

Gabriel Brzęk

**Pozauczelniane ośrodki nauk zoologicznych w Polsce od połowy
XIX wieku do roku 1918**

**Centres of zoological sciences outside universities and other higher
schools in Poland (from the middle of the 19th century till 1918)**

SUMMARY

In the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, when Poland was under foreign rule (Russian, Prussian and Austrian), there were no official Polish natural science centres of an academic nature that could and should have been provided by universities (the Warsaw University having been closed by the Russian in 1831, and the Vilna University in 1832, with the Jagiellonian and Lwów Universities in the Austrian-held part of Poland being exposed to strong pressure from attempts at Germanization, and the role of the Imperial University of Warsaw, established in 1869, consisting in the Russification of Poles). Despite this, Polish scientific life did not cease to exist, and there emerged a number of new centres for zoological research, some of them semi-official or fully private, and some even clandestine in nature. They were concentrated mainly around the editorial boards of economic, industrial and natural science journals, some appeared in museums, while others were established privately, in schools or in private homes.

The author of the article presents a detailed account of such centres and lists the researchers who were active in them, discusses the main areas of research, and points out the achievements of such centres and the obstacles to their development. In the Austrian-held Polish provinces the author describes the activities of the Cracow Learned Society established in 1815 and those of the Nicolaus Copernicus Naturalists' Society of Lwów, as well as the activities of the private museum of the Dzieduszycki family. In the Russian-held part of Poland, the author has recorded about twenty smaller centres of zoological research, some of which were of a clandestine nature; these included the Zoological Laboratory, Kasa im. Mianowskiego, the editorial boards of "Pamiętnik Fizjograficzny" and "Wszechświat", the Warsaw Horticultural Society etc. In the Prussian-held territories, however, despite the fact that three popular science magazines were published there and the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences which was established in 1857, had a Natural Science Section, there was a lack of professional naturalists; this, combined with unfavourable political conditions, meant that scientific life in the area of natural science could not develop as fruitfully as in the other provinces of Poland.

Analecta – Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki
[Analecta – Studies and Materials on the History of Science]
VI, 1997, 1, 145-232