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Jan Marian Hempel – autor map górniczych i geologicznych Królestwa Polskiego

Jan Marian Hempel – author of geological and mining maps of the Kingdom of Poland

SUMMARY

The study presents the work of Jan Marian Hempel (12.12.1818–19.01.1886). The particular focus of the study is on the archival materials concerning the history of the industrial districts of the Kingdom of Poland, and on a number of geological and mining maps.

Jan Hempel started work in the mines of the Western [Industrial] District of the Kingdom of Poland in 1840. He was employed as, among other things, a surveyor's assistant in the offices of the district at Dąbrowa [Górnicza], and in the years 1843-47 he pursued studies to supplement his education, while at the same time working in the Technical Section of the Mining Division in Warsaw. From 1847 onwards Hempel organized the surveying service in the Western District, being responsible for the drawing of a number of new mine maps. In 1856 he finished work on a "Geognostic map of the coal-mining basin of the Kingdom of Poland" (18 sections, with a scale of 1:20000). It was the first detailed geological-mining map to be published in Polish and it carried a compendium of knowledge on the occurrence of mineral resources and the geology of the whole Western District. Beginning from 1857 Hempel worked in the Eastern District (at Suchedniów) on a "geognostic map" that was eventually published in 1867 in the journal "Annales des Mines". In 1861, Hempel was made head of the Western District, supervising the functioning of all mines and steel mills owned by the government.

Jan Hempel made a very special contribution to the development of geology and mining. He introduced modern surveying methods, as well as took on the difficult task of drawing the first maps that presented the complicated geological structure of the industrial districts.

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