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## FOREWORD

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Polskie Towarzystwo Mineralogiczne

In spite of the many hundred years old mining traditions on the Polish territory, the stormy and eventful political history of Poland in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and at the beginning of the twentieth centuries hindered the organization of research centres for carrying out investigations of rocks and minerals. For several centuries Poland had held an eminent place in the European production of iron, copper, zinc and lead ores, rock-salt, marbles, and other mineral raw materials. When Poland lost its independence at the close of the eighteenth century, some Polish mineralogists had to take refuge in other countries of Europe and sometimes even on the other continents, like, for instance, Ignacy Domeyko (1802—1889) in South America. Similarly, out of their country worked for several years Józef Morozewicz (1872—1945), Stefan Kreutz (1883—1941), Zygmunt Rozen (1874—1936), Stanisław Thugutt (1862—1956), Zygmunt Weyberg (1872—1945), and others. Relative political tolerance under Austrian administration permitted the establishment in 1852 of the first Polish independent mineralogical laboratory at the Jagellonian University in Kraków, the head of which was Ludwik Zejszner. This unit began flourishing under the administration and scientific supervision of Józef Morozewicz (from 1906) and then Stefan Kreutz (from 1920) when Poland regained its independence. During the inter-war period other centres carrying mineralogical research works were set up at various universities and in the National Geological In-



stitute in Warsaw. At the suggestion of Stanisław Thuggutt, the periodical *Archiwum Mineralogiczne* began being edited in 1925. The Second World War brought about the demolition of all these centres and their libraries and the decimation of the staff of mineralogists.

After the Second World War mineralogical sciences in Poland were reviving rapidly owing to the own efforts and assistance from abroad. This assistance in training young mineralogists as well as in equipping the laboratories and making additions to the libraries will always be gratefully remembered in our country. At the initial stage the scientific life of the mineralogists was developing within the organizational framework of geological sciences, and the papers and works on mineralogy appeared largely in various geological periodicals, like *Rocznik Polskiego Towarzystwa Geologicznego*, *Biuletyn Instytutu Geologicznego*, *Kwartalnik Geologiczny*, *Wiadomości Muzeum Ziemi*, *Bulletin de la Société Polonaise des Sciences*, scientific publications of individual universities, and the like. It was only in 1962 that the idea of setting up a separate organization of Polish mineralogists, the Mineralogical Society of Poland, arose. Over a hundred mineralogists from scientific institutions and industrial works acceded to the society. Yet the initiative was not then crowned with success. However, in 1964 there came into being the Commission of Mineralogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch in Kraków, the presidency of which was taken by Andrzej Bolewski. The Commission rallied mineralogists from the southern regions of Poland by organizing scientific sessions. The abstracts of the papers and reports presented at the sessions are printed in Polish in the semi-annual publication *Reports from the Sessions of Scientific Commission, Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch in Kraków*. Manifold activities of the Commission included the propagation of the newest methods of investigating rocks and minerals, the research works in the nature of physiography, and close cooperation with the industrial

works that were interested in the results of mineralogical researches. In addition, the cooperation with all the mineralogists in Poland was tightened and several contacts with abroad were consolidated. In 1964 the Commission began also publishing its own periodical, *Prace Mineralogiczne*, twenty-four numbers of which have appeared up to 1970.

On March 3, 1967 a conference of Polish mineralogists was held in the underground workings of the ancient salt mine at Wieliczka near Kraków, at which the motion was carried to resume the efforts to establish the Mineralogical Society of Poland. This time the matter was settled favourably. The Society began its activities on April 17, 1969, and the works connected with the edition of its own periodical, *Mineralogia Polonica*, were started in 1970.

The object of the Mineralogical Society of Poland is to follow and join in the world achievements in the field of mineralogical sciences and, at the same time, to serve the country in the development of science and learning, economy, and culture. Its task is to organize the scientific life of Polish mineralogists in close cooperation with the research centres and industrial works that are interested in the development of mineralogical sciences.

We strongly hope that the work of the Mineralogical Society of Poland will contribute to the peaceful cooperation of mineralogists all over the world, and the periodical *Mineralogia Polonica* will prove useful both to the Polish and foreign mineralogists. We apply to all of them with a request for cooperation.