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THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS IN POLAND: EXHIBITION AT THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

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The exhibition entitled "The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland", which opened in Collegium Maius, accompanied the International Geographical Union (IGU) Regional Conference in Krakow (18-22 August 2014). The event is organised by the Jagiellonian University Museum and Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University. Its authors are Prof. Antoni Jackowski, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University, and Museum Curator Dr. Małgorzata Taborska from the Jagiellonian University Museum. The exhibition is the first on this topic in Poland. Previous exhibitions, for example, that accompanying the 14th IGU Congress held in Warsaw in 1934, were dedicated exclusively to achievements in cartography.

The ceremonial opening of the exhibition was attended by several hundred geographers from all over the world. Among the special guests present at the opening there were also descendants of such distinguished Polish geographers as Wincenty Pol (great-grandson Julian Pol and great great-granddaughter Barbara Pol-Jelonek), Stanisław Pawłowski (son Zbigniew), Wiktor Ormicki (son Jacek), Antoni Wrzosek (daughter Justyna), Jan Flis and Józef Szaflarski. The welcome speeches were delivered by Prof. Krzysztof Stopka, Director of the Jagiellonian University Museum, Prof. Piotr Laidler, Vice-Rector of the

Jagiellonian University, Prof. Marek Degórski, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Conference, and Prof. Vladimir Kolossov, President of the International Geographical Union.

Organising the exhibition was not easy and it took three years to prepare. The exhibition features a number of valuable items: old prints, publications, maps, scientific instruments, teaching aids, archival materials. The exhibits come from numerous collections, including those of the Natural Sciences Library, Jagiellonian University, the Cartographic Collection of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University, the Jagiellonian Library, the Jagiellonian University Archive, the National Library, the National Digital Archive, the National Museum in Warsaw, the National Museum in Krakow, the Archive of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU) in Krakow, the Archive of PAN in Warsaw, Central Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University Museum, the Archive of the Polish Geographical Society and other geographical institutions and individuals. Five exhibition rooms on the ground floor of the Collegium Maius depict key developments in the history of Polish geography until 1945. Each room features a panel showing a timeline of the development of Polish geography in the respective period and discussing the major breakthroughs.

Room I introduces the viewer to the overall exhibition by depicting the map as a key tool of a geographer's work. The maps on display, some of them truly unique, are displayed together with a number of instruments, including an actinometer (1876), aspiration psychrometer by Assmann (1895), artificial horizon for hydrographic surveying (19th century) and a mirror stereoscope (1930s). By using the stereoscope, visitors can view an aerial photograph of Tyniec dating back to 1975. In the room, visitors can also see a continuously-looped show entitled "Area of Jaworki near Szczawnica on various cartographic materials – A journey through the history of geography and GIS". The presentation is prepared by Prof. Jacek Kozak, Jagiellonian University together with Dr. Natalia Kolecka and Dominik Kaim.

Room II is devoted to the origins of Polish geography and its development up to the establishment of the Commission of National Education in 1773. Early chronicles describing our land and history are – next to works on astronomy – the first signs of the development of geography in Poland. *Chorographia Regni Poloniae* by Jan Długosz, who lived between the years 1415 and 1480 and was the greatest Polish chronicler of all, is the earliest detailed description of Polish geography. In the Renaissance, knowledge of Polish geography was mainly popularised across Europe by the University of Krakow. The earliest geography lectures were held as early as 1490. Among the lecturers were, amongst other scholars, the authors of the first geography textbooks: Jan of Głogów, Jan of Stobnica, Miechowita. The earliest maps also go back to that time. They are known as *Tabula Sarmatiae* (Krakow 1526-1528) and *Mappa in qua illustrantur ditiones Regni Poloniae ac Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae* (Krakow 1526-1528), both by Bernard Wapowski, who lived between 1450 and 1535). Lecturers used globes as teaching aids some of which are on display, including the famous Jagiellonian Globe (1511), Martin Behaim's terrestrial globe (1492) and Gerardus Mercator's terrestrial globe (1541). The items displayed also include such instruments as the astrolabe owned by Jan Brożek, a Krakow Academy professor (ca. 1370), and a torquetum made for Marcin Bylica (1487). Other showcased items include early textbooks on geography, still known at the time as cosmography. The textbooks were written by Jan of Głogów (1506) and Jan of Stobnica (1512). One highlight is *Tractatus de duabus Sarmatiis* (The Tretease on Two Sarmatias) (1517), a treatise by Maciej of Miechów (Miechowita), rector of the Jagiellonian University, re-elected for several terms of office. The work was the first modern geographical study of the eastern part of Europe and was translated into many languages. Viewers can also admire Marcin

Kromer's work on Poland (1578), the first treatise on meteorology by Andrzej Mirowski (1596), and studies by Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwił (nicknamed the 'Orphan') from his pilgrimage to the Holy Land (1611), by Wojciech Tylkowski about meteorology (1669), by Gabriel Rzączyński about Poland (1721), as well as writings by Karol Wyrwicz, Franciszek Siarczyński, Wawrzyniec Surowiecki, Stanisław Staszic, and Hugo Kołłątaj. This group of exhibits also include *Jeografia, czyli opisanie matematyczne i fizyczne Ziemi* (Geography or Mathematical and Physical Description of the Earth) by Jan Śniadecki (1804), which significantly contributed to the promotion of Polish geography.

There is also a rich collection of maps: by Bernard Wapowski (1526-1528), Andrzej Pograbka (1569), Gerardus Mercator (1578), Wacław Grodecki (1587), Abraham Ortelius (1645), Giovanni Antonio Rizzi-Zannoni (1772) and Stanisław Staszic (1815). The showcased instruments include an astrolabe (ca. 1370), a mechanical armillary sphere (1510-1540), telescopes, barometers (including a water-based barometer purchased by Jan Śniadecki in Paris in 1786), compasses, as well as drawing and measuring tools. The development of geography owes much to the Commission of National Education (1773-1794) and Hugo Kołłątaj. In the first half of the 19th century, the earliest geography journals started to appear: *Dziennik Podróży Lądowych i Morskich* (Diary of Land and Sea Travels, 1827), *Kolumb* (Columbus, 1828-1829) and *Nowy Kolumb* (New Columbus, 1838-1840).

The origins of modern Polish geography are described in Room III. The exhibits shown here span the period between around the mid-19th century and 1918 when Poland regained independence. The three partitions of Poland in the late 18th century and loss of independence highly restrained the freedom of science and education. This also affected geography. Yet, geographical studies and research did not come to a halt. On the contrary, they were quite intensive, largely thanks to the patriotic attitudes of Polish scientists. Geographers treated their work as a mission to get the public acquainted with Polish lands. This facilitated the integration of Poles who were deprived of their homeland and were living in territories divided between three different countries. Geography books gave Poles the only opportunity to learn about Polish lands.

At that time, geography started to consolidate its scholarly foundations and its status as an independent scientific discipline. In the mid-19th century it was recognised as a separate subject for academic studies. Its paramount importance for patriotic education, especially of youth, was also noticed. Geography, in addition to history and Polish language, was one of the educational components that were to prepare the future officials of an independent Poland.

Considering the budding industry found in Polish lands and the expanding transport network, research was initiated on the natural resources of Poland. A large proportion of the studies in this area were applied research. School geography also evolved becoming a key aspect of patriotic education. The political situation and the wiping of Poland off the map of Europe caused education on historical geography to become a central focus.

The development of science, including geography, depended on the policy of the partitioning powers. The situation was the most favourable under Austrian rule where Poles enjoyed a relatively high degree of autonomy. The greatest restrictions could be felt in the Prussian territories. However, this did not prevent geographical studies from being published in the Polish language (e.g. thanks to publishing houses in Poznań and Wrocław). Universities started to establish units specialising in geography. The educational movement of geography students was initiated in the late 19th century (Krakow 1881).

This part of the exhibition begins with the achievements of Wincenty Pol, who opened the first Geography Chair in Poland at the Jagiellonian University. This was the second such university unit in the world (after Berlin, 1820). Wincenty Pol introduced mandatory field trips into the curriculum of geography studies. Yet, his academic activity did not last

long. In 1852, he was relieved of his position by the Austrian authorities for patriotic activity. The Chair was only reactivated in 1877 (Franciszek Czerny-Schwarzenberg). In 1917, it was taken over by Ludomir Sawicki who created the modern Institute of Geography jointly with Jerzy Smoleński. The second Geography Chair was founded in 1883 at Lvov University (Antoni Rehman, later Eugeniusz Romer). Geography was also flourishing in Warsaw (Wacław Nałkowski, Stanisław Lencewicz, Antoni Sujkowski). In the years 1880-1914, the first extensive geographical lexicon entitled *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* (Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic Countries) was published (Sulimierski et al. 1880-1902). Years later, Bolesław Olszewicz referred to the publication as a 'crowning achievement' of all Polish geography writings to date. A bibliographical curiosity displayed in this section is Józef Piłsudski's *Geografia militarna Królestwa Polskiego* (Military Geography of the Kingdom of Poland), published by the author under his pen-name Mieczysławski (1910). The Polish Geographical Society was established in Warsaw towards the end of 1918, while on 1 April the same year, the Geography Department was inaugurated at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Warsaw. In 1910, the Polish Tourist Society started publishing the periodical *Ziemia* (Earth) which rendered great service to the popularisation of Polish geography. In 1918, Eugeniusz Romer published the first issue of the journal *Prace Geograficzne* (Geographical Studies) in Lvov, while at the turn of 1918/1919 the first issue of *Przegląd Geograficzny* (Geographical Review) came out (ed. Ludomir Sawicki).

Poles participated in geographical expeditions organised by various countries in the world, including the partitioning powers. Our countrymen mainly made a name for themselves in the exploration of Siberia and other Asian territories, as well as Australia and Oceania, South America and Antarctica. The exhibition shows publications and maps associated with the activity of Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, Ignacy Domeyko, Antoni Rehman, Stefan Rogoziński, Benedykt Dybowski, Bronisław Grąbczewski.

The period also saw the clear development of cartography. Some examples of the rich output, shown at the exhibition, include the so-called 'quartermaster's map' (1839), maps produced by Stanisław Majerski, atlases by Józef Kolberg (1827), Wacław Nałkowski and Andrzej Świętochowski (1895-1906), and Aleksander B. Maciesza (1907). Eugeniusz Romer's *Geograficzno-statystyczny atlas Polski* (Geographical and Statistical Atlas) was the most important such publication (1916), crucially important for the delimitation of the Polish state border after 1918. Another highlight is the hand-drawn geomorphological map of Poland by Ludomir Sawicki (1913).

The first terrestrial globes with Polish names were made during partition times (1840-1860) by the Abel-Klinger shop in Nuremberg. Soon, new globes were produced, this time in the Czech town of Roztoky near Prague (beginning from 1872), and these were later approved as a teaching aid for schools. Such globes only started to be produced on Polish territory itself, after the end of World War I. This room also features a rich collection of instruments.

The Second Polish Republic (1918-1939) was a boom time for Polish geography (Room IV). Esteemed schools of geography were being formed during this period in such academic cities as Krakow (Ludomir Sawicki, Jerzy Smoleński, Walenty Winid), Lvov (Eugeniusz Romer, Henryk Arctowski), Warsaw (Stanisław Lencewicz, Bogdan Zaborski, Antoni Sujkowski, Stanisław Srokowski), Poznań (Stanisław Pawłowski, Stanisław Nowakowski) and Vilnius (Mieczysław Limanowski, Kazimierz Jantzen). New disciplines were evolving, clearly oriented to the application of geography (e.g. tourism geography). Geographers were playing a crucial role in urban and regional planning. The exhibition featured some seminal works dating back to that period. Apart from universities, scientific institutes also focused their attention on geography, notably the Silesian Institute (Antoni Wrzosek, Stanisław Berezowski), the Baltic Institute (many photographers),

and the Institute for Ethnic Studies (Wiktor Ormicki, Bogdan Zaborski). A separate exhibition panel is dedicated to Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny (the Military Geographical Institute), which was a unique institution. The exhibits in the room include publications associated with the 2nd Convention of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers, held in Poland in 1927, and the 14th Congress of the International Geographical Union (Warsaw 1934).

A number of periodicals came into existence at that time, including *Czasopismo Geograficzne* (Geographical Journal, 1923-1939), *Wiadomości Geograficzne* (Geographical News, 1923-1939), *Polski Przegląd Kartograficzny* (Polish Cartographic Review, 1923-1934), *Wiadomości Służby Geograficznej* (News of the Geographical Service, 1927-1938), *Turyzm Polski* (Polish Tourism, 1938-1939). At the time, the coordination of scientific research was entrusted to the Polish Geographical Society. A crucial role in the promotion of geography was played by two private publishing houses – ORBIS in Krakow, owned by Ludomir Sawicki (taken over by his wife Maria after his death in 1928), and Książnica-Atlas in Lvov, owned by Eugeniusz Romer.

The exhibition in the room ends with geographical works published abroad during World War Two (e.g. by Stanisław Pawłowski, Michał Janiszewski) or in the underground (the *Biblioteka Ziem Zachodnich* series, 1942-1943: Jan Dylik, Maria Czekańska, Antoni Wrzosek). Viewers are touched to see instruments (inclinometer and altemeter dating from the early 20th century) owned by Prof. Jerzy Smoleński who was murdered by the Germans in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in 1940. The room features two drawings by Mieczysław Wątorski from 1956: "The arresting of Jagiellonian University Professors" (November 1939) and "Sachsenhausen".

Given the importance of geography teaching for civic education, separate space (Room V) is dedicated to school geography. The items include works by leading Polish educationalists and methodologists (Stanisława Niemcówna, Michał Mścisz, Maria Czekańska, Wiktor Ormicki), and school textbooks written by distinguished geographers (Jakub Stefan Cezak, Aniela Chałubińska, Michał Janiszewski, Wacław Nałkowski, Stanisław Pawłowski, Maria Polaczkówna, Eugeniusz Romer, Ludomir Sawicki, Jerzy Smoleński). Examples of basic teaching aids are also showcased here. A noteworthy item from 1935 is a handdrawn map produced by Wiktor Ormicki and entitled *Rzeczywisty przyrost ludności w latach 1921-1931. Polskie województwa południowe* (Real population growth in 1921-1931. Polish southern voivodships), which was produced in the Cartographic Studio of the Institute for Ethnic Studies in Warsaw. Finally, visitors may view a presentation entitled "Polish Explorers" which was prepared by Antoni Jackowski and Małgorzata Taborska.

In addition, the part of the exhibition ending in 1945 features 9 outdoor thematic panels displayed in the 'Professors' Garden'. They include:

- Polish Geography before World War II,
- The International Geographical Union,
- The 14th IGU Congress, Warsaw 1934,
- The Polish Geographical Society,
- The Military Geographical Institute,
- Geographers' Science Clubs,
- *Ne Cedat Academia!* No Surrender by Academia! [clandestine teaching, geographers in the underground during World War II],
- And if need be – they will give their lives, one after the other. Like stones thrown by God upon a great rampart! [persecution of geographers during World War II],
- It takes a soldier to understand the misery of marching and fighting without maps [this quote from General Władysław Anders was the motto of the panel illustrating post-war map production in Poland and abroad].

The outdoor panels were prepared by the authors of the exhibition in collaboration with Jacek Kumański and Maciej Kluza from the Jagiellonian University Museum.

The post-1945 period is depicted by 6 panels exhibited in 'Estreicher's Yard'. They present modern geographical institutions in Poland and the creators of the Polish school of thought in physical geography, cartography

and socio-economic geography. The outdoor display is also dedicated to geographical journals and field stations in Poland and the polar regions. The panels were prepared by Elżbieta Bilska-Wodecka, Justyna Liro and Izabela Sołjan of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University.

As part of the exhibition, the organisers also offer museum geography classes for primary, lower- and higher-secondary schools. The subjects include:

- The map as a geographer's working method,
- Weather v. climate,
- Land relief and how to read it on a topographic map,
- History of geography and the geographical sciences.

The classes are taught by doctoral students of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University. They are held in separate Collegium Maius rooms, usually after the students have visited the exhibition.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue (Jackowski & Taborska 2014) entitled *Rozwój myśli geograficznej w Polsce: Katalog wstawy towarzyszącej Konferencji Regionalnej Międzynarodowej Unii Geograficznej Collegium Maius, Kraków 18-22 sierpnia 2014* (The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland. Catalog of the exhibition accompanying the International Geographical Union's Regional Conference, Collegium Maius, Krakow, 18-22 August 2014.

The catalogue contains 'Forewords' by Krzysztof Stopka, Director of the Jagiellonian University Museum and Marek Degórski, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Conference, chapters on the "History of Polish Geography before 1945" (pp. 14-145) by Antoni Jackowski, "Evolution of instruments, apparatus and measurements" (pp. 146-247) by Małgorzata Taborska, A list of exhibits (pp. 255-279), and illustrations of selected items (pp. 281-343). The book comes with a CD containing a "Bibliography of the history of Polish geography (a selection)" by Antoni Jackowski and the panels displayed in the 'Professors' Garden', 'Estreicher's Yard' and exhibition rooms.

The Exhibition, held between 19 August 2014 and 22 January 2015, attracted 10,085 visitors including many foreigners.

Editors' note:
Unless otherwise stated, the sources of tables and figures are the authors' on the basis of their own research.

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Figure 1. Visitors in the yard of the Collegium Maius during the opening night

Figure 2. In front of the Globus Jagellonicus (1511)

Figure 3. In front of Georg von Bauerkeller's relief globe (1843)

Figure 4. Room dedicated to the interwar period

Figure 5. Antoni Jackowski telling Prof. Vladimir Kolossov, President of the International Geographical Union, the history of the arrest of the Jagiellonian University professors, five of whom were geographers, during *Sonderaktion Krakau* (6 November 1939)

Figures 6 and 7. Outdoor panels displayed in the *Professors' Garden* which are an integral part of the exhibition