Michał Janiszewski (1901-1984) - a specialist in regional geography, cartographer and teacher

SUMMARY

The present study deals with the scientific and didactic work of Michał Janiszewski – a geographer of the so-called Lwów school of geography, connected with the name of the eminent geographer E. Romer. The study includes a description of the main areas of research conducted by Janiszewski, presents his scientific achievements and quotes numerous opinions on the output of this geographer. Janiszewski’s work is discussed against the background of the geographical thought of the times in which Janiszewski lived and worked.

Two main areas of scientific and didactic activity of M. Janiszewski are presented in the article – regional geography and cartography. The following problems are discussed at length:

a) work on the geographical régionalisation of Poland, the division of Poland into natural provinces and thermal provinces;
b) studies on the geographical conditions for the rise of cities in Poland and the world;
c) conceptions of maps and atlases.

Janiszewski’s work deserves attention because it presents a complex picture of geographical environment, portraying interactions among its different components. That is why his works seem today to be extremely valuable, as old systems of holistic world comprehension are being used more and more often, in face of the crisis of geography resulting from the isolation of its subdisciplines.

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