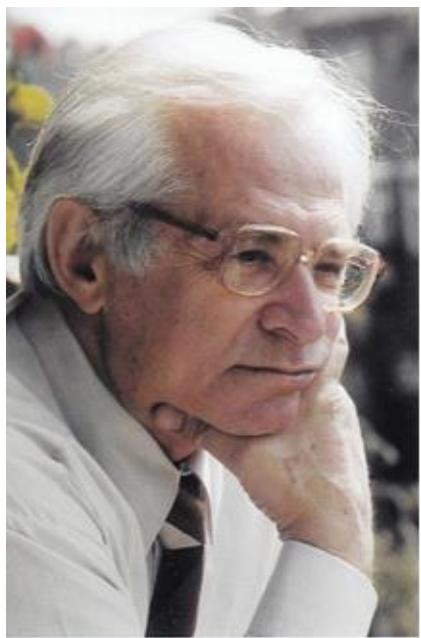


## **Prof. Dr. Karol Bal (1934–2022)**



The International Hegel Society mourns the death of its long-time Vice President (1992–2004), Prof. Dr. Karol Bal, who, as we have only now learned, passed away on May 31 of this year. Karol Bal was born in Zamość, southeastern Poland, on September 4, 1934. After receiving his doctorate (1969) and habilitation (1983), he taught at the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Wrocław (Breslau), from 1993 onward as full professor. His research areas were mainly the history of philosophy and especially Classical German Philosophy, as well as philosophy of history, ethics, and the history of philosophy at the University of Wrocław (Breslau).

Karol Bal was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences; in 1998 he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Of his many scholarly publications, we mention only a selection of his monographs: *Rozum i historia. Historiozofia Hegla wobec Oświecenia* (1973; *Reason and History. Hegel's Philosophy of History in the Face of Enlightenment*); *Recepcje i interpretacje marksizmu oraz jego teoretycznych źródeł w piśmiennictwie RFN* (1968–1978) (1982; *Reception and Interpretation of Marxism and its Theoretical Sources in the Federal Republic of Germany* (1968–1978)); *Wprowadzenie do etyki Kanta* (1984; *Introduction to Kant's Ethics*); *Kant i Hegel. Dwa szkice z dziejów niemieckiej myśli etycznej* (1994; *Kant and Hegel. Two Sketches of the History of German Moral Thought*); *Aktualität der Vergangenheit* (1997; *The Presence of the Past*); *Gadamer i Wrocław. Gadamer and Wrocław* (ed., 1997); *Philosophy and Regionality* (1999).

The International Hegel Society will remember Karol Bal not only as a long-time member, vice-president, and co-editor of the *Hegel-Jahrbuch*, and for his numerous lectures at the Society's biennial conference, but also as the organizer of the legendary XVIII. International Hegel Congress, which took place in Wrocław from August 27 to 31, 1990, on the theme "Hegel in the Context of the History of his Reception". Even before the social-political watershed that the year 1989 saw in the states of the former Warsaw Pact – beginning in the

1980s, Poland's Solidarność movement had a pioneering role in this change – Karol Bal approached the Hegel Society with the offer of organizing a Hegel Congress at his home university. Especially among the GDR's Marxist party officials, this was the occasion of considerable unrest, but their preventive measures, for instance a ban that would have prevented GDR philosophers from entering Poland to attend the congress, were stymied by reality when, in 1989, communism was brought to an abrupt end. In the changed political environment, the Congress was able to take place in an extremely friendly atmosphere, bringing together for the first time Hegel scholars from East and West for an open exchange free of ideological constraints. To have made this cordial and inspiring atmosphere possible was above all the great achievement of Karol Bal. He thus laid the crucial foundation for making the International Hegel Society an institution of new forms of exchange and international cooperation in Hegel research after the end of the Cold War, and went on to play a major role in shaping its future.

The International Hegel Society will always honor Karol Bal's memory.

Andreas Arndt