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Xth Polar Symposium (Toruń, 19—21 May, 1983)

1. Communiqué

Since 1974 annual polar symposia have been held in Poland, where the results of investigations carried out in the Arctic and the Antarctic are presented. A good custom has emerged in that the organization of symposia has been granted in succession to different scientific centres.

The Xth Polar Symposium was held in Toruń on 19—21 May, 1983. It was organized by the research workers of the Institute of Geography, Nicholas Copernicus University, members of the Polar Club. On the occasion of the 750th anniversary of Toruń which fell that year, the Symposium was integrated within the municipal jubilee ceremonies.

More than 200 persons took part in the Xth Polar Symposium, including 6 foreign guests: Prof. Dr. T. Gjelsvik, Director of the Norwegian Polar Institute, Prof. Dr. S. Siedlecki and Dr. T. Larsen (Norway), Dr L. Hacquebord (the Netherlands), Dr. G.D. Smith and Dr. T. Austin (Great Britain). The ample programme of the Symposium essentially included two parts: scientific and organizational.

Within the scientific part, papers were delivered at plenary sessions and in 3 sections of: a) geology, lithology and geomorphology, b) meteorology, hydrology and oceanology, and c) biology. In the Sections, 38 lectures were delivered, to present the results of investigations carried out in the Antarctic (mainly in the area of the South Shetlands) and in the Arctic, on Spitsbergen. At plenary sessions there were 15 papers with more general character and 8 papers presenting the achievements, state and prospects of polar research in particular scientific institutes. On the national scale, these problems were discussed by the Chairman of the Committee on Polar Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dr. A. Jahn, in his lecture "Polish polar matters". In his paper "Past and Present Norwegian Polar Research", Prof. Dr. T. Gjelsvik referred to the former lecture, indicating the possibility of cooperation between Norway and Poland in the scope of geographic and biological investigations on Spitsbergen.

At the Symposium, much time and attention was devoted to organizational matters. In 1982, it was 50 years since the first Polish polar expedition to the Bear Island had been organized. Over the past half-century, the Polish activity developed permanently in the two polar zones. It follows from the chronology elaborated by Dr. A. Olszewski and Dr. K. Marciniak that between 1970 and 1981 90 expeditions were organized, of which 75 went to the Arctic and 15 to the Antarctic. Scientific expeditions dominated (63), whereas the other were sailing and mountaineering trips (27). A particular development of the Polish polar activity came when the Polish Academy of Sciences set up permanent polar stations: H. Arctowski Station at King George in the Antarctic (1977) and at Hornsund on Spitsbergen (1978). In addition the Polish Academy of Sciences has at its disposal the A. B. Dobrowolski Station at Bunger Oasis on the Antarctic continent. On Spitsbergen in the Arctic there are also seasonal stations of Wrocław University (S. Baranowski Station), of Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń and of Silesian University.

In view of the dynamic development of Polish polar activity, the previous organizational framework of the Polar Club, with its almost 500 members, appeared to be insufficient. The whole of organizational problems was discussed at the Symposium, at the General Assembly of the Polar Club, where the acting Chairman of the Club, Prof. Dr. R. W. Schramm, delivered the introductory lecture "The organizational problems of the Polish polar community". After a long discussion the General Assembly passed a motion obligating the Executive Board of the Club to consider the question of transforming the Polar Club, active at the Polish Geographic Society into an independent scientific society called Polish Polar Society and to localize its seat in Toruń. The General Assembly also discussed the principles of its statute, and the preparation of its final version was assigned to the Statutory Committee headed by Prof. Dr. J. Szupryczyński.

At the meeting of the General Assembly, the necessary organizational activities were carried out. The acting Chairman, Prof. Dr. R. W. Schramm was nominated Chairman of the Club, while Dr. D. Bogucki and Dr. G. Wójcik were elected Vice-chairmen. At the meeting of the Executive Board of the Club on 23 November, 1981, in Szczecin, Prof. Dr. R. W. Schramm had taken over the duties of the Chairman of the Club from the founder, and at the same time the first and till then the only, Chairman of the Polar Club, Prof. Dr. A. Jahn, who had been granted the responsible function of the Chairman of the Committee on Polar Research.

The Symposium included a short session in memory of the polar explorers who died in 1970—1983. The profiles of Stanisław Baranowski (25.03. 1935—27.08. 1978), Włodzimierz Puchalski (6.03 1909—19.01. 1979),

Wojciech Krzemiński (22.06. 1926—9.04. 1981), Aleksander Kosiba (18.01. 1901—18.09. 1981), Bogdan Rudzki (27.05. 1934—3.09. 1982) and the Icelandic polar researcher Sigurdur Thorarinsson (8.01. 1912—8.02. 1983), who had contacts with Polish polar workers and visited Poland in 1976, were presented.

Within the Symposium, 4 films on polar subjects, made by R. Wyrzykowski and 3 films by Prof. Dr.S. Siedlecki were shown. 4 exhibitions were also organized to present the achievements of Polish polar research in scientific publications, photograms and stamp documentation.

A pleasurable moment of the Symposium was the already traditional social meeting of the polar researchers and the performance of the Chamber Choir of Nicholas Copernicus University in the historic Burgher Hall at Toruń's Town Hall.

The organization of the XIth Polar Symposium was granted, following their wish, to the Poznań centre of polar researchers.

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2. Резюме

От 1974 года в Польше ежегодно происходят полярные симпозиумы, во время которых обсуждаются результаты исследований, проводимых в Арктике и Антарктике. X-тый Полярный симпозиум проходил в Торуне в мае 1983 года, а его организаторами были научные работники Института географии Университета Миколая Коперника, которые являются членами Полярного Клуба. В Симпозиуме принимало участие свыше 200 человек, включая 6 гостей из заграницы. Программа симпозиума состояла из двух частей: научной и организационной. В научной части на пленарных сессиях были представлены рефераты в трех секциях: а) геологии, литологии и геоморфологии, б) метеорологии, гидрологии и океанологии и в) биологии. В секциях было представлено 38 рефератов на тему результатов исследований в Антарктике и Арктике, на пленарных сессиях — 15 рефератов на более общие темы и в 8 рефератов на тему достижений, состояния и перспектив полярных исследований отдельных научных институтов.

3. Streszczenie

Od 1974 roku corocznie odbywają się w Polsce sympozja polarne na których przedstawiane są wyniki badań prowadzonych w Arktyce i w Antarktyce. X-te Sympozjum Polarne odbyło się w Toruniu w maju 1983 roku a jego organizatorami byli pracownicy naukowci Instytutu Geografii Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika będący członkami Klubu Polarnego. W Sympozjum udział wzięło ponad 200 osób w tym 6-ciu gości zagranicznych. Program Sympozjum składał się z części naukowej i organizacyjnej. W części naukowej wygłoszono referaty na sesjach plenarnych i w 3 sekcjach: a) geologii, litologii i geomorfologii, b) meteorologii, hydrologii i oceanologii oraz c) biologii. W sekcjach wygłoszono 38 referatów

prezentujących wyniki badań przeprowadzonych w Antarktyce i w Arktyce. Na sesjach plenarnych wysłuchano 15 referatów o charakterze ogólniejszym oraz 8 referatów przedstawiających osiągnięcia, stan i perspektywy badań polarnych w poszczególnych instytutach naukowych.

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