

# Fifty years of Polish and world cartographic literature : bibliography compiled by Jerzy Ostrowski and Zenon Koziel

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## Abstract:

This abstract relates to the Polish and world cartographic literature systematically compiled by Jerzy Ostrowski and published since 1969 in subsequent issues of *Polish Cartographical Review* (PCR), later in the Polish-language supplement to PCR. This subjective selection of publications, supplemented with papers, notes and reviews published in the aforementioned journals, was the basis for Zenon Koziel to create a two-volume, comprehensive thematic bibliography in the form of compact text databases. These are: *Polish Cartographic Publications – 1968–2020* (Vol. 4), and *World Cartographic Publications – 1968–2018* (Vol. 5), published as part of *BIBLIOTHECA of Polish Cartographical Review*. These studies meet all the requirements of scientific bibliographies (Konopska, 2021).

The growing number of Polish and foreign publications in the field of geography and cartography published after World War II made it necessary to organise the information on the entire resource, gathered in many libraries and archives. This was facilitated by various bibliographic studies and catalogues, in particular *BIBLIOGRAFIA GEO-GRAFII POLSKIEJ*, which registered scientific and popular science publications by Polish geographers, including chapters on the latest cartographic publications and literature on this subject. Due to a large number of periodicals arriving in the library collections, it became necessary to analyse them in detail and select publications for content addressing cartographic issues, and then to group and publish them. Such a column devoted to the latest publications by Jerzy Ostrowski can be found in the issues of *Polish Cartographical Review*, starting from 1969, i.e. following the reissue of the pre-war quarterly under the same title as in 1923–1934.

The importance of these types of databases for the development of any scientific discipline is rarely mentioned, or actually not mentioned at all, in the scientific publications dedicated to the writings and bibliographies, as their specific factographic and documentary role is indisputable. It is important, however, to remember that the above-mentioned list of recent cartographic publications, as a model example of work aimed at organising bibliographic databases, being the result of many years of Jerzy Ostrowski's activity, is an unprecedented achievement arising from the systematic acquisition, gathering, grouping and sharing of the Polish as well as foreign literature. The uniqueness of Jerzy Ostrowski's achievement is also reflected in the multitude of scientific and technical journals used in the bibliographic work, which makes this contribution an inherent part of the science, culture and national heritage of Poland. Owing to the author's comprehensive approach to the bibliographic work, this database, as a knowledge base, occupies a high position in the so-called information pyramid (data → information → knowledge → wisdom), whose subsequent levels are the result of encoding, interpreting and verifying the content of its previous, lower layers.

The cartographic bibliographic items registered on an up-to-date and methodical basis by Jerzy Ostrowski, following the IT nomenclature of databases, can be described as single records, being an example of a domain-specific collection of annotated bibliography, as they also contain complete information on the content of individual specific publications. The importance and usefulness of this type of information is not only of a gnoseological nature, which could indicate a very simplified way of thinking, but also proves a thorough approach to bibliographic work both in qualitative and quantitative terms, and thus to the development of cartography as a science (Koziel, 2021<sup>b</sup>, 2021<sup>c</sup>).

*Literature News*, i.e. a resource consisting of almost 25,200 publishing items, was useful to create a subject bibliography published in *BIBLIOTHECA of Polish Cartographical Review* (Vol. 4, Vol. 5), but is also a subject of reflection around the thesis that *Literature News* is a fundamental source of data for expanding the knowledge about the condition of Polish and foreign cartography and the activity of cartographers in the fields of science, practice and organisational activity. This thesis is based on the important fact that this unique database was not created retrospectively, but on an ongoing basis by Jerzy Ostrowski, one of the most experienced cartographers in this field in post-war Poland (Konopska, 2021).

The data on the writings from over 520 (Vol. 4) and 505 (Vol. 5) different types of scientific and popular science, as well as technical journals, covering not only cartography, but also other auxiliary disciplines, constitute an exceptionally large collection of data, gathered in about 200 issues of *Polski Przegląd Kartograficzny* and *Polish Cartographical Review*. The need to facilitate and improve the search for specific descriptions from such an extensive database, which contains over 25,380 bibliographic items together with reviews, made it fully justifiable to compile the entire collection into two single volumes as a text database (Kozieł, 2021<sub>a</sub>).

An important intention of this bibliography was to include all authors in the final index, i.e. more than 5,300 persons (Vol. 4) and ca. 7,000 persons (Vol 5), together with the possibility of a quick search for individual names, which, in addition to an electronic query according to the subject catalogue (keywords), is the basis of this type of study.

It is worth noting that the list of cartographical publications from the period of fifty years coincides with the period of exceptionally intensive computerisation, typical of the last few decades at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The content analysis of individual bibliographic sections (Vol. 4, Vol. 5) shows the evolution in overcoming technological barriers by many authors, along with the use and improvement of modern computer networking tools. It can be assumed that this resource, reflecting the efforts made by many authors to develop cartography and geoinformation sciences, is at the same time a representation of geographical information science – *GIScience* – in the broadest sense. Considering the above issues, it is hoped that this edited and made available form of publications will be used more readily than before by those interested, for example, enthusiasts of cartography and geoinformation, or those compelled to do so for a variety of reasons. This particularly refers to students, graduate students, PhD students and researchers.

The publication of the fifth volume of *BIBLIOTHECA of Polish Cartographical Review* coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first edition of *Polish Cartographic Review*, published in 1923–1934. This “Review”, sometimes referred to as “Romer’s”, in connection with Eugeniusz Romer – its founder and editor, was at that time the only scientific cartographic journal of this type in the world. The novelty of the “Review” on the international publishing market, as well as the range of information documented in it on domestic cartographic studies, led to an obvious decision to reissue this exceptional magazine also after the Second World War. Following in the tradition of the “Romer” review, it became possible to publish information on domestic and foreign cartographic products (maps, city plans, atlases, globes, etc.), as well as scientific publications, thus increasing cartographic knowledge.

During the 31<sup>st</sup> ICC (Aug. 14–18, 2023) in Cape Town, all participants will be provided with two volumes of Polish (Vol. 4) and world (Vol. 5) cartographic literature free of charge in .pdf format, thanks to QR codes.

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