialist of Maritime Meteorology in the Meteorological Institute in Gdynia.

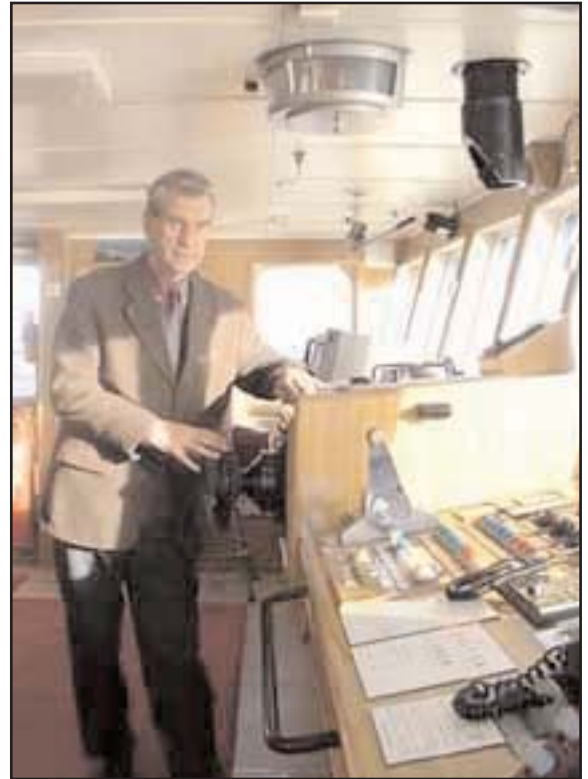
Many a time he commanded research expeditions within the Baltic area. He also visited the "exotic" port calls of Antarctica, Iceland, Senegal, and Argentina.

In 1974, Kowalewski participated in a research voyage to the Atlantic equator zone - GARP program. In 1976 he spent one month on board the research vessel of the Gdynia Maritime Academy participating in an educational voyage to Iceland.

It was not the first time that he cooperated with Scientific Institutes contributing to establishing stronger ties between educational sources and the Polish Meteorological Service.

At the turn of 1977/1978, he took part in a research expedition with students to Antarctica and spent three months on Arctowski, the Polish polar station.

From 1978 to 1988, Kowalewski was engaged in a special meteorological research program on the Baltic sea, sailing frequently



on board Polish ferry vessels servicing the route between Gdansk and Helsinki.

In the period from 1958 to 1998, Jozef Kowalewski spent over 2000 days at sea, totally fulfilling a teenager's dream of sea adventures and satisfying his deep interest in meteorology.

Presently, though already retired, Kowalewski is still active as PMO. He visits vessels lying in Polish ports as he used to do previously, waiting for the successor who will continue his work.

We wish Jozef and his wife Bronilawa fair winds and following seas. ⚓