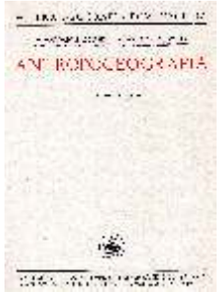
In the 19th century, Wincenty Pol introduced compulsory field trips for students into the curriculum. Geography and methodology books stressed the need for field studies in teaching geography.



Polish publications in the 19th century included lexicons, magazines, travel accounts and Polish teaching books. Geographical encyclopaedias were also published, e.g. by the Warsaw-based Trzaska, Everet & Michalski publishing house.

Two privately owned publishing houses, Ludomir Sawicki's ORBIS in Kraków and Eugeniusz Romer's Książnica Atlas in Lviv played an important role in the development of geography. Next to research centres and institutes, e.g. the Baltic Institute dealt with geography issues.

WYDAWNICTWO
KSIĄŻNICA - ATLAS

The exhibition consists of three parts. The main exhibition may be seen at temporary exhibition rooms of the Collegium Maius

Monday - Saturday 10-15
Wensday, Sunday - closed

Panels in the Professors' Garden display geography in the period 1918-1939 and the Second World War.

The Estreicher's Corner displays information from the post-war period in various geography centres throughout Poland and field stations.

Jagiellonian University Museum
Collegium Maius
15, Jagiellonska str.
Krakow
phone 48 12 663 13 07
colegiummaius.info@uj.edu.pl

ADMISSION FREE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS IN POLAND

19th August - 7th December 2014
Collegium Maius

Exhibition accompanying the International Geographical Union's Regional Conference
"Changes Challenges Responsibility"
Kraków from 18th until to 22th August 2014

Prints, maps and scientific instruments displayed in the five rooms of the Collegium Maius illustrate breakthrough moments in the history of the Polish geographical thought until 1945. The importance of maps as instruments of the geographer's work was also highlighted.

The beginnings of geography in Poland included, next to astronomy, first descriptions of the country in the chronicles.

The early period of geography as a science includes astronomical measurements done using wooden instruments such as Nicolas Copernicus's triquetrum.

Only few research instruments have survived. Among unique exhibits there is the brass torquetum from a sate of three instruments owned by Marcin Bylica.

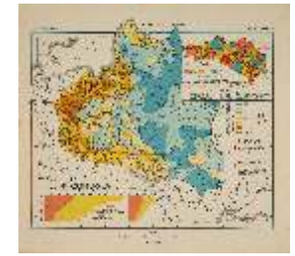
In the 17th century physiographic descriptions of Polish lands began to be made, as well as engraved maps. In the 18th century the development of measuring methods enabled overall description of the country and more detailed maps. Such descriptions were needed for administrative and military purposes and for the country's promotion.

Thanks to the reform of science and education under the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski, the methods of research began to be organised. The activity of the Commission of National Education was intended to develop physical and mathematical geography, as well as physical and natural geography.

In 1849, Poland's first (and the world's second) Chair of Geography was set up at the Jagiellonian University under Wincenty Pol. Gradually, geography became more and more consistent as an academic discipline.

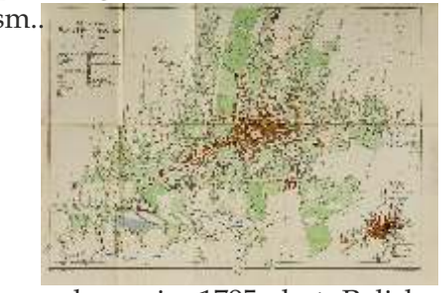
The reaction to the partitioning of Poland by three occupying powers in 1795 was the Poles' struggle to keep up the nation's unity. Work on gaining more extensive knowledge and detailed description of the country began.

Learned societies and scientific magazines were elements of importance for the 19th-century world of science.



In 1916 the Lviv-based geographer Eugeniusz Romer published the Geographical and Statistical Atlas, showing Poland before the partitions. The atlas was used in delineating Poland's borders after 1918.

When Poland regained its independence (1918), intensive topographic and cartographic workbegan to unify maps published in three partitioned parts of the country. Physical geography, anthropogeography and applied disciplines developed, such with regional planning and geography of tourism..



Poland lost its independence in 1795, but Polish-language atlases and maps were still published. The first globe with the Polish-language map was made in Nuremberg in the mid-19th century (by Abel-Klinger company), the next in Prague (by Jan Felkel). In the times of the partitions of Poland, firms manufacturing scientific instruments were also active. They were particularly numerous in the Polish Kingdom. Gustaw Gerlach supplied the Tsar Army and Russian land surveyors with measuring instruments for road and rail construction.

In 1921, apart from Gerlach, the excellent Polish Optical Plant also operated, still popular in the period of the Polish People's Republic.