

POLISH POLAR RESEARCH	15	3-4	101-102	1994
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### Fifteen years of *Polish Polar Research*

In the true crowd of various important anniversaries of 1995 our jubilee is a rather modest one. However, for the society of Polish scientists who have had the opportunity to work in polar regions the 15 years' anniversary of the national journal devoted to the field of their interest seems to be worthy of some commemoration. This preface aims at a short recapitulation of the history and contents of our polar journal.

*Polish Polar Research* was founded in 1980 under the auspices of the Committee on Polar Research, of the Polish Academy of Sciences as an official organ of this Committee and it is still sponsored by the Polish Academy of Sciences. The true godfather of this journal and its first editor-in-chief was Stanisław Rakusa-Suszczewski. Managing editors were at first Jan Igor Rybak (biology) and Krystyna Żakowicz (Earth sciences); beginning from 1982 they were replaced by Krzysztof Jażdżewski (biology) and Aleksander Guterch (Earth sciences), who served as managing editors till 1985. Starting from 1986 an editor-in-chief is Krzysztof Jażdżewski (*Biological Sciences*) and co-editor is Andrzej Gaździcki (*Earth Sciences*). Editorial staff (secretaries, assistant editors) was composed of Hanna Jackowska-Filipowska (1980-1985), Urszula Niewiadomska (1980-82), Anna Plewko-Rzepecka (1982), Cezary Lipert (1984-87), Wojciech Kittel (from 1986), Leszek Marks (from 1987) and Ryszard Ligowski (from 1993).

Editorial advisory board was presided by Krzysztof Birkenmajer until 1986, then by Roman Teisseyre who is now replaced by Maria Olech.

From the very beginning *Polish Polar Research* is prepared and printed by PWN --- Polish Scientific Publishers, Warszawa, Poland.

Due to various problems, mostly financial ones, the regularity of the journal, that is in principle a quarterly, leaves much to be desired. Comparatively often we had to do with combined issues (1-2, 2-3 or 3-4), and in one case, because of the martial law complications, all yearly issues were combined (Vol. 4, 1983). Nevertheless it seems that the journal has already invigorated and has even got some international recognition. This we can judge from the increasing number of foreign authors who are sending their manuscripts to editors. In forty hitherto published issues, along with 309 Polish names

we have had as authors and co-authors 32 foreign polar scientists from Argentina (10), Belgium (1), Brazil (1), Czechoslovakia (1), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), France (1), Germany (3), Norway (1), Russia (4), Spain (3), Sweden (1), United Kingdom (2) and USA (2).

Polish polar scientific activity was and is concentrated in the regions where two national active stations are built, *i.e.* King George Island with its major bay — Admiralty Bay (South Shetland Islands, Antarctic), and southern Spitsbergen (Arctic), where *H. Arctowski* and *Hornsund* stations are situated, respectively. Major Polish polar marine expeditions worked in the western Antarctic (Scotia Sea, Bransfield Strait, Drake Passage, northern Weddell Sea) or in the North Sea. Obviously the papers presenting the research carried out in these very regions definitely dominate all the papers published in *Polish Polar Research*.

Except of several first issues where biological and Earth sciences papers were put together in principle we use to separate these two wide fields of research editing more exactly oriented issues alternately with the responsibility taken by turn by the editor and co-editor. However it is not an obligatory division and for instance the issues with expedition results or issues dedicated to eminent scientists include intentionally both Earth sciences and biological publications.

Altogether in forty hitherto edited issues there were published 114 papers in the field of zoology, 47 papers in the field of botany, 24 papers concerning physiology and biochemistry of plants or animals and 6 papers were devoted to bacteria; paleobiology was represented by 24 papers, glaciology — by 14 papers, climatology — by 29 papers, geophysics — by 31 papers and in the field of geology 39 papers were published. In 78 papers the physico-chemical properties of the environment were discussed, both of land and of marine ecosystems. Finally 71 publications can be classified as *varia*, that include expedition reports, chronicle, obituaries and book reviews. Altogether 477 papers were hitherto published. Their full index and the index of all authors are presented at the end of this very issue.

The editors are taking an opportunity of this summary of *Polish Polar Research* activity to express their thanks to all people who have ever helped in supporting the life of this journal for 15 years.

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