

Antoni Jackowski

Polish Geographical Society (1918–2014)



Warsaw 2014

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1. Introduction

The establishment of geographic societies followed a period of geographic discovery, global expeditions, fieldwork in newly discovered territories, and a general spread of work and knowledge in the field of geography. Newly established geographic societies in Europe began to coordinate work in the fast emerging field of geography. The oldest geographic society was founded in 1684 in Venice – *Accademia Cosmografica degli Argonauti*. The Venetian society's patrons included King Jan Sobieski III of Poland. The 19th century saw a marked increase in the number of geographic societies in Europe: *Société de Géographie* (Paris, 1821), *Gesellschaft für Erdkunde* (Berlin, 1828), *Royal Geographical Society* (London, 1830). The countries that had partitioned Poland in the late 18th century also began to establish geographic societies: *Russkoje Geografičeskoje Obščestvo* (Sankt Petersburg, 1845), *Österreichische Geographische Gesellschaft* (Vienna, 1856). A number of citizens of occupied Poland also became involved in geographic research throughout the world and many were accepted into leading European geographic societies in the 19th century.

The largest number of Polish research successes were achieved as part of the work of the Russian Geographic Society. This was especially true of Poles exiled to Siberia for their work on behalf of Poland's independence. Those who chose to work with the Society received better living conditions in Siberia and permission to travel. In some cases, the Society offered a recommendation that made it possible for some exiles to return home with the Russian tsar's permission. A number of Poles living and working in Russia of their own free will also did work with the Society on a variety of projects. These included Leon Barszczewski, Karol Bohdanowicz, Józef Chodźko, Aleksander Czekanowski, Jan Czerski, Benedykt Dybowski, Leonard Jaczewski, Mieczysław Ptasiński, and Wacław Sieroszewski. In many cases, Polish researchers received gold medals, honorary membership, and other awards from the Russian Geographic Society. For example, Polish researcher Karol Bohdanowicz received the Great Medal of Przewalski in 1891. He would later become the Chair of the Polish Geographical Society (1920–1925). Another researcher, Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, became a member of *Britain's Royal Geographical Society* in 1846. He was awarded the Gold Founder's Medal.

The three great powers (Austria, Prussia, Russia) occupying 19th century Poland did not permit the establishment of Polish scientific societies. The government of Austria did relent in the late 19th century and the Tatra Society was established in Kraków in 1873. The Society became a gathering place for Polish geographers. Another Polish scientific society was established in the Austrian-occupied city of Lwów (Lemberg) – the Polish Commercial and Geographic Society (1894–1897). The main goal of the Society was

to select lands in Brazil for new Polish settlers. In 1851 Russian authorities established a Vilnius branch of the Russian Geographic Society, also known as the Northwestern Branch. Vilnius had been the capital of Lithuania prior to Russian occupation and a city within the greater Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania. However, the Polish residents of Vilnius generally chose not to join the Vilnius branch. Another branch of the Russian Geographic Society was scheduled to be opened in Warsaw in 1875; however, this plan was never realized.

The idea for a Polish geographic society slowly gathered support in Polish academic circles in the late 19th century. The first Polish researcher to suggest this idea was Waław Nałkowski in 1881. His article in the *Weekly Review* called for the establishment of such a society. Following the first Russian revolution in 1905, the Russian government began to permit the formation of Polish scientific societies in the Russian part of Poland. As a result, the Polish Sightseeing Society was established in Warsaw in 1906 and became a beacon of Polish geographic and patriotic awareness. This was especially true in the case of younger Poles. Waław Nałkowski and Ludomir Sawicki as well as geographers from other parts of Poland actively participated in the formation of the Society. The Society began to publish a periodical in 1910 called "Earth". According to Bolesław Olszewicz, the Polish Sightseeing Society laid the needed groundwork for the establishment of the Polish Geographical Society in 1918.

2. Early beginnings

The idea to formally establish a Polish geographic society on Polish soil emerged in the autumn of 1917. It became clear at the time that occupied Poland would soon regain independence from Austria, Prussia, and Russia in the aftermath of World War I. Polish intellectuals from Warsaw such as Jan Lewiński, Stanisław Lencewicz, Bolesław Olszewicz, and Stanisław Poniatowski as well as Kraków intellectual L. Sawicki initiated the process of establishing such a society. Jerzy Loth (Warsaw) soon joined the effort as well (Fig. 1–4).

Fig. 1. Ludomir Sawicki (1884-1928) – founder/member of the Polish Geographical Society, first editor-in-chief of the "Geographic Review" (1919-1922), Chairman of the Kraków chapter of the Polish Geographical Society (1924-1928), founder and first editor-in-chief of the periodical "Geographic News" (1923-1928).



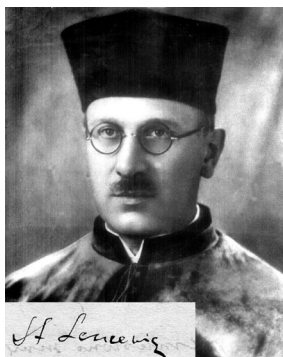


Fig. 2. Stanisław Lencewicz (1889–1944) – founder/member of the Polish Geographical Society, editor-in-chief of the “Geographic Review” (1923–1939), Chairman of the Warsaw chapter of the Polish Geographical Society (1935–1939).



Fig. 3. Bolesław Olszewicz (1893–1972) – founder/member of the Polish Geographical Society, honorary member of the Polish Geographical Society (1957), father of the Polish school of the history of geography, professor at the University of Wrocław and Polish Academy of Sciences



Fig. 4. Jerzy Loth (1880–1967) – founder/member of the Polish Geographical Society, honorary member of the Polish Geographical Society (1958), cofounder of economic geography at the Main School of Commerce in Warsaw.

An organizational meeting of the newly emerging Polish Geographical Society was held in Warsaw on January 27, 1918. The first President of the Society was Professor Jan Lewiński of the University of Warsaw.

The first headquarters of the Polish Geographical Society was located at the Warsaw Scientific Society on Śniadeckich Street. In the autumn of 1920, the Society moved to the Department of Geography at the University of Warsaw, located in Staszic Palace, where it would remain until September of 1939 (Fig. 5).

The Polish Geographical Society was a scientific society with national reach from the very beginning. The main purpose of the Society was to bring together Polish geographers from a variety of Polish regions divided by more than a century of foreign occupation. The hope was that a common meeting place would enhance the chances of the development of the field of geography in Poland following a long period of political and social division.



Fig. 5. Staszic Palace in Warsaw – headquarters of the Polish Geographical Society between the two world wars.

The functioning of the Society was always dependent on changing political and social conditions in Poland. Many decisions made by the Society were non-scientific in nature and reflected the politics of the day, which included key decisions on the financing of projects. Organizational evolution was another factor responsible for the rate of development of the organization.

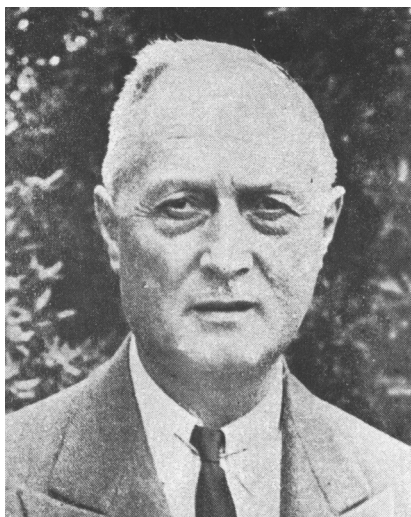
3. The interwar years

The role of the members of the Polish Geographical Society in helping to reestablish Poland as an independent nation cannot be overstated. This was especially true in the period 1918–1926, which was a strong growth period for the Society, attracting new members from across newly independent Poland. Approximately 40 individuals helped establish the Society, which grew close to 150 members within its first year of existence. Every major geographer in Poland was a member of the Society. Most of the members were individuals from Warsaw including the following large institutions: University of Warsaw, Main School of Commerce, Polish Free University, various departments of Poland's government. A smaller number of geographers came from Kraków (17) and Lwów (11). The majority of the Society's members were individuals from the academic community. Only nine members came from outside the three cities listed above. For example, universities in Poznań and Vilnius were

Leadership of the Polish Geographical Society



Jan LEWIŃSKI
(1918–1919)



Władysław GORCZYŃSKI
(1919–1920)



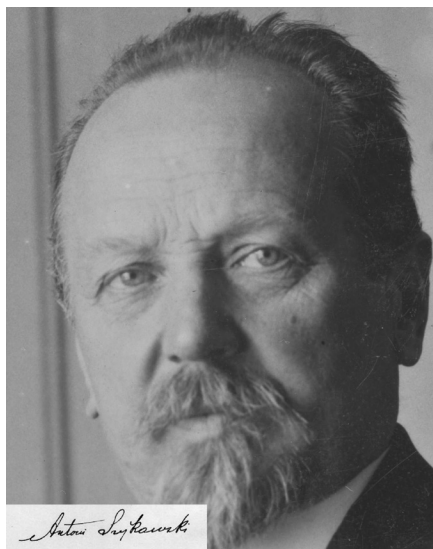
Karol BOHDANOWICZ
(1920–1925)



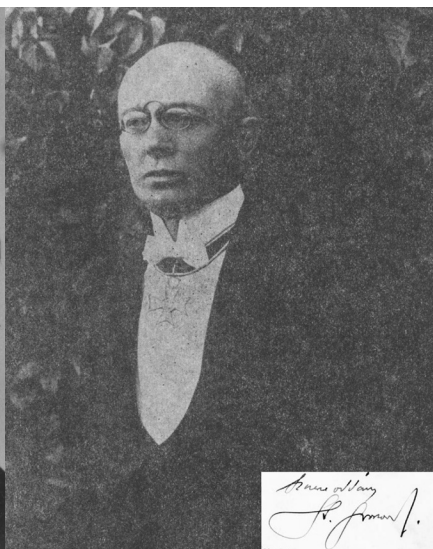
Eugeniusz ROMER
(1925–1926)



Władysław MASSALSKI
(1926–1931)



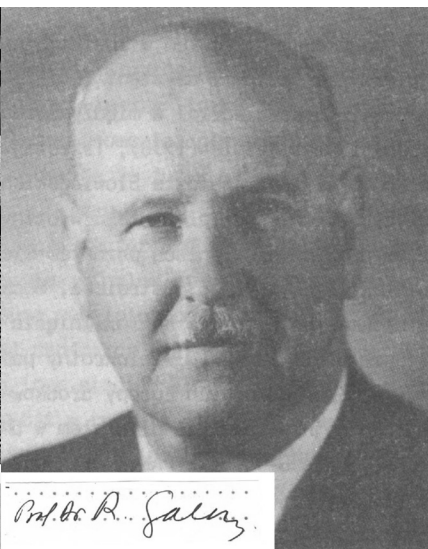
Antoni SUJKOWSKI
(1931–1941)



Stanisław SROKOWSKI
(1945–1950)



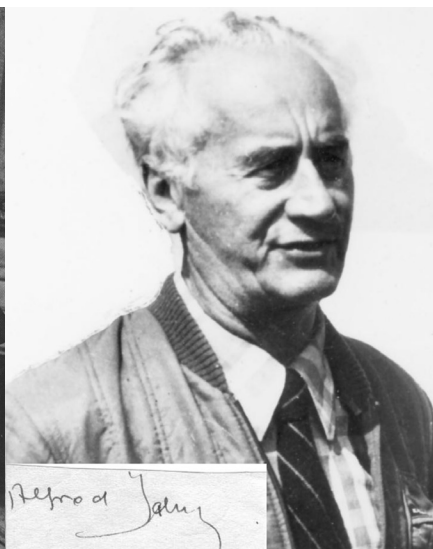
Stanisław LESZCZYCKI
(1950–1953)



Rajmund GALON
(1953–1959)



Jerzy KONDRACKI
(1959–1968; 1980–1981)



Alfred JAHN
(1968–1972)



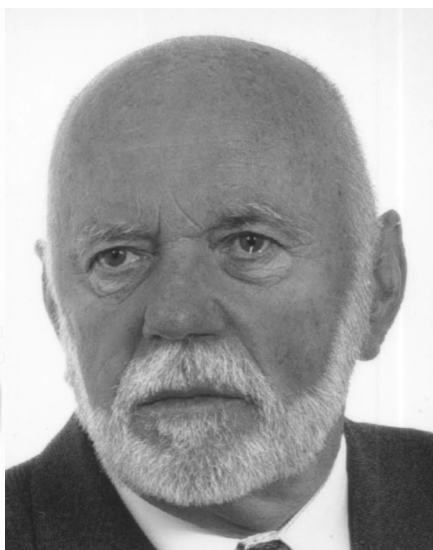
Stanisław BEREZOWSKI
(1972–1978)



Bogodar WINID
(1978–1980)



Anna DYLIKOWA
(1981–1990)



Wojciech STANKOWSKI
(1990–1993)



Jan SZUPRYCZYŃSKI
(1993–1996)



Andrzej BONASEWICZ
(1996–1997)



Florian PLIT
(1997–2002)



Andrzej T. JANKOWSKI
(2002–2006)



Jerzy BAŃSKI
(2006–2012)

Antoni JACKOWSKI
(2012–)

just becoming operational and did not send geography representatives to Warsaw. In 1919 four “collective members” were accepted by the Society – the Geographic Institute at Jagiellonian University, Geographic Department and Geological Department at the University of Warsaw, Mineralogy Department at Jagiellonian University.

The Polish Geographical Society opened its Kraków branch in 1922. Its chairmen served in the following order: Michał Siedlecki, L. Sawicki, Jerzy Smoleński. The opening of the Kraków branch helped increase total Society membership to 443 by 1926.

The early years of the Society were marked by rapid growth in scientific publishing, much of which retains the attention of contemporary Polish researchers. This is especially true of papers published in the Society’s periodicals including the “Geographic Review” (1919 – present) (Fig. 6) and “Geographic News” (1923–1939). Volume One of the “Geographic Review” included a meaningful manifesto by its Editor-in-Chief Ludomir Sawicki: *National institutions and national geography* (Fig. 7). In the manifesto, Sawicki elaborated on a number of actions needed in order to help the field of geography develop in Poland following more than a century of foreign occupation and propaganda. The manifesto was meant to help bridge the era

of foreign occupation and newly regained Polish independence. The quality of the work published in the “Geographic Review” was later managed by its next Editor-in-Chief Stanisław Lencewicz (1923–1939). Another key

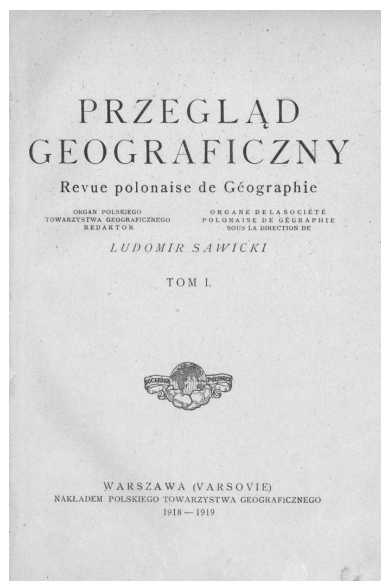


Fig. 6. “Geographic Review” – research publication of the Polish Geographical Society established in 1919. Currently still published. In 1954 its publication was ceded to the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

publication – “Geographic News” – was managed by L. Sawicki and Wiktor Rudolf Ormicki. In 1924 the Kraków branch of the Society began to publish “Kraków Geographic Lectures” under L. Sawicki and later J. Smoleński. A total of 14 issues were published (Fig. 8–10).

In 1920 the Society produced and sent a white paper to the Polish government on the need to centralize work in the fields of geodesy, topography, and cartography at the national level. The

appeal was supported by dozens of research institutions. In addition, the Society produced another document on the teaching of geography in high

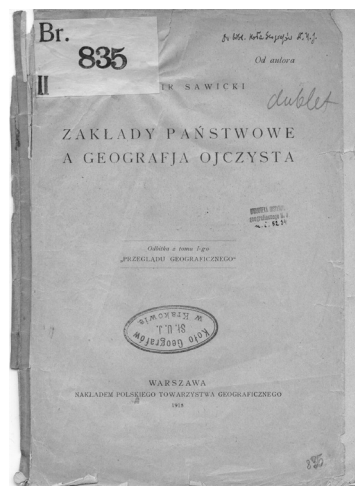


Fig. 7. Volume One of “Geographic Review” included a wonderful manifesto by Ludomir Sawicki: National institutions and national geography. In the manifesto, Sawicki elaborated on a number of actions needed in order to help the field of geography develop in Poland following more than a century of foreign occupation and propaganda. The manifesto was meant to help bridge the era of foreign occupation and newly regained Polish independence.

schools, which was sent to the Ministry of Education. The Society further noted the need for geography textbooks at Polish universities. A special commission was established to address this issue and included

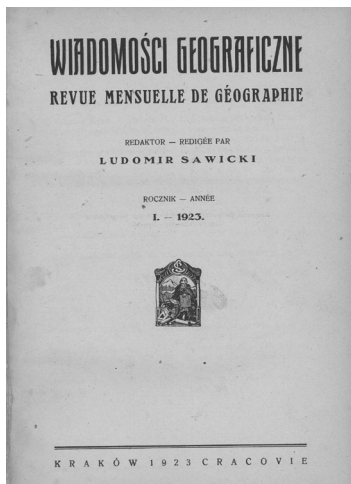


Fig. 8. “Geographic News” – a monthly published by the Polish Geographical Society in Kraków in the years 1923–1939. The following is a list of its editors-in-chief: L. Sawicki, Wiktor Rudolf Ormicki, Mieczysław Klimaszewski.

the following renowned geographers: Stanisław Pawłowski, Eugeniusz Romer, L. Sawicki, J. Smoleński.

In 1925 Eugeniusz Romer became the Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society. Romer had become an honorary member of the Society in 1920 (Fig. 11). He was the first geographer to join the Society.

It appeared that nothing could disrupt the growth of the Society; however, something

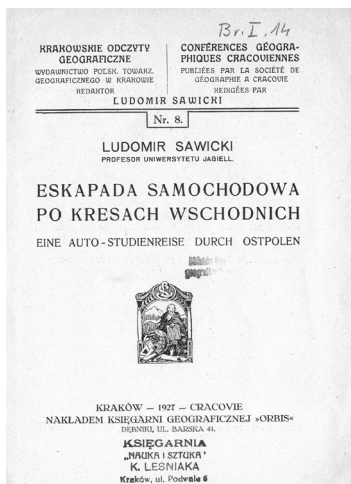


Fig. 9. In 1924 the Kraków chapter of the Polish Geographical Society begins to publish a new series: “Kraków Lectures in Geography.” Its Editor-in-Chief is initially L. Sawicki and later J. Smoleński. The publication remains in print until 1931 for a total of 14 issues.

did. In 1926 a number of regional factions unexpectedly began to emerge driven by personal ambition, different views on growth strategies, and unnecessary emotions over various issues. E. Romer established the Lwów Geographical Society in 1926. S. Pawłowski (Fig. 12) established the Poznań Geographical Society in 1928. While both men argued for the establishment of a national Union of Polish

Geographical Societies, this type of integration did not occur until 1946.

Despite these various difficulties, the Polish Geographical Society did continue to function and achieve a number of successes thanks to the following branches (active until 1939):

- Kraków Branch (est. 1922);
- Silesian Branch, Katowice (1929–1934), later absorbed by the Kraków Branch. Silesian Branch led by Waław Olszewicz, Stanisław Warcholik, Zofia Buczkówna;

- Łódź Branch (1929–1933), absorbed by the Warsaw Branch; led by Jakub Stefan Cezak;
- Vilnius Branch (1935–Sept. 17, 1939);
- Warsaw Branch (1935–1939), main Branch of the Society; led by Stanisław Lencewicz.

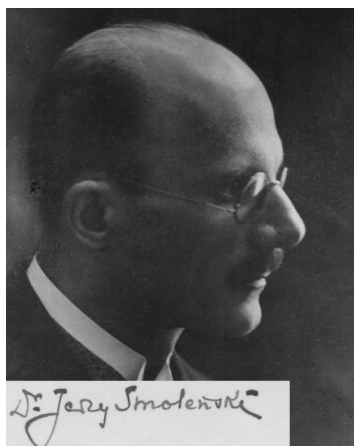
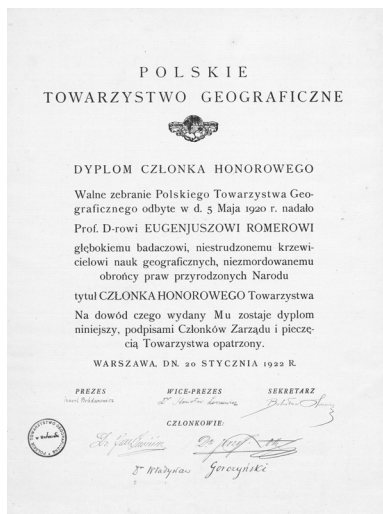


Fig. 10. Jerzy Smoleński (1881–1940) – Chairman of the Kraków chapter of the Polish Geographical Society (1928–1939).

Principal accomplishments of the Polish Geographical Society after 1926 included extensive work on the organization of two geography conferences: (1) Second Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers (June 1–11, 1927) (Fig. 13), (2) Fourteenth Congress of the International Geographical Union (Warsaw, August 21–31, 1934) (Fig. 14). The latter congress was sponsored by two honorary patrons: (1) Marshall of Poland Józef Piłsudski, (2) President of Poland Ignacy Mościcki. Other examples of the work of the Society included efforts to train teachers. The Kraków, Łódź, and Silesia branches of the Society were particularly active in this area (Fig. 15–16). The Society was an active

Fig. 11. The first honorary member certificate issued by the Polish Geographical Society in 1920 and given to Eugeniusz Romer (1871–1954), a renowned Polish cartographer. Romer would later become the Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society (1925–1926) and would even later found the Lwów Geographical Society (1926–1939). He also served as the Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (1931–1938, 1945–1954).



sponsor of research expeditions to polar regions and high mountain regions. For example, expeditions led by L. Sawicki were sponsored by the Society.

In the 1930s, members of the Polish

Geographical Society including Karol Bromek, Bonifacy Gajdzik, Stanisław Leszczycki (Fig. 17), W. Ormicki, J. Smoleński, Tadeusz Wilgat, Antoni Wrzosek, and Bogdan Zaborski worked together in the emerging fields of



Fig. 12. Stanisław Pawłowski, Founder and Chairman of the Poznań Geographical Society (1928–1939), Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (1938–1939).

spatial and regional planning. Franciszek Uhorczak worked in this field at the Lwów Geographical Society. Rajmund Galon and S. Pawłowski also worked in this field at the Poznań Geographical Society. Institutions emerged whose purpose was to create regional plans for selected areas. Geographers formed a large group of workers at such institutions. Key accomplishments in this field included

regional plans designated “*Functional Warsaw*” and “*Central Industrial Region*” as well as “*Podhale Region*.” Most of the work in the area of regional planning was performed in Warsaw and Kraków.

The Polish Geographical Society published a large number of works prior to World War II. A total of 435 sheets were printed between 1918 and 1939.



Fig. 13. Opening ceremony of the Second Convention of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers in Warsaw, City Hall, June 1, 1927. President of Poland, Ignacy Mościcki in the foreground.



Fig. 14. Opening ceremony of the 14th Congress of the International Geographical Union in Warsaw, August 21, 1934, Main Hall of the Warsaw Polytechnic. The President of Poland, Ignacy Mościcki, is seated in front of the first row.



Fig. 15. Participants of the Volyn Regional Course for Teachers organized by Wiktor Rudolf Ormicki in collaboration with the Polish Geographical Society in the summer of 1929. Ormicki can be seen standing in the last row, fourth from the right.

The Society also held a national meeting every year. The last prewar meeting took place on May 19, 1939. The various branches of the Society also held lectures and published papers. Other endeavors included field trips and courses for teachers.



Fig. 16. Part of an exhibit at the First Collegial Convention of Kraków Geographers – February 2–4, 1928. Location: 64 Grodzka Street, Geographic Institute at Jagiellonian University. Exhibit co-sponsored by the Kraków chapter of the Polish Geographical Society.

The Society also attempted to create a nonpartisan forum for all Polish geography organizations to come together and work together. One example of this type of forum was the Association of Polish Geography Teachers established in 1922 in Łódź by Juliusz Jurczyński. The two consecutive chairmen of the Association were E. Romer and S. Pawłowski. In 1923 the Association began to publish the “Geographic Journal” (Fig. 18), which

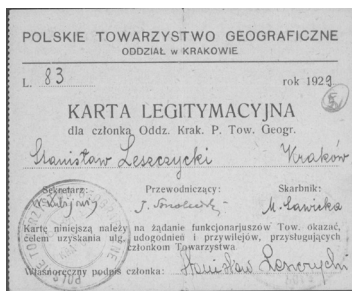


Fig. 17. Polish Geographical Society membership card of Stanisław Leszczyński (1929).

eventually became a key publication of the geographic societies of Lwów and Poznań. In spite of this, all Polish geographers were able to publish their papers in the Journal.

The Association functioned as a labor union for teachers and organized conventions of Polish geography teachers. Many different individuals associated with Polish geography were allowed to participate in the conventions including many members of the Polish Geographical Society and other institutions. The conventions played an important role in the growth of the field of geography in Poland (Fig. 19–22).

Fig. 18. "Geographic Journal", established in 1923 in Łódź by Juliusz Jurczyński who also served as its Editor-in-Chief between 1923 and 1926. The Journal then moved to Lwów where it was managed by E. Romer (1923–1939). A part of the Polish Geographical Society until 1946.

Another organization facilitating collaboration between Polish geographers was the Intercollegiate Geographic Commission created at the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków in 1924. The Commission also assumed the administrative duties of the National Geographic Committee, which had represented Polish geographers at the International Geographical Union.

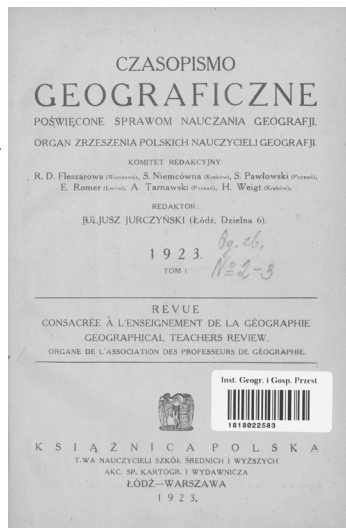


Fig. 19. Executive Board of the Third National Convention of Polish Teachers, Lwów, May 27–29, 1928. Sitting from the right: Władysław Massalski (Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society), Eugeniusz Romer, Ludomir Sawicki, Aleksander Janowski, Michał Siwak, unknown; standing from the right: Jerzy Smoleński, Mieczysław Limanowski, Paweł Ordynski, Stanisław Pawłowski, unknown.



Fig. 20. Conference participation card of S. Leszczycki from the Fourth National Convention of Geography Teachers in Poznań, May 19–21, 1929.

Fig. 21. Eighth Convention of Geography Teachers in Kraków, May 28, 1939. Speaker: S. Pawłowski; sitting from the left: J. Stanoch, Chairman of the Kraków chapter of the Association of Polish Geography Teachers, J. Smoleński, Director of the Geographic Institute at Jagiellonian University. This was the last public address given by the three men. All were murdered by the Germans: Pawłowski and Smoleński in 1940, Stanoch in 1942.



Fig. 22. Stanisław Pawłowski lectures on the Defensibility of Poland's Borders. The lecture was later used against him by the Germans ("Illustrated Daily Courier" – "Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny" 1939 No. 148).

Eugeniusz Romer was elected Vice-President of the International Geographical Union at the Union's convention in Paris in 1931 and again in Warsaw in 1934. Another geographer from Poland, Stanisław Pawłowski, replaced Romer at the Amsterdam Convention in 1938.

4. Difficult war years

The Polish Geographical Society formally suspended all organizational and research work during World War II. However, secret meetings were held in Warsaw and Kraków in order to discuss scientific issues, provide a forum for lectures, and discuss the future of the discipline in Poland. The years 1942–1944 were a period of heightened activity. Members of the Society were active in combat against both German and Soviet invaders. Some also chose to fight the enemy by publishing research papers with secret publishing operations run by Poland's Home Army. Others secretly taught geography at the high school and university levels. Geographers played an important role in Underground Poland (secret government) and the Home Army. The Society also participated in work on Poland's stance on the expected postwar change in national borders (S. Leszczycki, Stanisław Pietkiewicz, E. Romer, A. Wrzosek).

Many members of the Polish Geographical Society died during the period of German and Soviet occupation (1939–1945). Many were secretly murdered

by German and Soviet authorities and some were killed in action. Examples include Antoni Sujkowski (President of the Polish Geographical Society, 1942), J. Smoleński (Chairman of the Kraków branch, 1940), S. Pawłowski (Vice-President of the International Geographical Union, Chairman of the Poznań Geographic Society, 1940), and S. Lencewicz (Editor-in-Chief of the “Geographic Review”, Chairman of the Warsaw branch, 1944). A number of members of the Polish Geographical Society died at German concentration camps and Soviet labor camps (Fig. 23). Many Polish military geographers were murdered by the Soviets at Katyń Forest in western Russia. The Polish



Fig. 23. Representatives of Poland's geography community lay a memorial wreath at the Oak of Freedom in front of Collegium Novum in Kraków on November 6, 2009 on the 70th anniversary of Sonderaktion Krakau, which resulted in the arrest and death of many University professors at the hands of the Nazis. From the left: Andrzej Kostrzewski, Bolesław Domański, unknown student body representative, Kazimierz Krzemień, Andrzej Lisowski.

geographer Eugeniusz Romer only survived the war by hiding. He was pursued by German authorities who sought to put him to death for publishing the *Geographic and Statistical Atlas of Poland* in 1916. Romer's atlas had been used by the Allies to decide Poland's borders in 1918, which resulted in the annexation of parts of German-occupied territory. The German government had accused Romer of high treason, a charge also supported by world renowned geomorphologist Albrecht Penck.

5. Postwar era (1945–1950s)

World War II was followed by a transitional period that lasted for two years. The first postwar meeting of the leadership of the Polish Geographical Society

was held in May of 1945. The meeting was ordered by the Society's Vice-President Stanisław Srokowski. A temporary board was elected and the Warsaw branch was organized. The Society's Kraków branch (led by S. Leszczycki) and the Lublin branch (led by Adam Malicki) were also established in 1945. The Society's leading publication – “Geographic Review” – was revived by early 1946.

An organizational meeting was held in Wrocław on June 9–12, 1946 in order to help geography-oriented organizations and societies get reacquainted with one another – Polish Geographical Society, Poznań Geographical Society, as well as the Association of Polish Geography Teachers. The meeting attracted about 400 participants and was the first large postwar gathering of Polish geographers (Fig. 24). Eugeniusz Romer gave the keynote address: *The spiritual structure of Poland*. A new President of the Polish Geographical Society was also elected – S. Srokowski. New rules and regulations were

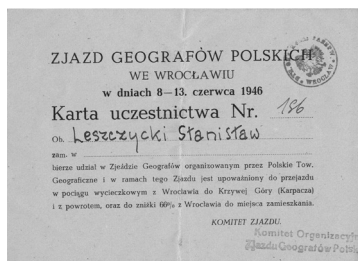


Fig. 24. Conference participation card of S. Leszczycki from the Unification Convention of Geographers held in Wrocław on June 8–13, 1946.

adopted. Two special departments were created within the Society: (1) Research Department headed by S. Leszczycki, (2) School Geography Department headed by August Zierhoffer. The meeting prompted many cities across Poland to establish local branches of the Polish Geographical Society. The prewar “Geographic Journal” was revived in Wrocław as a quarterly of the Polish Geographical Society. In 1950 the Society moved to its current headquarters at Uruskich-Czetwertyńskich Palace in Warsaw, which is also the home of the Department of Geography at the University of Warsaw (Fig. 25).

The Polish Geographical Society became the leading organizer of scientific life in the field of geography at the time. The Society initiated an array of

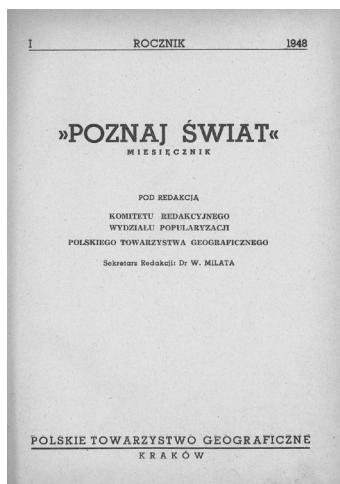


Fig. 25. Uruskich-Czetwertyńskich Palace in Warsaw – home of the Department of Geography and Regional Science at the University of Warsaw. Also the home of the Polish Geographical Society since 1950.

research projects including those partly based at its own field research stations in Mikołajki, Wojcieszów, and Hala

Gąsienicowa. In addition, the Society served as a publishing house for geographers. National conventions held by the Society became a forum for lively scientific discussion. A new popular science magazine called “Discover the World” was published for the first time in Kraków in 1948 by Editor-in-Chief Władysław Milata (Fig. 26). The magazine was published for two years and was revived in 1956 in Warsaw. Its longtime Editor-in-Chief was S. Berezowski. The Polish Geographical Society ceased to publish “Discover the World” in 2002 largely for financial reasons. The magazine was acquired by a private publishing house and remains a commercial publication today.

Fig. 26. In 1948 the Polish Geographical Society began to publish a popular science magazine in Kraków called “Discover the World.” Its first Editor-in-Chief was Władysław Milata. The magazine was published in Kraków for two years. A six year break in publication followed. The magazine was revived in Warsaw in 1956. Stanisław Berezowski became its longtime Editor-in-Chief. In 2002 the Polish Geographical Society stopped publishing “Discover the World” for financial reasons. A private publishing house called Bernardinum (Pelplin) acquired the magazine from the Polish Geographical Society. Today it is published by another private company in Gdańsk called Probiec.



An Institute of Geography at the Polish Academy of Sciences was established in 1953. Stanisław Leszczycki became its Director, while at the same time relinquishing his position as Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society. The new Institute of Geography was assigned the library collection maintained by the Polish Geographical Society. The collection had been maintained since 1918 and included 18,617 journal issues, books, publishing series, as well as 331 atlases and 8,140 map sheets. In addition, the Society was forced to give up some of its key assets including field research stations and publishing offices. One “victim” of this property transfer was the journal “Geographic Review.”

This forced transfer of property also reduced the Society’s status in Poland and abroad. The mission of the Society also temporarily changed as a result. Its research projects became smaller and its main mission now was to popularize geography and address issues in school geography. The one large publication that remained in the hands of the Polish Geographical Society

was the “Geographic Journal.” In 1948 the Society began to work closely with the publisher of a magazine designed for teachers called “Geography in School.” The first Editor-in-Chief of the magazine was Polish Geographical Society Chairman S. Srokowski. In 1949 the Society actively contributed to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the formal study of geography in Poland (Fig. 27–28).

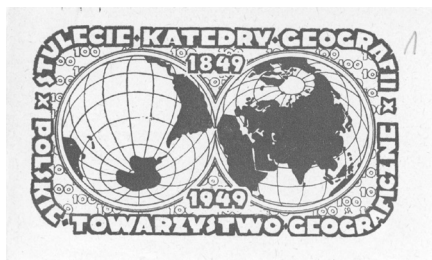


Fig. 27. Polish Geographical Society poster from a special meeting held in Kraków on November 19, 1949. The meeting celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first in Poland Department of Geography (Jagiellonian University).

A number of years went by before the Polish Geographical Society could reshape its identity. One basic problem that persists in Poland even today is the generally low level of awareness of geography. Polish society tends to view geography as a memorization science based on encyclopedic knowledge. Geography is often seen as a laundry list of mountains, rivers, manufacturing data, and population densities. This is by no means an accident. This view persists today

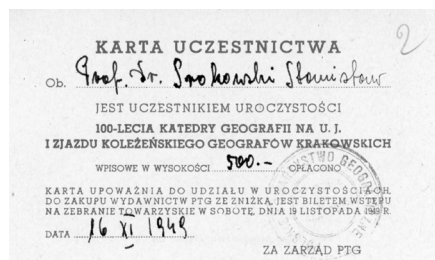


Fig. 28. Event participation card of Stanisław Srokowski.

due to a low level of geography education at schools and universities as well as a relative inability to popularize the discipline. Furthermore, a closer look at other countries reveals that the above mentioned problems are not specific to Poland.

One sign that the field of geography is advancing in Poland is the designation of Poles to high-ranking positions within the International Geographical Union. Three geographers from Poland have served as Vice-Presidents of the Union: Eugeniusz Romer (1945–1954), Stanisław Leszczycki (1964–1968 and 1972–1976), Jerzy Kostrowicki (1976–1984). In addition, Leszek Kosiński served as Secretary General and Treasurer of the Union from 1984 to 1992. The greatest political success for Poland in the field of

geography was the election of S. Leszczycki as President of the International Geographical Union (1968–1972). Leszczycki was the first Polish citizen to serve as President of the Union. All three men were active longtime members of the Polish Geographical Society.

6. In search of a new identity – the 1960s to present

In 1964 the Polish Geographical Society began to create commissions of specialists and scientists in the following areas of the discipline – photo interpretation, hydrography, cartography, applied geography. The number of commissions increased with every year. Some of the commissions began to leave the Society in order to become independent. For example, the Geomorphology Commission was established within the Polish Geographical Society in 1982, but left to form its own Association of Polish Geomorphologists in 1991. Another example is the Landscape Ecology Club established in 1988, which left the Society to form its own Polish Landscape Ecology Association in 1992.

The first postwar research expeditions organized by the Polish Geographical Society took place in the 1960s. These included the yacht (“Śmiały”) expedition to South America in conjunction with fieldwork in Chile (1965–1967, Leader: T. Wilgat) and the expedition to Iceland in order to study the foreland of Skeidarár Glacier (1968, Leader: R. Galon) (Fig. 29–30). The Society also

Fig. 29. Title page of the first major publication on the history of the Polish Geographical Society. The publication's editor-in-chief was Roman Biesiada.

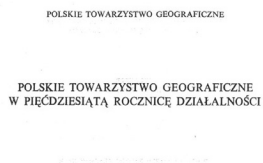


Fig. 30. Bolesław Kowalski, Captain of the yacht “Śmiały”, reports to the Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society, Professor Jerzy Kondracki, following his return to Szczecin from an expedition on October 30, 1966.

organized a number of polar expeditions. Its Polar Club was established in 1974, which was designed to bring together geographers as well as other researchers studying polar regions. The Club became an official branch of the Society in 1985. The founder and first Chairman of the Polar Club was Alfred Jahn. The Club began to publish the "Polar Bulletin" in 1993.

In 1974 the Polish Geographical Society and Poland's Ministry of Education together began to organize Scholastic Geographic Olympiads. In 1991 the Olympiad changed its name to the Geographic and Nautical Olympiad in order to better reflect its content. In 2011 the name was changed once again to the Geographic Olympiad. The founder and longtime Chair of the Olympiad was Anna Dylikowa.

In 1983 the Polish Geographical Society initiated a process designed to integrate the Polish geography community, coordinate research, and provide a forum for the exchange of scientific information. One means of accomplishing these three goals was the concept of the Convention of Polish Geographers. The first such convention was held in Toruń in 1983. Another was held in Łódź (1986) and yet another in Poznań (1989). The conventions were abandoned once Poland made the transition from socialism to capitalism in 1989 mainly due to financial reasons.

In 2006 the Society was designated a commonwealth organization, which is associated with a variety of tax benefits. This designation was largely due to the work of the Society's Chairman Andrzej T. Jankowski.

The Polish Geographical Society introduced a number of new awards after World War II including the Bronze Medal (1963), which is awarded for exceptional work and service in the field of the geography of Poland and other areas of geography (100 recipients to date). Another award created after World War II is the Gold Badge (1967). In 1985 the Society also started a national contest for the best master's thesis in geography.

The highest award offered by the Society is its Honorary Membership (Fig. 31–33, Tab. 1). A total of 132 individuals have received this award

between 1920 and 2013. Sixty three of the honorary members came from outside of Poland (47.7%). Only eight of these awards were given prior to World War II. A total of 23 countries are represented by



Fig. 31. Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society, Professor Jerzy Kondracki, hands an honorary membership certificate to Gustaw Wuttke (Dec. 5, 1963).



Fig. 32. Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society, Professor Jerzy Kondracki, hands an honorary membership certificate to Juliusz Jurczyński from Łódź (Jan. 25, 1965).

the honorary members from abroad. The largest number of foreign honorary members are from Russia and Great Britain (eight each). France and the Czech Republic are next with five awards each. Finally, three awards were given to researchers

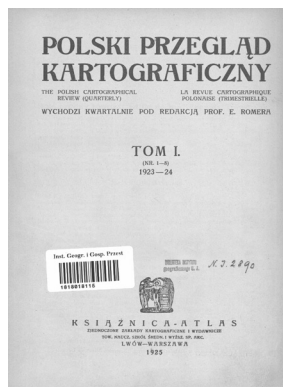


Fig. 33. Honorary membership ceremony for Chauncy Harris of the United States – October 9, 1969. From the right: Janusz Paszyński, Lech Ratajski, Stanisław Leszczycki.

from each of the following countries: Belgium, Sweden, Hungary, United States, Holland.

Today the Polish Geographical Society publishes the following array of periodicals and publishing series (Fig. 34–37): “Geographic Journal”, “Polish Cartographic Review”, “Environmental Remote Sensing” (formerly “Photo Interpretation in Geography”), “Polar Bulletin”, “Papers of the Commission of the Geography of Industry of the Polish Geographical Society”, “Papers of the Commission of the Cultural Landscape”, “Papers of the Commission of the Geography of Transportation”, “Rural Area Studies”, “Entrepreneurship and Education”, “The Research and Travels of Geographers from Kraków”. In addition to periodicals, the Society also publishes or assists in the publication of 15 to 20 books

Fig. 34. In 1923 E. Romer begins to publish the “Polish Cartographic Review.” It is the only publication of this type in the world. The publication ceases to exist in 1934. However, it is revived in 1969 and continues to publish today. The next three editors-in-chief are Franciszek Uhorczak, Jan Rzędowski, and Jerzy Ostrowski. Its publisher is the Cartographic Division of the Polish Geographical Society.



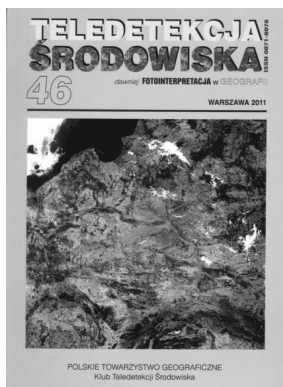


Fig. 35. “Environmental Remote Sensing” is a journal published by the Remote Sensing and Geo-information Division of the Polish Geographical Society. Its Editor-in-Chief is Jan R. Olędzki. The journal is in continuous publication since 1964, although its title prior to the year 2000 is “Photo Interpretation in Geography.”

each year. Finally, the Polish Geographical Society also sponsors about twenty scientific meetings per year, many of which are international in nature.

The Polish Geographical Society is divided into 22 branches – most of which having been established in the 1960s. Each branch pursues

Fig. 36. “Polar Bulletin” is a periodical published by the Polish Geographical Society’s Polar Club since 1993.

its own agenda with excursions in Poland and abroad, geography workshops, geo-ecological workshops abroad, geography contests for school students, and lectures for geography teachers. The Society’s general lectures have always been popular events, with more than 5,000 attendees each year. Special lectures for school students at various levels are also quite popular. A variety of different types of schools

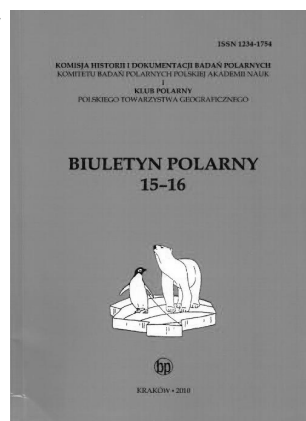
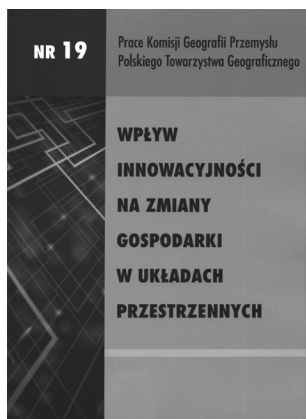


Fig. 37. “Papers of the Commission of the Geography of Industry of the Polish Geographical Society” is a journal in publication since the year 2000. Its publisher is the Commission of the Geography of Industry of the Polish Geographical Society and the Institute of Geography at the Pedagogical University of Kraków. Editors-in-chief: Żbigniew Ziolo, Tomasz Rachwał.



take part in these lectures. The Society also hosts a national convention every two years. Its various commissions also regularly host conferences and smaller meetings (Fig. 38–41).

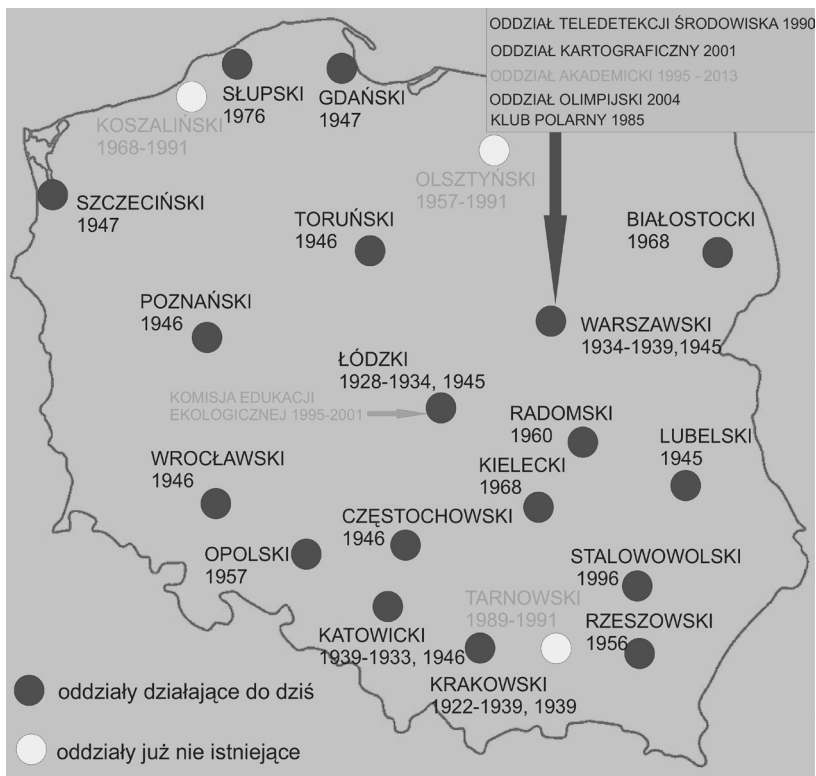


Fig. 38. Branches of the Polish Geographical Society as of December 31, 2013.



Fig. 39. Polish Geographical Society Convention in Sosnowiec in 1987. Trip to the nearby city of Tarnowskie Góry. Professor Jerzy Kondracki in the middle.



Fig. 40. Forty Third Convention of the Polish Geographical Society in Lublin on September 1–4, 1994. Speaker: Józef Wojtanowicz. The Executive Board (left to right): Jan Szupryczyński (Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society), Jerzy Kondracki, Anna Dylkowa, Alfred Jahn, Zbyszko Chojnicki.



Fig. 41. First Cartography Course of the Polish Geographical Society in Karpacz in southwestern Poland (Feb. 15, 1985). Professor Kondracki in the middle.

7. Conclusion

The Polish Geographical Society remains an organization committed to school issues. However, today's school students are increasingly less interested in becoming geography teachers, which means that a different development path is needed. This is further complicated by financial difficulties that make new development paths virtually impossible to plan. It is sincerely hoped that the near future, and especially the two upcoming major events, will help change the direction of the field of geography in Poland for the better.

Poland was selected to host the Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union to be held on August 18–22, 2014. The host city will be Kraków. The selection of Kraków took place in Moscow in 2009 by the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union. Professor Jerzy Bański, Chairman of the Polish Geographical Society at the time, led the effort to select Poland to host the conference. This will be the second major conference organized by the International Geographical Union to be held in Poland. The first conference was held in 1934 or eighty years ago. It will be an excellent opportunity for Polish geographers to present their research and help set the direction of future research in the field of geography. The Polish Geographical Society is one of the main organizers of this event via its role in the Steering Committee managing the organizational process (Fig. 42).

The second major event is planned for 2018 and will focus on the 100th anniversary of the Polish Geographical Society. This event should serve as a major celebration for all Polish geographers. The last 100 years have been

difficult for Poland, but it has also been an era of national rebirth. Polish geographers have always made an effort to make Polish society aware of the social, economic, and cultural role of geography in Poland. Our predecessors



Fig. 42. President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Vladimir Kolossov of Russia, visits Kraków on May 28, 2013. He is accompanied by Executive Secretary Professor Mike Meadows of South Africa. The purpose of the visit is to learn more about Poland's preparations for the Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union awarded to Poland and scheduled for August 18–22, 2014. The conference is to take place in Kraków. From the right: Marek Degórski, Chair of the Steering Committee, Mike Meadows, Vladimir Kolossov, Tomasz Komornicki.

have been an integral part of the last 100 years of the history of Poland and its ebbs and flows. Both history and geography have served as key drivers of patriotic education in Poland. One sad proof of this is the long list of Polish geographers killed during World War II, many of whom actively fought back against German and Soviet aggression. Many paid the ultimate price.

In light of the above, we wish to make the appropriate preparations for the upcoming anniversary. We would like this special anniversary to be celebrated by everyone involved with geography. We hope that this celebration will underscore the immense significance of the field of geography and that of the Polish Geographical Society. Finally, it is our hope that this unique event will help the field of geography revive its status in Polish society.

Attachments:

Executives of the Polish Geographical Society (2012–2016)

Chairman: Antoni Jackowski – antoni.jackowski@wp.pl

Vice-Chairmans:

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Marek Sobczyński – marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl

Marek Więckowski – marekw@twarda.pan.pl

Secretary: Tomasz Wites – t.wites@uw.edu.pl

Assistant Secretary: Monika Wesołowska – monika.wesolowska@umcs.pl

Treasurer: Konrad Czapiewski – konrad@twarda.pan.pl

Assistant Treasurer: Marcin Mazur – m.mazur@twarda.pan.pl

Executive Secretary: Beata Maciejewska – ptg@uw.edu.pl

Branches of the Polish Geographical Society and Leadership

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Geography of Tourism – Bogdan Włodarczyk bowlo@geo.uni.lodz.pl

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Cultural Landscape – Urszula Myga-Piątek urszula.myga-piatek@us.edu.pl

Rural Areas – Marcin Wójcik wojcik.moskwa@gmail.com

Geography of Religion – Antoni Jackowski antoni.jackowski@wp.pl

Political and Historical Geography – Marek Sobczyński
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Tab. 1. Honorary members of the Polish Geographical Society 1920–2013

Year	First and last name
1920	Eugeniusz Romer
1923	Henryk Arctowski Benedykt Dybowski Jovan Cvijić (Serbia)
1925	Václav Švambera (Czechoslovakia)
1929	Julius Shokalsky (USSR)
1932	Władysław Massalski
1935	Karol Bohdanowicz
1946	Charles Arden-Close (Great Britain) Lew S. Berg (USSR) Isaiah Bowman (USA)
1947	Antoni Bolesław Dobrowolski
1950	Stanisław Srokowski
1954	Nikołaj N. Baranski (USSR) Stanislav Kalesnik (USSR) Stanisław Leszczycki
1955	Béla Bulla (Hungary) Julian Czyżewski Innokenty Gerasimov (USSR) Josef Kanský (Czechoslovakia) Konstantin Markov (USSR)
1957	Borivoje Milojević (Yugoslavia) Bolesław Olszewicz

Year	First and last name
1957	František Vításek (Czechoslovakia) August Zierhoffer
1958	Hans Ahlman (Sweden) Konstanty Bzowski Jerzy Loth Władysław Szafer
1962	Anastas Stojanov Beškov (Bulgaria) George Chabot (France) Laurence Dudley Stamp (Great Britain)
1963	Svetozar Ilić (Yugoslavia) Gustaw Wuttke
1964	Jan Pieter Bakker (Holland) Juliusz Jurczyński László Kádár (Hungary)
1965	Jean Dresch (France) Rajmund Galon Mieczysław Klimaszewski
1966	Stanisław Kulczyński
1967	Stanley Henry Beaver (Great Britain) Chauncy D. Harris (USA) Riccardo Riccardi (Italy) Konstantin A. Sališčev (USSR) Omer Tulippe (Belgium)
1970	Walery Goetel Vintilă Mihăilescu (Romania)
1971	Jan Dylik Fridtjov Isachsen (Norway) Paul Macar (Belgium) Stanisław Pietkiewicz
1973	Feliks Różycki
1974	Bogdan Zaborski (Canada) Ion Sandru (Romania)
1975	Maria Dobrowolska Michal Lukniš (Czechoslovakia)
1976	Alfred Jahn Jerzy Kondracki Franciszek Uhorcza Antoni Wrzosek
1977	Maria Kielczewska-Zalewska
1978	Maria Czekańska

Year	First and last name
1978	Lubomir Dinev (Bulgaria)
1979	Stanisław Berezowski
	Kenneth Ch. Edwards (Great Britain)
	Stefan Zbigniew Różycki
1980	Anna Dylikowa
1981	Jerzy Kostrowicki
	Juliusz Mikołajski
	Stanisław Nowakowski
1982	Florian Barciński
	Aniela Chałubińska
	Jan Flis
1983	Kazimierz Dziewoński
	Gunnar Hoppe (Sweden)
	Jadwiga Kobendzina
	Václav Král (Czechoslovakia)
	Stanisław Siedlecki
1984	Jacqueline Beaujeu-Garnier (France)
	Bernard Barbier (France)
1985	Zdzisław Pazdro
1986	Edgar Lehmann (East Germany)
	Ferdinand F. Ormeling (Holland)
	Ludwik Straszewicz
	Åke Sundborg (Sweden)
	Michael Wise (Great Britain)
1987	Vladimir Klemenčič (Slovenia)
	Stefan Kozarski
	Henryk Matuszczak
	Emil Mazur (Czechoslovakia)
	Tadeusz Wilgat
1988	György Enyedi (Hungary)
	Antonio Higuera-Arnal (Spain)
1989	Michał Więckowski
	Zdzisław Batorowicz
	Charles Christians (Belgium)
	Leszek Kosiński (Canada)
	Hans Richter (East Germany)
	Andrej A. Veličko (USSR)
1990	Abram Melezin (USA)
1991	Tadeusz Bartkowski
	Irena Berne

Year	First and last name
1991	Herman Theodor Verstappen (Holland)
1992	Wiliam Basil Morgan (Great Britain)
1993	Suzane Savey (France)
	Ray C. Riley (Great Britain)
1994	Patrick Bailey (Great Britain)
1995	Hans Fischer (Austria)
	Kalevi Rikkinen (Finland)
	Shigheru Yamamoto (Japan)
1996	Bronisław Kortus
1997	Andrzej Richling
1999	Toshio Nohara (Japan)
2000	Hartmut Leser (Switzerland)
	Bogusław Rosa
2001	His Excellency Cardinal Józef Glemp
	Adam Jelonek
2004	Sławomir Mączak
	Przemysław Burchard
2005	Janina Piasecka
2006	Zygmunt Górka
	Wojciech Stankowski
	Jan Szupryczyński
2007	Jerzy Szukalski
2008	Jan Mityk
	Florian Plit
2009	Andrzej Tadeusz Jankowski
	Tadeusz Siwek (Czech Republic)
2010	Józef Wojtanowicz
2011	Zbigniew Ziolo
2013	Krzysztof Birkenmajer

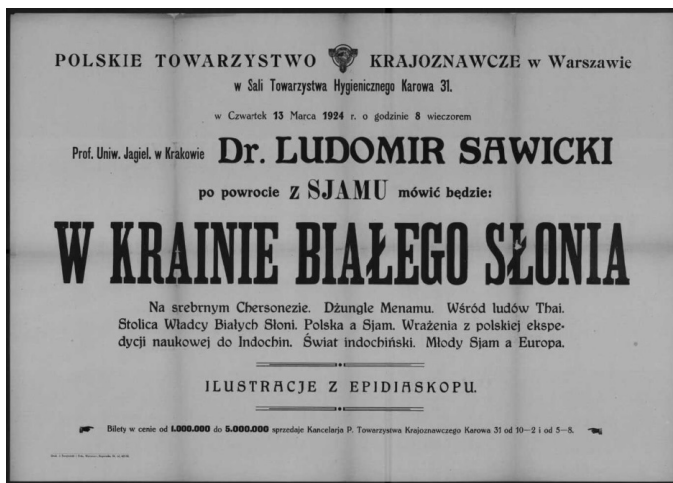


Fig. 43. Poster which was made to inform about lecture of Prof. Ludomir Sawicki on his scientific expedition to Thailand „In the land of white elephant

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