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Polscy twórcy kartografii Syberii w XIX wieku (w świetle materiałów bibliograficznych Bolesława Olszewicza)

Poles in the cartography of Siberia in the 19th century (based on the bibliographic materials of Bolesław Olszewicz)

SUMMARY

The contribution of Poles to the mapping of Siberia has not been sufficiently accounted for by Polish writings on the history of cartography. In order to make up for that failure to give a full presentation of the role of Polish cartographers, the present paper takes a closer look at the recently published, archival bibliographical materials by Bolesław Olszewicz, which cover the activities of cartographers both in Poland and beyond its borders.

Historians of cartography and surveying have been mainly interested in the work of Polish officers in the service of the Russian Army who worked in the topographical units covering almost all of the Russian Empire. Among Poles whose role in the history of cartography has been acknowledged were mainly those who reached high positions in the Russian military and civil service, e.g. Józef Chodźko, Bronisław Grąbczewski, Edward Kowerski, Hieronim Stebnicki, Józef and Stanisław Żyliński, Karol Bohdanowicz, Leonard Jaczewski.

However, one should not forget about the role of many political convicts to Siberia, such as Rufin Piotrowski, Benedykt Dybowski, Jan Czerski, Wiktor Godlewski, Aleksander Czekanowski, as well as many others, who made a significant contribution to expanding our knowledge about this huge territory.

The present paper attempts to present their achievements in the light of the bibliographical materials collected by Bolesław Olszewicz. The materials analyzed include only those that relate to the cartography of Siberia, and these are compared with later and contemporary writings on the subject.

The analysis of the work of Poles in mapping out Siberia, based on the materials of B. Olszewicz shows that his materials are a rich source of inspiration for work on the achievements of Polish cartography in the 19th century.

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