

Rui Carvalho Homem, Chair, European Shakespeare Research Association

Dear ESRA members,

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing, on the 3rd March, of the eminent Polish Shakespeare scholar Jerzy Limon. At his death, he was director of the Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre and Professor of Humanities at the University of Gdansk.

Jerzy Limon was a renowned expert in Shakespeare and Elizabethan theatre, and in theatre history and semiotics. He was also an admired writer and translator.

Besides his academic achievements, Jerzy Limon envisioned and created the Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre, which opened in 2014. His Teatr Szekspirowski, a project that started in 1990 when he established the Theatrum Gedanense Foundation, found influential patrons in Britain's Prince Charles and Poland's film director Andrzej Wajda. This is now the home of the annual Gdansk Shakespeare Festival which hosts productions from around the world, a theatre feast he has tirelessly organised since 1997.

Jerzy Limon's many publications include *Gentlemen of a Company: English Players in Central and Eastern Europe, 1590–1660* (1985), *Dangerous Matter: English Drama and Politics in 1623/24* (1986), *The Masque of Stuart Culture* (1990), *The Chemistry of the Theatre: Performativity of Time* (2010), and *Szekspir bez cenzury. Erotyczny żart na scenie elżbietańskiej* [Shakespeare uncensored: Erotic pun on the Elizabethan stage] (2018).

In the course of his distinguished career, he was the recipient of many awards, including the Medal of merit for culture: Gloria Artis (2006), the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2011), the Order of the British Empire (2014), the Erazm and Anna Jerzmanowski Prize awarded by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (2015), and the Pragnell Shakespeare Award (2019).

Jerzy Limon was a committed and generous participant in the European Shakespeare project that led to the creation of ESRA (the European Shakespeare Research

Association). For several years he was active on the Board of our association, and in 2017 he was the convenor of our biennial conference, jointly hosted by the University of Gdansk and the Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre. The conference partly overlapped with the opening of the Festival, and proved a memorable success.

Jerzy Limon's rare qualities, and his many contributions to our field, will be sorely missed. We express our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and former students.