

Wkład Leonarda Jaczewskiego w tworzenie nauki o wiecznej marzłoci

Leonard Jaczewski's contribution to the research on permafrost

SUMMARY

A permanently frozen ground is called permafrost. According to M. Książkiewicz, it occurs in polar countries, especially in Siberia, Alaska, arctic islands and Canada. Permafrost, which covers almost half of the territory of Russia was noticed as an interesting phenomenon already at the end of the 16th century. Systematical studies of this phenomenon started in the forties of the 19th century; at the turn of the century the studies were intensified. In the fifties of the 20th century research on permafrost was advanced to the rank of a separate scientific discipline.

A significant role in the research on permafrost was played by Polish geologist Leonard Jaczewski (1856-1916). In the present paper special attention is paid to the published results of the field research (of a diagnostic character), carried out by Jaczewski in Siberia in the years 1887-1909. These results are presented against a background of the history of cognition of permafrost phenomenon, in the context of investigations by other scholars, since only in this way we can properly appreciate the true role of Jaczewski as the one who laid foundations of the science of permafrost, a discipline now studied by a wide group of scientists.

In the last part of the paper the author shows, using the example of the University of Moscow, how specialists are trained in this discipline, so little known in Poland.