

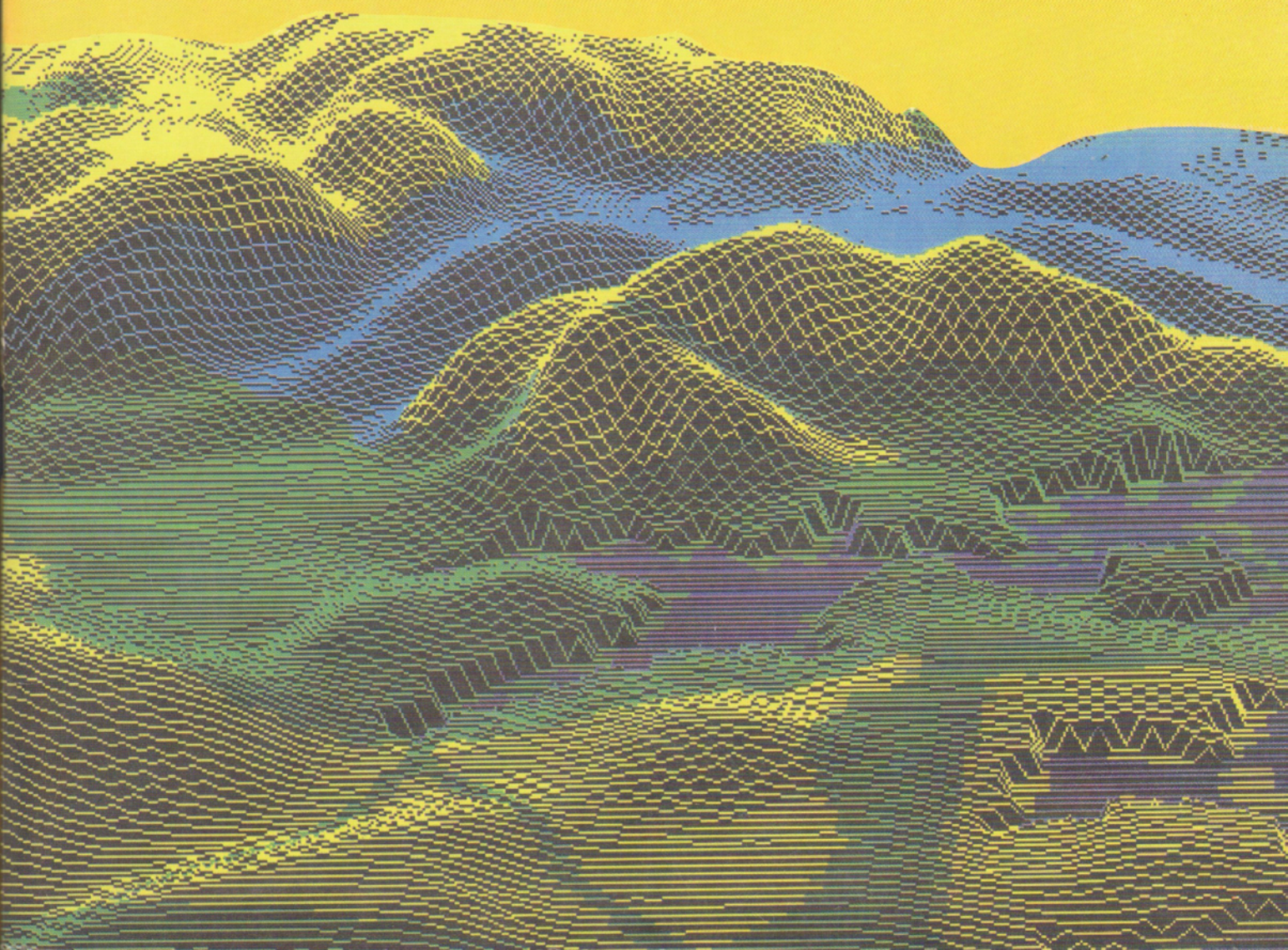
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40 years of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences

Antonín VAISHAR

A scientific session was arranged by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw in April 1994, its main idea being based on the 40th anniversary of the above Institute. The session was presided by Managing Director of the Institute - Prof.Dr.hab. Piotr KORCELLI who delivered a short evaluation of Institute's history. His performance was followed by congratulations presented by foreign guests to the session from the Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno and from the Institute for Regional Geography in Leipzig, Germany.

The first paper was presented by Prof.Dr.hab. Roman SZCZESNY, its theme being "Topical Problems of Polish Agriculture-Myths and Reality". The paper reflected the situation in Polish agriculture in the period of economic and social transition. The second paper was performed by Assoc.Prof.Dr.hab. Wojciech FROEHLICH: "Monitoring of Hydrogeomorphological Processes in the System of Mountain River Basin". The paper referred to possible application of radiological methods at investigating processes of erosion and deposition of materials.

An exhibition of results published within the last period of time was a part of the session. It documented high activity of the Institute as well as of its scientists. In 1993, the scientists of the Institute published 293 scientific papers, 25 documentary articles and 33 popular papers in 8 series issued by the Institute and/or in other ways. The most interesting publication which was distributed to the guests was an "Atlas of Polish Geographical Environment".

The Institute consists of 12 scientific departments: Department of Biogeography (localized in Milanówek), Department of Geomorphology and Hydrology of Mountains and Uplands (localized in Kraków), Department of Geomorphology and Hydrology of Lowlands (localized in Toruń), Department of Economic Geography, Department of Urban and Population Studies, Department of Agriculture and Rural Areas, Department of Geography of Global Problems of Development, Department of Climatology, Department of Spatial Organization, Department of Ecological Foundations of Space Economy, Department of Ecological Management, Laboratory of Cartography.

History and present of the Institute are connected with names of many famous Polish geographers. Let us mention professors LECZCZYCKI, DZIEWONSKI, J. KOSTROWICKI, A. KOSTROWICKI, PASZYNSKI, WRÓBEL, ROSCISZEWSKI, KOZŁOWSKA-SZCZESNA, STARKEL, BREYMAYER, MATUSZKIEWICZ, SZUPRYCZYNSKI, KORCELLI, STASIAK and many others.

The Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw is the first foreign partner to the Brno Branch of the Institute of Geonics. Agreement on bilateral collaboration was signed in 1993. The mentioned collaboration includes three official topics as follows: climatology, hydrogeography and settlement. However, traditional contacts exist also in other fields of interest, namely in ecogeography, geomorphology, etc. The Institute also participates at multilateral collaboration "Regional Fundamentals of Eco-Development", coordinated by the Institute of Geonics, Brno.