

Scandinavian Glacial Boulders in Northern Poland and their Reconnaissance, Protection and Dissemination

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The glacial boulders dragged by the Scandinavian ice-sheet were used as building material of the historical objects of religious worship and they are utilized as well as a part of the contemporary sacred and secular architecture, roads, bridges, kerbs, walls and gravestones. Frequently the boulders become subjects of legends and local tales. Gathered in the petrographic gardens of north-western Poland they exemplify splendidly the way in which the principles of the inanimate nature's protection are being carried out. Apart from their unquestionable aesthetic function in the landscape the erratics collected in that manner play a major educational part. The visitors learn basic petrographic types of rocks and they also find out about the erosive and transport activity of the glacier.

The ability to identify the same examples of the Scandinavian glacial boulders, this time in the historical objects of northern Poland, emphasizes cognitive aspects

in the architecture of that kind. The visiting tourists have an excellent opportunity to find the treasure of the nearest surroundings in the form of boulders dragged by the Scandinavian ice-sheet in the Upper Pleistocene (20 ka BP and 15 ka BP).

Wise promotion respecting the due care for the objects, which are part of the cultural heritage of the region, makes reference to nowadays universally expected objectives of the human natural environment protection.

Therefore the issues brought up in this paper join in the present-day research currents in Earth sciences that is in the interdisciplinary scientific approach to the question. Since the essential activity areas are: on the one hand comprehensive geological reconnaissance of the stone objects that make the cultural heritage of the region and on the other and protection of these characteristic geological reserves of the Pleistocene glacial deposition.

The presented problem is new in Poland. It creates very direct and extensive connection between the research onto indicator erratics and the promotion of environmental protection. It also attracts attention to the distant transport of rocks from Scandinavia by the powers of nature as well as to the acquisition of building material in the nearby fields and forests namely to the impoverishment of the human beings and natural environment. Thanks to the above the question refers to the interdisciplinary research which is energetically demanded in natural sciences and makes use of the achievements of geology and zoology. This innovatory solution will be complemented with considering the architectonic theme of the historical stone buildings of north-western Poland. Altogether that will make a long-lasting contribution to Polish science.

Keywords: Scandinavian glacial boulders, natural environment protection, natural and cultural heritage, northern Poland