

POLISH POLAR RESEARCH	9	4	419—420	1988
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30 years of Polish scientific research in Antarctica

Thirty years have passed since the first Polish Antarctic Expedition landed at Bunger Hills, East Antarctica, to open the *Antoni B. Dobrowolski* Station (66°17'S — 100°45'E), named after a Polish scientist — member of the famous Belgian de Gerlache Expedition in *Belgica* to West Antarctica, 1897—1899. On January 21, 1959, the Polish flag was hoisted by the Polish expedition's leader W. Krzemiński at the site of the previous Soviet Station *Oazis* handed over to Poland on an agreement between the Polish and the Soviet Academies of Sciences. The expedition, organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences had, as its aim, gravimetric, Earth-magnetic, geomorphological and glaciological studies, and CO₂-measurements in the air. The preliminary investigations completed in two weeks, the expedition returned via the Soviet Station *Mirnyy* to Poland on board the Soviet ship M/S *M. Kalinin*.

Despite such good beginnings, regular scientific research at the *A. B. Dobrowolski* Station was not resumed until the Austral Summer of 1978—1979 when W. Krzemiński had organized the second expedition to Bunger Hills. The expedition, also sponsored by the Polish Academy of Sciences, sailed on board the Polish ship M/S *Zawichost* to *Mirnyy* from where it flew by Polish helicopters to Bunger Hills. After completing a variety of studies in geophysics, geodesy, glaciology and Quaternary geology, and meteorology, the expedition flew back to *Mirnyy* from where it sailed home on board the Polish ship M/S *Antoni Garmuszewski*.

At present, the *A. B. Dobrowolski* Station is temporarily closed, and the main Polish scientific activities in Antarctica are centred in the Antarctic Peninsula sector where a new permanent station was opened on 26 February 1977 at Admiralty Bay (62°09'S — 58°28'W), King George Island, South Shetland Islands. This station was named after a Polish scientist Henryk Arctowski — scientific leader of the Belgian de Gerlache Expedition to West Antarctica, 1897—1899. The *H. Arctowski* Station is now the site of continuous

biological, oceanographic and Earth-sciences research on a yearly basis. Moreover, marine-biological Antarctic expeditions organized by the Marine Fisheries Institute (Gdynia) and the Institute of Ecology of the Polish Academy of Sciences since 1974 (since 1980 within the *BIOMASS* programme), and geodynamic expeditions to West Antarctica organized by the Institute of Geophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences since 1979, significantly contribute to scientific knowledge of Antarctica, particularly in the fields of oceanobiology, solid Earth geophysics, geology and palaeontology.

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