

IN MEMORIAM



ZBIGNIEW KABATA
17 MARCH 1924–4 JULY 2014
METAMORPHOSIS OF A PARASITOLOGIST*

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“I might compare a parasitologist to an orchid. He requires long and careful nurturing, he develops slowly, and he is himself a parasite in that he is dependent on many other sciences for material aid. But when he comes to flower he is a rare and beautiful object, scientifically speaking, and is usually slow in going to seed. He may not always smell like an orchid, but we can’t have everything”.

Asa C. Chandler (1946: 221 p.)

Birth deposits most future scientists within a standard deviation or so of average, with life proceeding with its typical bumps and ruts. For a few, however, life begins as or soon transpires into a Homeric challenge. Those who emerge from such beginnings to widely contribute to humanity become mankind’s cherished dignitaries... exemplars promulgating the legitimacy of hope and lending encouragement for progress. Zbigniew Kabata, an outstanding member of the *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* editorial community and who died at age 90 on the 4th of July 2014 in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada was such a giant.

Zbigniew was born on the 17th March 1924 in Jeremicze, Poland. The son of a career army officer, he graduated from primary school in 1936 and was enrolled at age 13 in the Cadet Corps secondary school at the Marshal Józef Piłsudski Military Academy in Lwów. Already interested in the sea and sailing, young Zbigniew collected pictures of sailing ships and even sailed to Scandinavia aboard the training schooner *Zawisza Czarna*. In 1939, the Nazi invasion of Poland cut his childhood and formal studies short and he soon was participating in acts contributing to the Polish underground resistance. In the spring of 1941 at age 17 he joined the

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*** Quote from a translation by Paszkowska (2011) available online at www.pamiec.sandomierz.pl/kabata/summaryenglish.pdf.

Armia Krajowa [Polish Home Army, otherwise known as Underground or National Army]. His decision to fight was instinctive, and he was reported to have later stated, “The good was on our side, the evil—on theirs. The good needed to be assisted, the evil—destroyed”.*** He fought first as part of a military guerilla detachment, the *Jędrusie*, in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains in Central Poland; his partisan force was sometimes referred to by the local citizenry as the “grey people from the woods” (Anonymous 1993). Later he fought with the 2nd Legionary Infantry of the Underground Army.

Known to his comrades as “Bobo,” young Zbigniew rapidly gained esteem and honors as he and his unit engaged the enemy through some heroic and harrowing missions, despite conditions which were not good for the underground forces. At times Bobo had to survive on a daily ration of a single potato; he suffered from dysentery and not infrequent exhaustion, once staying awake for five days straight. With the situation so dire, there was little time for risk aversion and in one instance he earned recognition for bravery for delivering the “final passage of judgment” on a Gestapo collaborator at a football match in a stadium rife with armed Nazis, an incident that he wrote about decades later in the biographic poem *Szkic Biograficzny* [Biographical Sketch] (Kabata 2011, Paszkowska 2011). In 1943 Bobo and his unit fought their way in and out of two Nazi prisoner of war camps in the towns of Kielce and Opatów, successfully freeing about 250 prisoners. Bobo led the second of those assaults. A deep personal sorrow came to Bobo in 1943 with the death of his dearest friend, shot by the Nazis and shallowly buried. Later that night, Bobo and others dug their comrade out for a proper burial and Bobo removed his friend’s steel signet ring. He wore the ring throughout his life as a remembrance and the loss of his friend remained fresh, bitter, and personal. He took the ring to his grave. Years later while living in Aberdeen, Scotland he would document the tragedy in a poem, a translated excerpt of which flows as:

“No one understands that this marriage,
From that moment until my death
I’ll have to live as an echo of the bell
Which burst under the blow”.*

In addition to enemy engagement, Bobo attended and graduated from an underground military school during the war and he edited and helped distribute the underground bulletin *Odwet* [Retribution] to keep partisans informed of news and nourish the resolve to fight in hope of returning the nation to freedom. He also wrote poetry and songs about the war, the songs sung to a variety of existing melodies. By the end of the war in Poland, Bobo had attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and he ably commanded a heavy machinegun platoon.

The dissolution of the Polish Home Army in January 1945 and the ensuing control of his homeland by the Soviet Union placed Bobo and his kind in a perilous predicament. As he spoke during a 1993 lecture in Poland, “I was forced to leave my country”. “There was simply no

other way out for me. The years I spent as a guerrilla soldier of the Home Army had earned for me the title of a ‘reactionary dwarf with spittle on his chin’. Men wearing familiar, Polish uniforms declared me an ‘enemy of the people’” (see Anonymous 1993: 8 p.). Responsive to his military duty to continue the fight and under threat of arrest and worse, Bobo made a risky and difficult escape to Italy, traveling across what had just become the Iron Curtain, to join the Free Polish Forces (Polish 2nd Army Corps) fighting under British command. While there he commanded a rifle platoon in the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Carpathian Division. With his return to Poland still impossible at the end of the hostilities, Bobo was evacuated to England in 1946 by Britain’s Polish Resettlement Corps.

Some remarkable wartime pictures of Bobo have survived the years and one in particular attracts attention, perhaps because of its curious welding together of its tenderness and sensitivity with the savagery of war (Fig. 1). It shows Bobo, a lean, handsome and muscular teenager, wearing a German helmet, a submachine gun held across his chest, left arm raising a white rose to his nose, trace of a grin on his face. The picture was taken in May 1943 while he was fighting in southern Poland and many years later, Bob gave the following recollection of circumstances. The helmet and weapon had been “appropriated” from the enemy, as was a standard method of the guerilla forces. One day his friend, a courier for the underground



Fig. 1. “Bobo” Kabata, age 19, about to be relieved of sentry duty near Wiśniowa in southern Poland near the border of Slovakia in 1943; At the time, Bobo was a member of a Polish Home Army “bushwhacker company” (his words; see text for further details)

* Quote is a translation from Kabata (2011: 19 p.).

bulletin, returned from his deliveries carrying a flower that a girl in a local town had given him to present to Bobo. As Bobo was being relieved of sentry duty he was given the flower and the outfit's photographer snapped the picture so that his friend could give it to the girl as evidence that her delivery had been made.

Bobo spoke little English when he arrived in England; however, his interest in the sea was still keen. Along with other Polish soldiers, he was settled in Aberdeen, Scotland and enrolled in a six-month vocational training program for deep-sea fishermen run by the Resettlement Corps as part of its mission to facilitate the transition into civilian life of Polish soldiers not wishing to live in a communist-ruled Poland. Upon graduation he worked as a deckhand in the Scottish trawling fleet operating in the North Sea (Fig. 2); he was officially demobilized in 1948 through the resettlement program. Years later, the curiosity of a friend about deep-sea fishing and other experiences at sea prompted Bob to write a book of sea stories, *Żniwa na głębinie* [*Harvest in the deep*] (Kabata 1993a).

On the 13th of November 1948 an onboard fishing accident resulted in a badly broken leg and yet another need to reinvent himself. To avoid stairs during his physical recuperation, Bob, as he had now become known, moved into a home where he could navigate in their absence. He told a reporter decades later that his broken leg was the biggest “break” of his life, for his future wife, Mary Ann Montgomery, whom he met on Saint Valentine's Day in 1949, boarded in that house in a room adjacent to his. His continued interest in the ocean along with encouragement from Mary, herself a physician, energized him at age 27 to success in the Scottish Universities Entrance Board examination and enrolment at the University of Aberdeen.

From 1951 to 1955 Bob was an undergraduate in the Zoology Department studying under the mentorship of the noted naturalist Professor V.C. Wynne-Edwards. He graduated (BSc, Zoology major, Physiology minor) in 1955 with first-class honors and as an undergraduate he was twice awarded the Nicol Class Prize in Zoology (1952, 1954) as well as the MacGillivray Prize (1955), the latter in recognition of him being the top Zoology graduate. To be sure, these were hefty accomplishments for one who a handful of years earlier was literally fighting for life and cause and could speak but a few words of English. Not one to linger, Bob soon earned a PhD (1959) and honors with a DSc (1966; Fig. 3) from the University of Aberdeen. His PhD dissertation* concerned the parasitic copepod genus *Lernaeocera* and his DSc was conferred in recognition of his contributions to the field of Parasitology.

In addition to his academic development, the period between 1951 and 1967 held other importance to Bob. He married Mary on the 8th of September 1953 (Fig. 4) and as years passed he was known to say that his birth on Saint Patrick's Day might have bestowed him the great luck of marrying such a wonderful Irish woman. A daughter, Marta, and son, Andrzej, were born in 1954 and 1956, respectively. In 1955 Bob became a professional parasitologist at Scotland's Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen (Department of

Agriculture and Fisheries) and continued to work there throughout graduate school and until 1967. During that period he was the founding Head of the Parasitology Unit and his research focused on the impact of parasites on fish populations and pioneered the applied use of parasites as biological tags to facilitate the identification of fish stocks (see Kabata 1959, 1963, 1967a). In 1964 Bob was appointed the

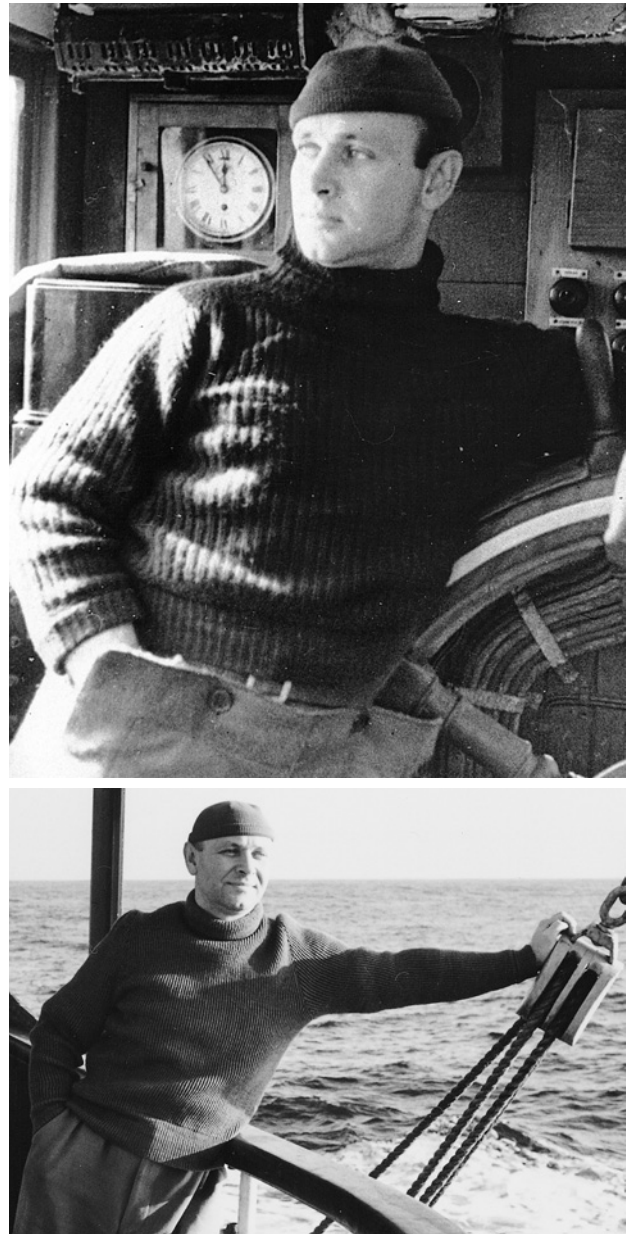


Fig. 2. Bob Kabata at sea; As an adult, Bob sailed in the North Sea and contiguous waters as a career fisherman, zoology student, and fisheries scientist; The exact dates of these photographs are unknown to us; however, the upper image likely predates the other and the lower photograph was very likely taken aboard the SS *Explorer* between 1956 and 1967 when Bob was working at the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen, Scotland; The SS *Explorer* (currently retired from service and under restoration) is a historically important steam trawler that was operated by the Marine Laboratory from 1956 to 1984

* Kabata Z. 1959. Genus *Lernaeocera* (Copepoda parasitica) in the northern North Sea. PhD Dissertation, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK.



Fig. 3. Bob Kabata with his daughter Marta and son Andrzej in 1966 after his DSc confirmation ceremony at the University of Aberdeen, in Aberdeen, Scotland



Fig. 4. Bob and Mary Kabata (formerly Mary Ann Montgomery) on their wedding day, 8 September 1953 in Aberdeen, Scotland

Principle Scientific Officer for the Marine Laboratory. His scientific expertise was becoming globally recognized and in 1966 he served as a consultant to the Pacific Biological Station (Fisheries Research Board of Canada).

While in Scotland, Bob also translated into English several highly influential Russian parasitology and invertebrate anatomy books (Dogiel et al. 1961, Dogiel 1966, Beklemishev 1969a, 1969b) and edited the translation of another on marine microbiology (Kriss 1963), and in doing so he provided western students and scientists a great service. But more importantly, his profound and unyielding concern for Poland and his former war comrades compelled him to continue to put pen to paper and write poetry. Through profound verse he remained in contact with his wartime past, youth, and native tongue; reliving events and breathing life into places, all the while urging that his comrades and their heroic deeds and sacrifices not be forgotten and that his beloved Poland be restored to freedom. His work gained notice through print and international broadcast and it seeped into his homeland where it resonated deeply with his compatriots. His best known poem, *Armia Krajowa* [*Home Army*], was written in 1964. It was eventually set to music and adopted by the Polish military community as the unofficial anthem of the Underground Army and is now inscribed on many war memorials throughout Poland. Bob continued to write poetry and stories about the war throughout his life. A book of his poetry, simply titled *Wiersze* [*Poems*] (Kabata 1993b), was published in Poland in 1993 and

since, that volume has been updated twice with more poems and autobiographic writings and published as *Byłaś radością i dumą* [*You were joy and pride*] (Kabata 1999, 2012). Bob's poetry has been the subject of scholarly research and reflection on 20th century events in Eastern Europe and become cherished as national treasure in his homeland, where its study (e.g., Paszkowska 2011) and recitation often serve in the school curriculum and at civic and military events. To be sure, Bob's hope that the sacrifices of the Home Army would never be forgotten was well served through his powerful poetry, poetry which he never meant to be nor was for him fully cathartic.

By 1967 things were internationally heating up regarding fish harvest and fisheries management in the north Pacific. In Canada, Dr. Leo Margolis (then the Assistant Director of the Pacific Biological Station) had conducted studies using parasites as biological tags for salmon and he and others felt that an expansion of that work held great promise as a practical means of managing Canada's most valuable catch. With that in mind and aware of Bob's pioneering research, Leo used an exceptional employment opportunity as well as, most likely, his great personal charm to recruit Bob to a government Research Scientist position at the Pacific Biological Station. The move to Nanaimo, British Columbia planted the Kabata family in a home within walking distance of the "Station" and deeply rooted a powerful friendship between Bob and Leo. In the years that followed, Bob's bread-and-butter research primarily focused on practical aspects of Parasitology and he and

other Station researchers identified many parasite species which could be used as tags for commercially important fishes and invertebrates (e.g., Sankurathri et al. 1983, Leaman and Kabata 1987, Kabata et al. 1988). Such studies utilized Bob's broad training as a parasitologist and although he was now best known as a Copepodologist, his contributions to our knowledge of other fish parasites (most notably the myxozoans) was also significant (e.g., Kabata and Whitaker 1986, Kabata et al. 1986, Whitaker and Kabata 1987). As his career bloomed at the Station (Fig. 5), Bob served in various scientific and administrative roles, most notably: Member and then Chair of the Station's Research Advisory Council (1974–1983), Head of the Marine Fisheries Division (1975–1981), Scientific Advisor (Canadian Fisheries Mission) to the Republic of South Korea (1977), Member and then Chair of the Regional Marine Fisheries Resource Board (Pacific Region, Department of Fisheries and the Environment and then Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO); 1977–1980), Head of the Parasitology Program (1981–1989), and Senior Scientist (Biological Services Branch, Pacific Region, DFO; 1984–1989). In addition, during his career at the Station he was a Visiting Scientist at the Institute of Zoology in Leningrad for three months in 1976 at the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, a Senior Consultant to the International



Fig. 5. Bob Kabata working behind a Wild M5 stereo-microscope in his laboratory at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada; This photograph was taken sometime in the mid-1980s and it was at this microscope that Bob drew many of his exquisite copepod renderings and examined copepods submitted to him by colleagues from around the world

Development Research Centre (IDRC) regarding fish health projects in Southeast Asia (1977–1989), and was seconded by the Station to the IDRC for a year (1981–1982) with a commission to write a textbook (see Kabata 1985) on parasites and diseases of fishes cultured in Southeast Asia.

Bob retired from the DFO in 1989 at age 65 but remained professionally very active. Continuing to work from the Station most days, he spent a good deal of time helping students and colleagues around the world and reviewing manuscripts for a wide variety of scientific journals. With the fall of communism in Poland in 1989 the stage was finally set for Bob to visit his homeland; his untiring belief in a free Poland at last had materialized. His May 1992 homecoming was literally a hero's welcome and allowed him to finally see his mother again after his exile of 47 years, an interim during which Bob was able to meet with his sister, in Aberdeen and Nanaimo.

As a scientist, Z. Kabata (he usually abbreviated his given name in periodical publications) is best known for contributions to the field of Copepodology primarily focused on taxa infecting fishes and reporting on copepod taxonomy, systematics, ecology, development, and life history. His passion for copepods was palpable and he would often declare to the uninitiated that, "parasitic copepods are a magnificent laboratory to explore the evolution of parasitism." Bob's research efforts established over 100 new species and over 20 new genera and he published over 155 refereed papers, four scientific books (Kabata 1970, 1979, 1985, 1992), and numerous bulletins, technical reports, and popular articles. His work was always benchmark quality... meticulous and precise. Amongst his many highly significant publications, his monograph *Parasitic Copepoda of British fishes* (Kabata 1979) is undoubtedly his greatest contribution, its 468 text pages plus 199 plates containing over 2000 original illustrations synthesizing a new systematic framework for copepods that fostered better understanding and almost immediately helped to strengthen the contributions of others. Bob was an accomplished student of history and his monograph was in part a much needed update and extension of the similarly named work by Scott and Scott (1913), a father and son team who had also lived in Aberdeen and whose former home Bob occasionally passed by. Bob's monograph, widely referred to as the "Blue Book," was published when one of us was an early graduate student already frustrated by copepod literature that often stymied understanding and hence progress. Reading the widely lauded Blue Book (a Rosetta Stone in many respects because of its thorough consideration of history) almost immediately cleared the air and likely rescued a neophyte's future professional career. Bob's scientific writing was clear, explicit, and surgically precise; and, it sometimes approached poetic beauty. For example, in a classic article on the biogeography of hake as indicated by its parasites, there is the beautifully graceful yet concise and informative sentence, "Silver-grey, blue-eyed, soft to touch, hake inhabits moderate depths and

spawns at about 100 m" (Kabata and Ho 1981: 381 p.).

Scientific illustration was an important component of many of Bob's publications and his renderings are widely recognized for their exceptional detail and accuracy that captured the intricacies and anatomical beauty of his copepod subjects. Bob credited J.D. Milne for teaching him the art of illustration and in commenting in the third person on his own rendering efforts Bob wrote, "His descriptions and illustrations are intended to present these parasites [copepods] as living organisms rather than a row of pallid cadavers embalmed in their vials. The measure of his success will have to be assessed by the readers" (Kabata 1979: ix). No doubt Bob would retreat from such mention, but some of our favorites regarding his copepod illustrations are contained in his publications on *Phrixocephalus* (see Kabata 1967b), *Haemobaphes* (see Kabata 1967c), *Shiinoa* (see Kabata 1968a), Chondracanthidae (see Kabata 1968b), and *Caligus* (see Parker et al. 1968). Certainly, careful inspection of Bob's renderings can serve as an excellent tutorial regarding scientific illustration, especially regarding the skillful use of stippling to capture fine detail and portray depth of field. Bob preferred to draw using a 6/0 technical pen (the smallest size available = ISO size 0.13 mm) and he could coax stipples from its tip which were considerably smaller than 0.13 mm, the consistency of dust in many instances. And unknown to most, Bob did not need to employ a drawing tube or camera lucida when illustrating. Instead, he could render by peering down a microscope with one eye while simultaneously using the other to guide his ink pen on an adjacent piece of paper. Topping it all off, Bob typically drew his illustrations as final originals (i.e., no rough pencil drafts) the same size that they would appear when published, a technique that leaves no room for misinterpretation or an unsteady hand. He said that he worked that way because, "had I not, I would never have been able to complete the volume of work that the copepods demanded of me." Leo Margolis related a story that Bob would sometimes doodle while listening at seminars or meetings at the Station, typically picking out a subject and drawing, for example, their hands or even his own. The results of those spontaneous efforts typically amazed others who saw them. But as it was regarding all aspects of his life, Bob never mentioned the superior quality of his actions or products and was always quick to deflect praise and compliment the good efforts of others. About his copepod expertise he once said, "Copepods have been good to me." In reference to his wartime heroics he was reported to have once remarked, "I am just a soldier, I didn't do everything I could".* His curriculum vitae dated 2002 distilled his many military and civilian accomplishments into a mere two and a half pages.

In a third-person concluding remark in his curriculum vitae Bob noted that due to the valuable time he "lost" during the war and with his late entry into university, "he concentrated on research, largely to the exclusion of other activities. Hence his frequent reluctance to participate in the activities of the scientific community, in particular his

refusal to assume executive positions in scientific societies". His feelings regarding his late bloom as a parasitologist were likely what made him fond of the quote by Asa Chandler which opens this memorial and which Bob himself employed in his 2003 address to the American Society of Parasitologists (see Benz and Piasecki 2004). In light of his professional service record, Bob's admission almost trivializing his considerable volume of scientific service once again illustrated his innate modesty. An incomplete list of his service includes: reviewer of hundreds of submissions to scores of scientific periodicals; editorial service including Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Parasitology* (1972–1975), *Journal of Crustacean Biology* (1981–1982), *Acta Parasitologica* (1992–2014), *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* (2002–2011), co-Editor, *Systematic Parasitology* (1978–1997), Associate Editor, *Canadian Journal of Zoology* (1983–1986), Advisor to the Editorial Board, *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* (1985–date unknown), and Emeriti, Editorial Advisory Board, *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* (2012–2014); Adjunct Professor, Simon Fraser University (beginning in 1980); dissertation committee member or external referee on multiple occasions regarding students attending Canadian as well as international universities. With Leo Margolis he co-edited the book series *Guide to the parasites of fishes of Canada* (Margolis and Kabata 1984, 1988, 1989, 1996) and his fluency in Latin was well harnessed during his 15-year appointment (1984–1999) as a Commissioner of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. From 1984–1987 he served as the elected Founding President of the World Association of Copepodologists.

Beyond his prodigious research and service output, Bob was always ready to help others with their conundrums and his spoken and written eloquence, sincerity, and generosity made him an effective teacher and cherished mentor. His voluminous correspondence continually spanned the globe and reprints of his publications often arrived by post unsolicited, sometimes with a warm and encouraging handwritten salutation or his classy "With the compliments of Z. Kabata" signature stamping. Bob's friendship just seemed to make people better, as if that honor carried some added responsibility. As Professor Martin Adamson responded upon learning of Bob's passing:

"You feel him in everyone who has ever met him!"

It was obvious that Bob knew the foibles of "man," just as he knew that a proper tap on the back could inspire greatness.

With the death of Leo Margolis in January 1997, Bob lost his closest friend. He continued working most days at the Station; however, his eyesight was now compromised to a point that he withdrew from microscopy and descriptive work. In 1998 Bob and Mary traveled to Switzerland to attend their son Andrzej's wedding and afterward they visited Poland, with Bob once again treated as a dignitary, receiving honors and a military promotion to the rank of Major. Chronic health problems related to his heart and a bad left hip now affected Bob more and more and Mary's

* Quote from a translation by Paszkowska (2011) available online at www.pamiec.sandomierz.pl/kabata/summaryenglish.pdf.

health too was slipping. Bob's devotion to be with her as well as his not being "very portable" (his words) resulted in him accepting the Eminent Parasitologist Award through a recorded message at the American Society of Parasitologists 2003 meeting in Halifax; an eloquent lecture (transcript available in Benz and Piasecki 2004) demonstrating that Bob's powerful effectiveness as an orator had followed him deep into the autumn of life.

On the 5th of December 2007 Mary passed away, a loss that left a huge void in Bob's life. After her burial he confided in us that he would press on by getting back to the Station half days and matters related to a book on copepods he was writing with his former student and good friend Dr. Stewart Johnson. For about a decade leading to his death Bob's health continued to deteriorate and he experienced problems with his eyes, heart, hip, and legs, with some of these requiring major surgeries or hospitalizations. In a 2004 message in which he remarked about getting old, Bob recited the German proverb, "Altertum ist nich[t] für Feiglinge" [old age is not for cowards] and went on to say, "The funny part of it is that I cannot see myself as an old person, rather as a badly used-up 40-years old." Nevertheless, throughout all this he continued to be productive, his work on the copepod book was completed and he passed the draft over to Stewart. He divested himself from most scientific authorship and manuscript review work and instead focused on popular writing in English. When he traveled to Rideau Hall in April 2008 for the Order of Canada investiture ceremony, he walked, warm smile on his face, with the help of forearm crutches (Fig. 6). And in a message dated the 3rd of March 2011 regarding scheduling a visit with him at the Station he demonstrated his continued sense of playful humor when he stated, "However, you will be most welcome at the Station at days other than St. Pat's day. It just so happens that on that day I am being claimed by a vampire, who comes to the house to take a sample of my blood. It is necessary because I am on a blood thinner and it must be adjusted to keep it at the right state of viscosity." In a July 2012 message he mentioned that he was still getting in to the Station most days and had finished writing a popular science "brochure" (his word) on the Pacific, completed a series of reminiscences of his wartime years, and was currently working on a series of stories stemming from his fishing career (all of these written in English, to date unpublished).

In mid-2013 Bob had to be rushed from the Station to a hospital and when he was discharged ten days later, now unable to properly care for himself at home, he was taken in by his kind friends. In correspondence Bob remarked warmly that he was being cared for extremely well, carted about in a wheelchair, and generally spoiled with good food and attention. In a January 2014 response to an inquiry regarding his condition, Bob wrote, "But no complaints. I should have been killed on November 27 in 1944, so I live on credit now".* He continued to correspond with family, friends, and colleagues via e-mail until just before his death and in a message sent about a week



Fig. 6. Zbigniew Kabata, CM, DSc and the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada at the 11 April 2008 Order of Canada investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Canada; Photo credit: MCpl Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall; Photo © Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (OSGG), 2008; Photo used with permission

before that time he humbly and self-quizzically remarked, "I am now a man, who managed to get over the hill without ever getting to the top". On the 3rd of July 2014 he suffered a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. The following morning he smiled upon hearing that his son and daughter-in-law were en route from the mainland to see him, but unfortunately, he lapsed into unconsciousness before they arrived. Later that day he passed away. A funeral service was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church (Nanaimo) on the 15th of July and afterwards he was laid to rest at the Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens (Cedar, BC, Canada). True to form throughout this last stanza of life, Bob displayed his characteristic warmth, poise, and courage; his final leadership demonstration.

Bob's remarkable life and accomplishments have been acknowledged by numerous awards and honors. His military, civilian, and national honors, include: the Cross of Valour (1944); the War Order of Virtuti Militari, V Class (1945); Bar to the Cross of Valour (1945); the Polish Army 1939–1945 War Medal, two bars (1947); the Home (Underground) Army Cross (1971); the Partisan's Cross (1995); the Grand Commander's Cross (with Star), Order of Polonia Restituta (1996; awarded for his scientific achievements); the Gold Medal for Contribution to

* Bob's comment was a reference to a day during the war when he narrowly avoided death twice, once through split-second instinct and shortly thereafter through a miraculous stroke of luck.

Defensiveness of the Country (1998); Honorary Citizen, City of Sandomierz, Poland (1999); Distinguished Immigrant Award, Canada (2002); Member, Order of Canada (2007; awarded in acknowledgement of his scientific achievements); and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012; awarded for his scientific contributions). It should be noted that the War Order of Virtuti Militari is the highest military decoration awarded by Poland for heroism and courage in the face of the enemy during war, the Grand Commander's Cross, Order of Polonia Restituta, is one of Poland's supreme honors, and membership in the Order of Canada is Canada's second highest honor for merit. His professional awards include: the Robert Arnold Wardle Award, Parasitology Section, Canadian Society of Zoologists (1977); the Konstanty Janicki Medal, Polish Parasitological Society (1984); Honorary Member, British Society for Parasitology (1986); Honorary Member, Polish Parasitological Society (1991); Honorary Member, Canadian Society of Zoologists (1992); Honorary DSc (*Doktor Honoris Causa*), Agricultural University, Department of Marine Fisheries, Szczecin, Poland (1993); Honorary Patron, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa (1994); Honorary Member, Russian Academy of Sciences, Parasitological Society (1995); Professor Kazimierz Demel Medal, Sea Fisheries Institute, Gdynia, Poland (1998); Honorary DLitt, Malaspina University College (2002); Honorary President, Tenth International Congress of Parasitology (2002); Eminent Parasitologist Award, American Society of Parasitologists (2003); and Inductee (posthumous), Legends of Canadian Fisheries Science and Management, Canadian Aquatic Resources Section, American Fisheries Society (2014). Many fortunate enough to hear Bob deliver an acceptance speech or keynote address were impressed by his humbleness and eloquence and as an orator he was widely known for his metered, soft-spoken, scholarly deliveries that were a joy to listen to and which evoked interest, inspiration, and often deep emotions. Bob's contributions to Parasitology are also acknowledged through 25 patronyms coined in his honor: *Capillaria kabatai* Inglis et Coles, 1963, = jun. syn. of *C. gracilis* (Bellingham, 1840) (Nematoda); *Diaphorocleidus kabatai* (Molnar, Hanek et Fernando, 1974) (Monogenoidea); *Congericola kabatai* Hewitt, 1975 (Copepoda); *Chloromyxum kabatai* Moser et Noble, 1977 (Myxosporea); *Lepeophtheirus kabatai* Ho et Dojiri, 1977 (Copepoda); *Kudoa kabatai* Shulman et Kovaljova in Kovaljova, Shulman, and Yakovlev, 1979 (Myxosporea); *Lepeophtheirus zbigniewi* Castro-Romero et Baeza-Kuroki, 1981 (Copepoda); *Pseudocharopinus kabatai* Pillai, 1985 (Copepoda); *Lernaenicus kabatai* Oldewage, 1989 (Copepoda); *Bobkabata kabatabobbus* Hogans et Benz, 1990 (Copepoda); *Neoalbionella kabatai* (Benz et Izawa, 1990) (Copepoda); *Mugilicola kabatai* Piasecki, Khamees et Mhaisen, 1991 (Copepoda); *Parabrachiella kabatai* (Luque et Farfan, 1991) (Copepoda); *Caligus kabatae* Cressey, 1991 (Copepoda); *Margolisiella kabatai* Dessler et Bower, 1997 (Apicomplexa); *Parvicapsula kabatai* Jones, Prosperi-

Porta et Dawe, 2006 (Myxosporea); *Naobranchia kabatana* Dippenaar et Jordan, 2008 (Copepoda); *Hatschekia kabatai* Uyeno et Nagasawa, 2010 (Copepoda); *Kabataia* Kazachenko, Korotaeva et Kurochkin, 1972 (Copepoda); *Kabataella* Praba et Pillai, 1983 (Copepoda); *Kabatarina* Cressey et Boxshall, 1989 (Copepoda); *Bobkabata* Hogans et Benz, 1990 (Copepoda); *Kabatana* Lom, Dyková et Tonguthai, 2000 (Microsporea); *Kabatahoia* Kazachenko, 2001 (Copepoda); *Kabatazus* Özdikmen, 2008 (Copepoda). And finally, Bob's amazing life was chronicled in an excellent documentary produced by the First Fisheries Science Documentary Society (Langley 2001). The 29-minute production is accessible online* and provides future generations the priceless opportunity to hear Bob speak.

"So there you have it" and "dem's da facts," two phrases that Bob would occasionally use to end an exchange—the metamorphosis of Zbigniew, Bobo, Bob Kabata... from heroic freedom fighter, deep-sea fisherman, internationally recognized scientist, accomplished poet and author, insightful, unassuming and highly influential leader, kind, generous, and encouraging mentor, highly honored citizen of three countries, humble gentleman, courageous senior citizen, steadfast friend, and dedicated and loving husband and father. In acknowledgement of his contributions we would each be wise to reexamine our personal and professional compasses, revitalize our best efforts, and above all, pass on only true bearings to our academic and biological children.

EPILOGUE and ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We feel deeply honored for the opportunity to write this memorial about our mentor and dear friend; however, given Bob's amazing life, we are humbled in knowing that only he knew what was necessary to properly complete such a task. Why despite the fact that each of us knew Bob for decades, neither of us were alive during many of the transformative stages of his life. But if Bob had been here to advise on his biography, his humility would prompt him to prefer issuing but a few sentences, justifying that minimum by stating that certainly others have better things to do than read about some "geezer," a word we can easily envision he might playfully direct. We would then be placed uncomfortably but squarely, as we were on occasion while he was alive, to strongly disagree. Nevertheless and to be certain, Zbigniew Kabata was indubitably the greatest man we have known as a mentor, colleague, and friend.

Given our feelings toward and respect for Bob, we felt a special responsibility to properly vet facts appearing in this report and we have done that to the best of our ability. In that process, we noticed some minor inconsistencies and possible slips in some published and or otherwise available biographic works about his life. This is to be expected given the nature of events, and we only mention it to alert readers that some facts herein may differ slightly from those found elsewhere. And, while it is beyond the scope of this memorial for us to report all of our

* <http://www.aifrb.org/2013/10/kabata-evolution-of-a-scientist/>.

informational sources, we will be happy to do so via correspondence regarding specific matters. Except for scare quotes or quotes explained otherwise, quotes contained in the memoriam without citation are taken from our written correspondence with Bob or are as recalled from our personal conversations with him. In addition to the works cited above, the reports of MacKenzie (1995), Evelyn (2004), and Benz et al. (2007) were useful regarding our background research. The photograph of Bob at Rideau Hall was used under a copyright clearance permission kindly granted by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General of Canada. We thank Robert Howard and Ivonne Garzón for making useful comments on an early draft of this memoriam and Andrzej Kabata and David Damkaer for their kindness in sharing photographs of and information about Bob and also for reviewing a draft of the memoriam; that said, we take full responsibility for any lapse in our report. We also thank the editors of the *Journal of Parasitology* and *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria* for their cooperation regarding the publication of our report.

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