THE PEOPLE OF GEOGRAPHIA POLONICA, 1964-2013

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Abstract
The article described the activities and the effects of successive editorial offices of Geographia Polonica from its foundation in 1964 to the present. The topics of the contents of the periodical were analyzed and information compiled on the structure and the qualitative characteristics of the published materials, including an analysis of the geographic origins of the authors. Information regarding the editors and the editorial bodies were collected and the editorial-publishing changes were analyzed. Finally, the challenges to be faced by the editorial office in the coming years, connected with the periodical’s profile and its influence, were identified.

Keywords
geographical journals • Geographia Polonica • history of Polish geography • development of geography • international collaboration • editor-in-chief

Introduction: socio-political background

The start of the activity of Geographia Polonica is connected with the reconstruction and transformation of Polish geography after World War II. The journal was established in particular conditions connected with the functioning of geography, as well as all of Polish science, in the conditions of the communist system. This makes the international

1 More information on this topic can be found in the Geographia Polonica: A window onto the world. An interview with Professor Leszek Antoni Kosinski, Geographia Polonica, 87, 2, pp. 277-294, in which the creation of the journal was described in the context of the sociopolitical situation and academic international collaboration at that time.

VARIA: 50 YEARS OF GEOGRAPHIA POLONICA
success of the journal, which contributed to the introduction of Polish geography into global circulation, even more significant. To be more precise, this was not introduction as much as restoration of the position, which was very strong before World War II, as demonstrated in particular by the organization of the 14th Congress of the International Geographical Union in 1934.

The establishment of *Geographia Polonica* was closely associated with the scientific policy and activities of Professor Stanisław Leszczycki (1907-1996) who was the leading organizer of Poland’s post-war geography; among other things; for many years he was the director of the Institute of Geography of the PAS (after 1974, the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the PAS). At the same time, he was a well-known public activist whose activities reached far beyond geography. He was active not only in science (as a co-organizer of the Polish Academy of Sciences) but also was, among other things, a member of the Polish parliament and a vice-minister of foreign affairs. This increased his freedom of action, but also ‘protected’ Polish geography. This was very important for socioeconomic geography, because the social sciences were strongly influenced by politics and subordinated to Marxist ideology at that time. However, despite verbal declarations concerning the need for the conceptual-theoretical and methodological development of geography based on dialectical materialism, which were formulated by S. Leszczycki (1951), Polish socio-economic geography was very strongly inspired by ‘traditional’ Western geography and, from a certain moment onward, it participated in the formation of this field. This was possible at first thanks to international seminars organized together with Western countries (mostly the United States and the United Kingdom) and the contacts that were then established and subsequently consistently maintained. Participation in international congresses, in particular congresses of the International Geographic Union (IGU) was very important. What contributed to the development of contacts was foreign trips by Polish geographers (to include, among others, the visit by S. Leszczycki to the United States in 1962), as well as visits of ‘Western’ geographers to Poland. The role of Polish geography was manifested in the election of Professor Leszczycki to the post of President of the IGU (1968-1972), as well as the activities of other Poles in the international arena (J. Kostrowicki, K. Dziewoński, R. Galon, M. Klimaszewski, and others).

The history of *Geographia Polonica*

Discussions about the need to establish a Polish journal in a foreign language that could reach ‘Western’ readers took place as early as the late 1950s. The oldest formal trace that has been preserved is connected with the meetings of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Geography PAS. During its session on 9 April 1962, the Board established a special Committee, the members of which were Jerzy Kostrowicki, Stanisław Leszczycki, and Jerzy Kondracki. Its role was to submit a formal and documented application to the authorities of the Polish Academy of Sciences to issue a permit to establish a new geographical publication intended for the international audience. After the formalities were fulfilled, the Scientific Council of the IG PAS, during its meeting on 31 May 1963, established the Editorial Committee of *Geographia Polonica* with the following members:

- Editor-in-chief: Stanisław Leszczycki,
- Members of the editorial office: Jerzy Kondracki and Jerzy Kostrowicki,
- Secretary of the editorial office: Leszek Kosiński.

Initially, the journal published the results of bilateral seminars, Polish-British and others, and information related to Polish geography, as broadly defined. Perforce, the first volumes were general in nature, and only later did they focus on specific matters. In the latter case, persons with recognized achievements in a specific field were invited...
to write articles for publication. Particular care was taken to ensure that the volumes of *Geographia Polonica* were well-published in time for the congresses of the International Geographical Union. It was the congresses where dissemination of Polish geographical achievements with the greatest potential impact took place.

The first editor-in-chief, Stanisław Leszczycki was also the person who held this position the longest (1963-1981, 1983) and who made the greatest contribution to the development of the journal. He collaborated with the journal for 33 years, with the peak of his activities being in the 1960s and 1970s. At that time, Polish geography developed rapidly, also internationally, with a significant contribution of *Geographia Polonica*. Thanks to Leszczycki’s work, after only a few years of publication, *Geographia Polonica* was a recognized international journal whose influence continued to grow. In the 1970s, its position was solid and it was perceived as one of the most important geographical journals in the world. Its importance is demonstrated by the names of authors who published in the journal (to include Bryan J.L. Berry, David Harvey, and Masahisa Fujita), but also citation reports. In his memoirs (Leszczynski 1991), Leszczycki mentioned that in the international Bibliography of Geographical Publications, issued at the Chicago University by Chauncy Harris, *Geographia Polonica* was listed in a high position in the global readership listings (e.g. Harris 1980). According to some criteria, it even occupied the first place in the citation rankings.

The second editor-in-chief was, for a brief period, Jerzy Kostrowicki (1982, 1984-1985) who continued the work of Leszczynski by publishing four volumes issued for events that were important to geographers, to include the 25th Congress of the International Geographical Union in Paris in 1984. The first of these volumes (vol. 48 according to the continuous numbering system), edited by J. Kostrowicki, was issued in 1982, and three subsequent volumes dated 1983 (vol. 45-47), edited by S. Leszczynski. This delay was most likely due to the situation resulting from the imposition of martial law in Poland (1981), as well as the socioeconomic crisis and the reduction in the pace of all types
of activities. Even though Kostrowicki was the editor-in-chief only for a short time, he was the longest active member of the editorial office, as he collaborated with the journal for 35 years (1964-1998).

**Piotr Korcelli (1986-2000)** was the editor-in-chief in a very difficult period for Polish science after the fall of Communism and during the period of socioeconomic transformation. The changes that took place at that time resulted in a crisis of the public sector and the resulting underinvestment in science. Expenditures on science (which were inadequate even in the late 1980s) dropped dramatically. This most affected, among other areas, scholarly journals, which were the first institutions where savings were achieved. Probably for this reason there were two one-year breaks in the publication of the journal, in the years 1987 and 1991. At the end of his term in office, P. Korcelli was able to bring about the establishment of an International Advisory Board consisting of 13 members, to include 9 from foreign academic centres (John S. Adams – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA; Paul Claval – University of Paris IV, France; Berardo Cori – University of Pisa, Italy; Vernon G. Meentemeyer – University of Georgia, Athens, USA; Kenneth J. Gregory – University of London, UK; Olof Wärneryd – Lund University, Sweden; Michael Wegener – University of Dortmund, Germany; Masatoshi Yoshino – University of Tsukuba, Japan). An important measure undertaken was the transformation of the journal into a regular periodical, which, since 1999, has been issued twice a year. After fourteen years as editor-in-chief, Korcelli handed over his duties to another person. Two years later, he resigned from work in the editorial office, thus ending his 34-year collaboration with the journal. He was the person with the second longest tenure as an editor of the journal.

The first decade of 21st century **Ewa Nowosielska (2001-2007)** became the editor-in-chief of the journal. At the same time, a third governing body, the Editorial Board, was created; it was an advisory body whose members were Polish scientists from Krakow, Warsaw, Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, and Gdańsk. The new editor-in-chief also introduced new sections, such as Book Review and Research Notes. This is why the table of contents was divided into Articles and other types of texts.

After E. Nowosielska retired in 2008, **Marek Degórski (2007-2011)** became the new editor-in-chief. One of the new objectives of the new editor-in-chief was to achieve regular publication of the journal, which was a problem at that time. Subject-specific editors were introduced in the field of physical geography (Jerzy Solon) and human geography (Tomasz Komornicki), which significantly improved the publishing process. At the same time, in 2010, thanks to the help of employees of the Central Geography and Environmental Protection Library, all the volumes that had been issued were digitized and made available, free of charge, on the Internet in the RCIN repository. Due to other duties, most importantly that of his new position as Director of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the PAS, Degórski was replaced as the editor-in-chief by **Marek Więckowski (2012)**, who still holds this post. At the same time, almost all editors of the journal changed. The most important change is the transformation of the journal into a quarterly, which was quite a challenge but also a necessary step toward the achievement of one of the main objectives of the current editorial office, namely to improve the ranking of the periodical in order for it to be included on the so-called Philadelphia list. An important achievement was winning a designated grant from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in the framework of the ‘Index Plus’ programme (as the only geographic journal in Poland). This allowed completely new graphics to be designed, including a new cover, and the creation of an entirely new website for the journal. As for the essence of the periodical, new topical sections were introduced, such as Poland on Maps (the most interesting cartographic materials presenting different geographic
**Evolution of the contents and the subjects of articles**

In the years 1964-2013, 86 volumes were published in fact in 106 issues (Tab. 2). A compilation is provided in the appendix. Over these five decades, the journal experienced a yearly break without publication in only three years (1971, 1987, and 1991). Most issues (71) had a subtitle which appeared on the first or third page of the cover and referred to the subject matter of the issue or the occasion on which the issue was published.

The largest number of issues contained articles published as a result of academic meetings. Also, over ten additional issues, despite their lack of titles, also were published in such circumstances, which was described in their forewords. In this way, volumes were published resulting from seminars of Polish scientists with their colleagues from Austria (issue no. 59), Sweden (no. 55), Hungary (no. 41), East Germany (no. 30), the Soviet Union (no. 27, 35, and 37), France (12, 29, and 49), and United Kingdom – the latter occupying the largest number of volumes – 7 (issues no. 3, 18, 24, 25, 34, 51, and 56). The bilateral seminars with English scientists were initiated by A. Kukliński (an employee of the IGSO PAS and then of Warsaw University) and focused on predefined topics. One volume (44) was the result of three bilateral seminars (with East German, Soviet, and Czech scientists) held in 1977. However, the largest number of volumes, as many as 17, was published on the occasion of successive World Congresses of the IGU and works of its various committees (no. 2, 4, 8, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 33/1, 33/2, 39, 40, 43, 47, 50, 60, and 69). The results of other non-cyclical conferences and congresses were published in 9 other issues (no. 6, 9, 10, 17, 38, 48, 58, 61, and 64).

**Table 2. Geographia Polonica numbers, 1964-2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18,840</td>
<td>Number of pages published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,458</td>
<td>Number of all referenced titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>Number of scientific articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1195</td>
<td>Number of authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401</td>
<td>Average number of pages per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>Number of co-authored scientific articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169</td>
<td>Number of referenced titles in French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Number of separate issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Number of volumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Largest number of articles in a single year (1964)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Largest number of pages in a single article*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Number of authors’ countries of origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>Average number of scientific articles per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>Average number of pages per scientific article</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The remaining issues, which are provided with titles, are dedicated to specific issues; there are 29 of them (no. 5, 10, 26, 32, 42, 46, 53, 54, 57, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72/2, 73/2, 75/2, 76/1, 76/2, 77/1, 78/1, 78/2, 79/1, 80/2, 81/1, 84/ Special 1, and 84/Special 2), including a very interesting volume resulting from the Polish Geographical Expedition to the Vatnajökull volcano in Iceland. Of note is also the only topic-specific series published in the journal, namely the series of 8 volumes...
of Global Change: Polish Perspectives, edited by Leszek Starkel. The papers published in the volumes were written in the framework of the Polish National Committee IGBP<sup>2</sup> – Global Change and were intended to present Polish scientific achievements in this area.

Over ten volumes were dedicated to the following persons: Sir Lawrence Dudley Stamp (vol. 19 in 1970), Stanisław Leszczynski (36/1977), Jerzy Kostrowicki (57/1989), Adam Katarba (81/2008), Alicja Breymeyer (85/1, 2012), and Leszek Starkel (76/2003; 84 Special 1 and Special 2 of 2011).

In total, the volumes included 1,458 referenced titles, 1,399 of which were articles and the remaining 59 were short publishing forms, such as notes, reviews, forewords, etc. Besides the dominant English language, in which most articles were written, several volumes contained some or all articles written in French. They constitute a little over 11% of all referenced titles in the database (164 articles and 5 notes). 65 of these were written by French scientists and 85 by their Polish colleagues. Several articles in French were written by such authors as Stanisław Berezowski, Maria Kielczewska-Zaleska, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Janusz Paszyński, and Włodysława Stola.

A large majority of the articles were written by a single author. The database contains 1,093 such items, or 78.1% of all articles. Moreover, 202 articles (14.5%) were written by two authors and 103 articles (7.4%) – by three or more authors. The largest number of authors, as many as 11, wrote the article entitled ‘Extreme anomalies of winter air temperature in mid-latitude Europe’ which was published in 2001 (vol. 74, issue 1).

Most of the authors who wrote articles jointly worked in the same countries. 39 articles (12.6% of all articles written by two or more authors) were written by authors from different countries. The largest number of co-authored international articles was written by Polish authors, who wrote 25 articles; the second largest group was authors from the United Kingdom and the United States (6 each), and the third largest – authors from Canada (4). The Polish authors most often collaborated with their colleagues from the United Kingdom (5 articles), Germany (3 articles), and Bulgaria (3 articles). The broadest international collaboration (5 countries: Poland, Israel, Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) took place in the case of the article titled ‘An introduction to the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI)’, published in vol. 86/1 in 2013. An analysis of the co-authored articles indicates that the number of such publications is increasing, with the average in the last three years equal to 12 articles per year.

In this regard, Geographia Polonica has been evolving in line with global trends in geography, from a journal publishing individual works to a journal with increasing numbers of collective works.

A large majority of the articles (847 or a little over 60%) pertain to socioeconomic geography. In the different years, about 30 scientific articles were published on average. An impressive number of over 70 articles was achieved in the early period of the journal’s existence, i.e. in 1964, but also in 1977 (Fig. 2). With the exception of the three years when the journal was not published, the worst in this regard was the period of political transformation in Poland: in 1990, only one volume with five articles was published. A comparison of the different periods of development of the journal (Tab. 3) leads to the conclusion that the average number of articles dropped year after year from over 40 initially to about 20 in the last analyzed period.

In total, the published articles contained over 18 thousand pages, of which about 11 thousand pertained to socioeconomic geography. This subject clearly dominated in the first few decades. Only in recent years has physical geography become increasingly important.

Each year, 400 pages of articles have been published on average. In the first years of the existence of the journal, the average

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<sup>2</sup> The Committee was established in 1989 at the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences.
was impressive: 600 pages in the first decade, to include over 900 pages in the first two years (Fig. 2). This shows the huge demand for a journal of this type in among Polish geographers. With time, the average became lower and in recent years it stabilized on the level of just under 300 pages.

The average size of an article is nearly 14 pages; the average is slightly larger in the case of articles in the field of physical geography, although in the last two analyzed periods articles in socioeconomic geography were, on average, even longer. In the history of the journal, in two years, 1966 and 2006, the average...
was very impressive and reached over 20 pages per article. Only in 1978 the average length of an article dropped below 10 pages.

Authors of articles

In the 50 years of publication of *Geographia Polonica*, the journal published articles written by 1,195 unique authors. The list articles most often includes the following authors: Kazimierz Dziewoński (31 times), Jerzy Kostrowicki (26), Leszek Starkel (24), Stanisław Leszczycki (17), Ryszard Domański (14), Barbara Obrębska-Starklowa (12), Krzysztof Błażejczyk and Piotr Eberhardt (11 each), and Teresa Czyż, Zbyszko Chojnicki, and Alina Potrykowska (10 each). The list with the number of published pages per author is somewhat different (Tab. 4). In this list, the first place is occupied by J. Kostrowicki (467 pages), followed by K. Dziewoński (289 pages) and L. Starkel (273 pages). Moreover, as many as 890 authors (or nearly 3/4ths) have published only one article and 161 authors – two articles.

However, if the total length of articles were compared to the length of the publication period, the winner would be S. Leszczyński, who published 189 pages in only 13 years. Of note is the data on the person with the longest ‘tenure’. As it turns out, the leader in this category is the Czech geomorphologist Tadeáš Czudek who published his last article 46 years after his first article (in 2011 and 1965, respectively) (all in all, he was the author or co-author of 3 articles published in *Geographia Polonica*). Of note are also the following authors and the lengths of their publishing periods: Teresa Czyż and Leszek Starkel (44 years: 1968-2012 and 1964-2008, respectively), Teresa Madeyska (42 years, 1969-2011), Piotr Eberhardt (40 years, 1973-2013, and Teresa Kozłowska-Szczeńsna (40 years, 1964-2004). Moreover, a number

Table 4. Authors with the largest number of articles published in *Geographia Polonica* in the years 1964-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Number of articles</th>
<th>Number of pages</th>
<th>Year of publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>total</td>
<td>including co-authorship of articles</td>
<td>first article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazimierz Dziewoński</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerzy Kostrowicki</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leszek Starkel</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanisław Leszczycki</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piotr Korcelli</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryszard Domański</td>
<td>PUE</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Obrębska-Starklowa</td>
<td>JU</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krzysztof Błażejczyk</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piotr Eberhardt</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alina Potrykowska</td>
<td>IGSO PAS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Czyż</td>
<td>AMU</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zbyszko Chojnicki</td>
<td>AMU</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (1,195 authors*)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>18,840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* with prefaces, forewords and other short forms.

Abbreviations: IGSO PAS – Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of Polish Academy of Sciences (before 1974 – Institute of Geography of Polish Academy of Sciences); JU – Jagiellonian University in Krakow; AMU – Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań; PUE – Poznań University of Economics.
of authors published for 35-39 years: Ryszard Domański, Kazimierz Klimek, Piotr Korelli, Antoni Kukliński, and Zbigniew Taylor.

A large majority of the authors were Poles, and the second largest group came from the United Kingdom (6.1%). About 3-5% of authors came from the Soviet Union or its former republics, mostly Russia, but also from France, the United States, and Germany. The share of authors from other countries was generally minimal, usually these were single authors. All in all, the authors came from 56 countries in their contemporary borders (Fig. 3). The origins of the authors, according to the cities of their affiliation, the topics, and the periods of publication are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

![Figure 3. Origins of Geographia Polonica authors by country in the years 1964-2013](image)

Based on information on the years of publication and the geographic affiliation of each author, it is possible to determine the ‘centre of gravity’. The assumption is that the volume of published articles corresponds, in a simplified manner, to the ‘weight’ associated with the origin of the authors and, indirectly, with their influence. This way, one can wonder in which direction Geographia Polonica is leaning and whether any changes in this regard have taken place. The analysis of the ‘centre of gravity’ is shown in Figure 6. As it turns out, the calculated centre of gravity remained within Europe, mostly Central Europe, throughout the 50-year period. The extreme points are: in the north – in Poland (2006), in the east – in Moldova (2000), in the south – in the Adriatic Sea (1970), and in the west – in the Atlantic Ocean, at the shores of Spain (1979).

Interestingly, an aggregation over a longer publication period results in the centre of gravity moving in accordance with certain unique rules. In the years 1964-1970, the centre of gravity was in western Bohemia (in the vicinity of Pilsen); in the years 1971-1980 it moved about 300 km to the west and was located in Heidelberg in Germany; and in the years 1981-1990 it moved back east to Brno in eastern Bohemia. After 1990, the centre of gravity was first in Austria, in the vicinity of Vienna (1991-2004), and then in the vicinity of the border between the Czech Republic and Poland (2005-2013). This symbolizes the outcome of the efforts of the successive editors-in-chief who always strove to make the journal international, as well as its links, in particular to western geography, which was, in a way, counterbalanced by the geopolitical and internal situation of Poland.

**Editorial evolution**

An indispensable part of any journal, and often its unique identification, is its typographic layout, which consists of the most distinguishable parts, namely the cover and the typographic layout of the articles. In the 50-year history of the journal, it has undergone numerous changes, which were the result of different graphic concepts selected by successive editorial offices.

In the case of the element that is the most visible to the readers, namely the cover, a few periods can be identified. The first period (19 volumes) involved an attempt to design a single cover, with four different proposals implemented. The most important versions of the cover were two with solid green colour and bright text or with the contours of Poland (Fig. 7). In addition to the journal title, the volume number, and the year of publication,
Figure 4. Origins of authors by city and the subjects of their articles published in *Geographia Polonica* in the years 1964-2013 (map elaborated by A. Deręgowska)
Figure 5. Origins of authors by city and the periods of publication of their articles in Geographia Polonica in the years 1964-2013 (map elaborated by A. Deregowksa)
the cover sometimes included the name or the logo of the first publisher, the Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe (Polish Scientific Publisher). The titles of the individual volumes were printed on the spine. Only on the front page inside, there was information about the institution responsible for the contents, the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences (after November 1994 – Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the PAS, and since April 1997 – Stanisław Leszczycy Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the PAS).

After that period, characterized by plenty of graphic freedom, it was possible to adopt a uniform typographic layout and basic graphic elements, with certain features of continuity. Since 1972 and volume 20, for several decades, a yellow cover with bright text and green contours of Poland was used. On the cover, the PWN logo was replaced with information about the IGSO of the PAS. Occasionally, the title of the volume was also printed on the cover. Starting from volume 63 (1994), information for authors has been printed on the third page of the cover.

Figure 6. Changes in the ‘centre of gravity’ of Geographia Polonica in the years 1964-2013 calculated based on the geographic affiliation of the authors and the number of pages of their published articles (map elaborated by A. Derełogowska)
Since 1998, the journal has been printed on a semi-annual basis. The numbering system for the successive volumes was then expanded to include issues (so far, the volumes were given successive numbers regardless of the number of issues published in a given year). The cover also changed: the yellow colour was replaced with blue and, in addition to the name of the journal, a thematic map of the world in a conventional projection and time indications Spring and Autumn were printed. In 2004, a two-column article layout was introduced.

Additional very important editorial changes were introduced in 2012. This was due to the fundamental change in the membership of the editorial office, but also to the funding received as a part of a project financed by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (Index PLUS). The changes were so important that, from an editorial and publishing perspective, the journal practically became a new periodical. The journal became a quarterly and, despite the higher frequency of publication, within two years it managed to achieve up-to-date publication of volumes. New clear...

Figure 7. Former covers of the magazine in years 1964-2011
sections were introduced (Articles and Varia – to include Poland on Maps, Interview, Project Report, and Review). The dominant blue colour was replaced on the cover with white with light-blue accents and the logo of the journal took the form of a globe. In the typographic layout proposed by P. Śleszyński, the header of the lead gained a more distinctive appearance. All typographic elements, which had not been uniform and often different in each volume, were developed in detail. The journal was printed on high quality paper and with high quality colours. Each article, with the exception of reviews and editorial-essential changes, underwent thorough technical, cartographic-graphic edition, proofreading, and several corrections (author’s, editorial, and external). From an editorial point of view, the journal is as good as the best foreign journals.

Geographia Polonica also clearly evolved with regard to the structure of its contents. In the first three volumes, the articles were divided according to subject. In the volumes that followed, such a division was applied only sporadically (vol. 12, 14, 17, 23, 29, 61, 64, and 71). In most volumes the contents were simply divided into individual articles. From the start, in some volumes there were introductory materials in the form of a foreword, depending on the importance of the subject of the volume. Starting from volume 74 (2001), new sections were introduced, such as Book Review and Research Notes. This is why the table of contents was divided into Articles and other types of texts. In 2012, this division was transformed into two basic parts of the journal: Articles and Varia, which grouped other publication forms, to include new sections, Poland on Maps, Project Report, and Interview.

The structure of articles at the beginning of the journal’s publication was rather simple, as only the title, the author, the contents, and the references (numbered citations) were printed. Starting from volume 5, the academic affiliation of the authors was introduced, although it was limited to the name of the institution and was usually presented at the end of the article. Starting from volume 11 (1967), on the first page of each article, the issue number and the year of publication was printed. Starting from volume 23 (1972), the citation system changed to the author system, although some of the later volumes contained numbered references. Starting from volume 60 (1992), abstracts were published (although they appeared earlier in volume 55 in 1988). In the next volume, no. 61 (1993), keywords were introduced. Two volumes later, in volume 63 (1994), the editors decided to publish full affiliation information, including the address of the institution represented by the author, and starting from volume 79, also the email address of the authors.

The contents of the articles were usually published in a single-column layout from the first issue until 2004. In 2004, in accordance with a world-wide trend, the two-column format was introduced. Starting from volume 85 (2012), the title page of articles was given new elements, such as a cover, website addresses of the IGSO of the PAS and of the journal, article page numbers, and DOI numbers. This way, the format of the first page of articles is formally no different than the form presented in the most important international scientific journals.

Development of the Internet and of databases has made presentation of journals on the Internet as important as their physical publication (and in certain aspects even more important). Therefore, all volumes of the journal have been digitized and made available, free of charge, on a website. Since 2010, they have been available as a part of the project titled Digital Repository of Scientific Institutes (in addition to the links on the journal’s website, they are available at the following address: http://rcin.org.pl/igipz/publication/156). Later, the journal started to be accessible also in such bibliographic databases as Scopus, AGRO, and ProQuest/CSA. In 2012, a new website, www.geographiapolonica.pl, was established (with P. Siłka as its editor); the page also contains a catalogue of all articles. Moreover, the website contains information about forthcoming articles as well as current information on the preparation of successive profiled issues of the journal, including calls for papers.
Future challenges

An analysis of the 50-years long history of *Geographia Polonica* shows a journal which, during its best period, contributed to the global discourse in the field of geography. This is indicated, among others, by analyses of citations (Harris 1980; Racki 2003; Bajerski 2008; Śleszyński 2009, 2013, 2014). However, the last several decades were a period that witnessed the gradual decline in the international importance of the journal. Also, the significance of *Geographia Polonica* decreased as the main Polish channel for distribution of the achievements of Polish geographers. This was due to both better access by Polish scientists to international journals and the emergence of other titles published in English in Poland. Although their role is supplementary, and sometimes competitive, among Polish geographical journals, *Geographia Polonica*, along with the Polish-language *Przegląd Geograficzny*, is the most frequently cited periodical (Śleszyński 2014). Notably, its level of citations is not lower than national Swiss, Danish, or Spanish publications published in English. Of note is the fact that during the past 50 years, national geographies worldwide have largely transformed into a single global geography, although this process pertains rather to the so-called Anglo-Saxon domination (Aalbers & Rossi 2009; Bański & Ferenc 2013).

In the international market, the number of scientific periodicals in the field of geography is rather small, compared to other fields of science, but is greater than 1,000, according to the World Data Base on Geographical Journal available at www.igu-online.org (According to the UlrichsWeb portal, the number of all scientific journals exceeds 50,000). It is obvious that such a large number requires a hierarchy that enables a certain selection of the best materials and their introduction into the canon of geographic research, which requires appropriate distribution. This is why some titles are published by recognized global publishing groups, which ensures a high recognisability and citation level.

However, the current commercialization of the scientific research market has some negative aspects because, given the growing ‘race’ for the number of citations, more and more scientists ‘cannot afford’ publication of their articles in periodicals that cannot demonstrate high citation levels. This applies in particular to national geographies, because authors from countries other than the leaders of scientific development who have good research results are interested in publishing them right away in the leading journals and bypassing the journals in their own countries. This is why the most important objective of the current editorial office of *Geographia Polonica* in the near future is to improve the recognisability and the citation level of the articles it publishes, and to ensure their inclusion on the so-called Philadelphia List. This will enable strengthening the journal’s position, especially in Poland, but not only.

On the other hand, the journal must have its unique characteristics so as to distinguish itself from other periodicals published in Poland and neighbouring countries. One obvious method to achieve this is to focus on problems related to Poland and Central Europe, to include being a kind of a ‘conveyor belt’ for materials that are the best, in particular in Polish geography, that could have the greatest contribution to global knowledge. This should apply mostly to knowledge about facts, causes, and effects related to phenomena and processes taking place in various spatial systems, as well as to the methodology of geography and its conceptual and theoretical foundations. This is because the discussion on this topic that is currently taking place in Poland is not at all inferior to the discussions in other countries and the lack of influence of the Polish geography on the global geography is largely due to lack of good distribution and marketing.

Editors’ note:
Unless otherwise stated, the sources of tables and figures are the author(s), on the basis of their own research.
Appendix

Members of the editorial office in the years 1964-2013

During the 50 years of publication of *Geographia Polonica*, the editorial pages mention 48 persons (without guest editors in the special issues). The composition of the editorial office changed quite often, as did its organizational structure and its nomenclature. Interestingly, the most stable were the posts of the editor-in-chief and the secretary. The editorial board was established fairly late, in 2001. Since 1993, in the case of special issues, specific persons were assigned as volume ‘editors’, which was the equivalent of ‘work edited by’ in the case of monographs containing a collection of articles (chapters in a book). From the first volume, in the case of some books, visiting editors responsible for specific issues were identified (not all of them were permanent collaborators of the editorial office). Since 2012, the ‘responsible editors’, who are members of the editorial office, are identified for specific issues.

Editors-in-chief

Piotr Korcelli (1986-2000)
Ewa Nowosielska (2001-2007)
MarekDegórski (2007-2011)
Marek Więckowski (since 2012)

Deputy editors-in-chief

Alicja Breymeyer (1997-2000)

Secretaries

Leszek Kosiński (1964)
Andrzej Werwicki (1965-1969)
Tomasz Paczuski (since 2007)

Assistant editors-in-chief


Persons working the longest in the editorial office and/or the editorial board

Kazimierz Dziewoński – 16 years (1973-1988)

Lists of all members of editorial offices and scientific boards

1, 2, 3, 4/1964 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Leszek Kosiński
5, 6, 7, 8, 9/1965; 10/1966 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Leszek Kosiński, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Andrzej Werwicki
11, 12/1967; 13, 14/1968 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Leszek Kosiński, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Andrzej Werwicki, Zuzanna Siemek
17/1969 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Janusz Paszyński, Piotr Korcelli, Zuzanna Siemek
18/1970 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Janusz Paszyński, Piotr Korcelli
The people of Geographia Polonica, 1964-2013

19/1970 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Janusz Paszyński, Piotr Korcelli, Ewa Nowosielska
20, 21, 22, 23, 24/1972 • Stanisław Leszczycki, Jerzy Kondracki, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Janusz Paszyński, Piotr Korcelli
48/1982 • Jerzy Kostrowicki, Kazimierz Dziewoński, Piotr Korcelli, Stanisław Leszczycki, Janusz Paszyński, Marcin Rościszewski, Jan Szupryczyński, Wiesław Roźnucki, Teresa Lijewska
49, 50/1984; 51/1985 • Jerzy Kostrowicki, Kazimierz Dziewoński, Piotr Korcelli, Stanisław Leszczycki, Janusz Paszyński, Marcin Rościszewski, Jan Szupryczyński, Wiesław Roźnucki, Teresa Lijewska
52/1986 • Piotr Korcelli, Kazimierz Dziewoński, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Stanisław Leszczycki, Marcin Rościszewski, Leszek Starchel Wiesław Roźnucki, Teresa Lijewska
59, 60/1992 • Piotr Korcelli, Jerzy Grzeszczak, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Adam Kotarba, Stanisław Leszczycki, Janusz Paszyński, Marcin Rościszewski, Zbigniew Rykiel, Teresa Lijewska
61/1993 • Piotr Korcelli, Jerzy Grzeszczak, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Adam Kotarba, Stanisław Leszczycki, Janusz Paszyński, Marcin Rościszewski, Zbigniew Rykiel
62/1994 (Cz. I); 65/1995 (Cz. II); 67/1996 (Cz. III) • Editorial Board Of The Series Global Change: Polish Perspectives • Leszek Starchel, Czesław Druet, Tadeusz Florkowski, Krystyna Grodzińska, Zdzisław Kaczmarek, Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka
68/1997 • Piotr Korcelli, Alicja Breymeyer, Bronisław Czyż, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Barbara Krawczyk, Teofil Lijewski, Jerzy Solon
69/1997 • Piotr Korcelli, Alicja Breymeyer, Bronisław Czyż, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Barbara Krawczyk, Teofil Lijewski, Jerzy Solon, Grażyna Seliga
70/1997; 71/1998 • Piotr Korcelli, Alicja Breymeyer, Bronisław Czyż, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Barbara Krawczyk, Teofil Lijewski, Jerzy Solon
70/1997 (Cz. IV); 71/1998 (Cz. V) • Editorial Board Of The Series Global Change: Polish Perspectives • Leszek Starchel, Czesław Druet, Tadeusz Florkowski, Krystyna Grodzińska, Zdzisław Kaczmarek, Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka
Vol. 72/1999 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 73/2000 (No. 1, No. 2) • Piotr Korcelli, Alicja Breymeyer, Bronisław Czyż, Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka, Ewa Nowosielska, Grażyna Seliga
Since 2001 a division into: editorial office • editorial board
Vol. 74/2001 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 75/2002 (No. 1, No. 2) • Ewa Nowosielska, Bronisław Czyż, Anna Kozłowska, Magdalena Kuchcik • Bolesław Domański, Jerzy Dzieciąchowicz, Piotr Korcelli, Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka, Jan Łoboda, Piotr Migoń, Jerzy Parysek, Zofia Rączkowska
Vol. 76/2003 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 77/2004 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 78/2005 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 79/2006 (No. 1, No. 2) • Ewa Nowosielska, Anna Kozłowska, Magdalena Kuchcik • Mirosław Błaszkiewicz, Bolesław Domański, Marek Dutkowski, Jerzy Dzieciąchowicz, Mirosław Grochowski, Jan Łoboda, Piotr Migoń, Jerzy Parysek, Zofia Rączkowska
Vol. 80/2007 (No. 1) • Ewa Nowosielska, Anna Kozłowska, Magdalena Kuchcik • Mirosław Błaszkiewicz, Bolesław
Domański, Marek Dutkowski, Jerzy Dzieciuchowicz, Mirosław Grochowski, Jan Łoboda, Piotr Migoń, Jerzy Parysek, Zofia Rączkowska

**Vol. 80/2007 (No. 2)** • Marek Degórski, Tomasz Komornicki, Magdalena Kuchcik, Jerzy Salon, Marek Wieckowski, Ewa Nowosielska, Tomasz Paczuski • Mirosław Błaszkiewicz, Bolesław Domański, Marek Dutkowski, Jerzy Dzieciuchowicz, Mirosław Grochowski, Jan Łoboda, Piotr Migoń, Jerzy Parysek, Zofia Rączkowska

**Vol. 81/2008 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 82/2009 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 83/2010 (No. 1, No. 2); Vol. 84/2011-Special Issue (Part 1, Part 2); Vol. 84/2011 (No. 1, No. 2)** • Marek Degórski, Tomasz Komornicki, Magdalena Kuchcik, Jerzy Salon, Marek Wieckowski, Tomasz Paczuski • Mirosław Błaszkiewicz, Bolesław Domański, Marek Dutkowski, Jerzy Dzieciuchowicz, Mirosław Grochowski, Jan Łoboda, Piotr Migoń, Jerzy Parysek, Zofia Rączkowska

**Vol. 85/2012 (No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4); Vol. 86/2013 (No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4); Vol. 87/2014 (No. 1)** • Marek Wieckowski, Tomasz Paczuski, Aleksandra Dergowska, Magdalena Kuchcik, Piotr Siłka, Mirosława Sokół, Przemysław Śleszyński, Jacek Wołski • Mirosław Błaszkiewicz, Bolesław Domański, Marek Dutkowski, Jerzy Dzieciuchowicz, Mirosław Grochowski, Jan Łoboda, Piotr Migoń, Jerzy Parysek, Zofia Rączkowska

**List of thematic issues & guest editors**


9/1965 • Mieczysław Klimaszewski: “Colloque de geomorphologie des Carpathes, Septembre 17-26 1963”

10/1966 • Mieczysław Klimaszewski & Jadwiga Włodek-Sanocjowa: “Geomorphological problems of Carpathians II”


23/1972 • Alfred Jahn & Leszek Starkel: “Special issue for the 22nd International Geographical Congress, Commission on..."
Present-Day Geomorphological Processes, Montreal-Vancouver 1972*
25/1973 • Duane F. Marble & Zbyszek Chajnicki: “Perspectives on spatial analysis”
26/1973 • Rajmund Galon: “Scientific results of the Polish Geographical Expedition to Vatnajökull (Iceland), 1968: a collection of reports by the research groups”
32/1975 • Kazimierz Dziewoński: “Selected reports on research into physical development of Poland”
39/1978 • Kazimierz Dziewoński & Elżbieta Iwanicka-Lyrowa: “Urbanization and settlement system”
42/1979 • George J. Papageorgiu: “Essays on urban growth and structure”
46/1983 • Jerzy Kostrowicki & Wiesława Tyszkiewicz: “Agricultural typology and rural development”
47/1983 • Kazimierz Dziewoński & Marek Jerczyński: “National settlement systems; comparative topical studies”
53/1988 • Leszek Starkel: “Changes in the geographical environment of Poland”
54/1988 • Piotr Korcelli & Zbigniew Rykiel: “Recent patterns of spatial population change in Poland”
55/1988 • Stefan Kozarski: “Environmental changes in Poland and Sweden after the maximum of the last glaciation: proceedings of the First Polish-Swedish Seminar, Poznań, October 9-15 1986”
57/1989 • Piotr Korcelli & Wiesław Rozluk: “The collection of studies presented to Professor Jerzy Kostrowicki in commemoration of his seventieth birthday”
58/1990 • Eugeniusz Drozdowski & Jan Szupryczyński: “Geomorphological survey and mapping”

*Present-Day Geomorphological Processes, Montreal-Vancouver 1972*
59/1992 • Piotr Korcelli & Karl Stiglbauer: “Spatial population change in Austria and Poland: selected papers from the Polish-Austrian Seminar, Warsaw and Nieborów, 26-29 October 1989”


61/1993 • Alina Potrykowska & Piotr Korcelli: “Symposium on the urban population at a microscale, Warsaw, 2-7 September, 1991”

62/1994 • Leszek Starkel & Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka: “Global Change: Polish Perspectives 2”


65/1995 • Leszek Starkel & Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka: “Global Change: Polish Perspectives 3”

66/1995 • Piotr Korcelli: “Urban systems and regional change”

67/1996 • Leszek Starkel & Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka: “Global Change: Polish Perspectives 4”

68/1997 • Henryk Maruszczak & Leszek Starkel: “Anthropogenic impact on water conditions (Vistula and Oder river basins)“

69/1997 • Wim Ostendorf, Piotr Korcelli, & Robert Sinclair: “Urban development and urban life in international perspective”

70/1997 • Leszek Starkel & Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka: “Global Change: Polish Perspectives 5”

71/1998 • Leszek Starkel, Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka & Zdzisław Kaczmarek: “Global Change: Polish Perspectives 6, Hydrological processes and water resources in the face of global climate change”

72 No. 2/1999 • Lech Ryszkowski & Andrzej Kędziora: “Papers in Global Change IGBP, No. 6”

73 No. 2/2000 • Krzysztof Kożuchowski & Joanna Wibig: “Papers in Global Change IGBP, No. 7”

74 No. 2/2001 • Barbara Obreńska-Starklowa: “Papers in Global Change IGBP, No. 8”

75 No. 2/2002 • Niels Boje Groth: “Cities and networking in the Baltic Sea Region”

76 No. 1/2003 • Jerzy Baniński & Desmond Gillmor: “Aspects of changes in European rural spaces”

77 No. 2/2003 • Kenneth John Gregory: “Extreme events and the transformation of landscape”

78 No. 2/2005 • Bolesław Domański: “Regional development and transformation of Central and Eastern European countries”

79 No. 1/2006 • Anna Kołtowska, Magdalena Kuchcińska, & Ewa Nowosielska: “Vegetation maps as a tool in environmental assessment and spatial planning”

80 No. 2/2007 • Jacek Jania & Zbigniew Kundzewicz: “Extreme meteorological and hydrological events in Poland”

81 No. 1/2008 • Zofia Rączkowska, & Leszek Starkel: “Modelling of high-mountain relief”

84 Special Issue Part 1/2011 • Zofia Rączkowska & Adam Kotarba: “Landform evolution and climate change: paleogeographical approaches”


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