

Babicz, Józef

Introduction : Some Contemporary Investigations into the History of Geographical Thought

Organon 20 21, 203-204

1984 1985

Artykuł umieszczony jest w kolekcji cyfrowej Bazhum, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych tworzonej przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego.

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie ze środków specjalnych MNiSW dzięki Wydziałowi Historycznemu Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.



INTRODUCTION: SOME CONTEMPORARY INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

The articles of this series have been mainly written as part of the activities of the International Commission for the History of Geographical Thought. The author of the first of them is Prof. David Hooson, President of the International Commission for the History of Geographical Thought, who, while considering the national roots and the variable success of the world geography, sums up the discussion conducted at the symposium of that Commission held in Geneva in 1984 (within the International Geographical Congress IGU) on the subject: "Role and Image of Geography in Various Countries". Then examples of national features in geography are presented in the article by G. S. Dunbar: "Geography in the Bellwether Universities in the United States". The two following articles describe the functioning of particular ideas and convictions in the sciences of Earth: H. Capel, "Religious Beliefs and Scientific Theory in the Origin of Spanish Geomorphology, 17th–18th Centuries"; T. Frängsmyr, "The Emergence of the Glacial Theory—A Scandinavian Aspect". R.-K. Biermann and E. Lehmann write on A.v. Humboldt's contribution to the development of geography on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of that scholar's death and stress the role of an outstanding personality in science. The report by J. Babicz, read at a symposium at the 18th Congress of the History of Science, Berkeley 1985, on the "Schools in Geography" discusses this problem by referring it to a series of articles published in *Organon* 17/18, 1980, and resulting from a symposium held on this very subject in Leningrad in 1976. In the light of the papers on scientific schools published since then and as a result of studies done by the Working Group for the History of Geographical Thought it may be now stated that the notion of geographical schools and the respective field of investigations should be extended. Such possibilities are suggested by the successive articles on the functioning of paradigms in geography: G. J. Martin, "Paradigm Change: A Study in the History of Geography in the United States, 1892–1925", and Takeuchi Keiichi, "Strategies of Heterodox Researches in the National Schools of Geography and their

Role in the Shifting of Paradigms in Geography". In view of the representative character of the problems discussed in these particular articles both for the contemporary trends in the history of geography and for the work of the Commission for the History of Geographical Thought itself, the editors of the *Organon* submit these considerations to the interested Readers.

Józef Babicz