

## The Polar Club

The Polar Club in Poland was initiated by five polar explorers Alfred Jahn and Stanisław Baranowski (Wrocław), Krzysztof Birkenmajer (Cracow), Jan Szupryczyński (Toruń) and Maciej Zalewski (Warsaw). The initiative originated in 1971, but it was realized three years later. The first convention of the members of the Polar Club took place in Wrocław on 29 March 1974, in an association with the current scientific symposium on the Svalbard expedition. 71 polar explorers from the whole Poland participated in the foundation meeting of the Club, and 72 members were accepted. A. Jahn presented the general propositions of the Club organization, and a preliminary regulations were accepted after the discussion.

It was decided, that every one who is interested in polar problems from scientific or purely cognitive point of view, and who confirmed his interest by the presence in polar regions may become a member. The founding members were confirmed by the Inauguration Meeting. The new members will be accepted by the Committee and by a yearly General Meeting. The candidate must be a member of the Polish Geographic Society. The main goals of the Club were defined as: a) spreading the knowledge about the polar regions, b) propagating the ideas of the research and exploration of polar regions and popularization of Polish achievements, c) unabling the contacts among the participants of the polar expeditions.

The main forms of action for the fulfilment of these goals were the following: a) carrying out the informatory and publicatory activities, b) backing the initiatives of scientific and exploratory polar expeditions, c) evaluating and formulating opinions on all sorts of activities dealing with the studies and cognition of polar regions, d) contacts with relevant foreign polar organizations, e) gathering the data on the history of Polish polar expeditions and on the participation of Poles in studies of polar regions, also an organization of the library and an archive, f) if possible organizing the turistic-cognitive trips to polar regions for the Club members. The I Convention decided also, that the yearly meeting, in which the members should participate, should contain three parts: a) a scientific part (a symposium, presentation of papers), b) administrative and c) social gathering. It was decided, that the Club will be headed by the Committee, elected every three years, composed of a President, Secretary and 9 Members representing the main centres of polar interest in Poland. The First Committee was as follows: President — Prof. Dr. Alfred Jahn (Wrocław), Secretary — Dr. Stanisław Baranowski (Wrocław), Members: Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Birkenmajer (Cracow), Dr. Dariusz Bogucki (Gdańsk), Dr. Jerzy Cegła (Wrocław), Dr. Tadeusz Klatka (Łódź), Prof. Dr. Stefan Kozarski (Poznań), Prof. Dr. Ryszard Schramm (Poznań), Prof. Dr. Jan Szupryczyński (Toruń), Prof. Stanisław Szymborski

(Gdańsk), Prof. Dr. Roman Teisseyre (Warsaw) and Dr. Maciej Zalewski (Warsaw).

The further conventions of the Club and the scientific symposia being the part of them took place as follows: II in Wrocław (1975), III in Toruń (1976), IV in Poznań (1977), V in Gdańsk (1978), VI in Burzenin (1979 — organized by the Łódź group) and VII in Cracow and Osieczany near Myślenice (1980).

On the V Convention in Gdańsk the regulations of the Club were revised. This was necessary as the Polish Academy of Sciences established a Committee of Polar Research. The following regulations were decided upon in Gdańsk on the 28 April 1978.

### The goals of the Polar Club

1. Spreading the knowledge about polar regions
2. Propagation of the ideas of the polar research and exploration and popularization of the Polish achievements
3. Unabling the contacts among the participants of polar expeditions.

### The means and ways of actions

1. Initiative of cognitive and research actions in polar regions, advising on polar matters the organizations, institutions and private persons, especially Club members
2. Evaluation of all Polish actions dealing with the cognition and studies of polar regions
3. Contacts with relevant foreign polar organizations
4. Organization of conferences and symposia on polar matters
5. Gathering the materials for the history of Polish Polar expeditions and Polish participation in studies of polar regions. Running the archive and the library of the Club
6. Organization of cognitive-turistic trips for the Club members to the polar regions.

### Members of the Polar Club

Everyone interested in polar problems from scientific or cognitive point of view and who confirmed his interest by presence in polar regions may become a Club member.

The founding members were onfirmed by the Inauguration Meeting on the 29 March 1974 in Wrocław.

The new members are enlisted by the Committee and accepted by the Club Board.

### Duties of the Club members

1. Consequent and permanent action for the development of the polar ideas in Poland
2. Active participation in actions and events for the cognition and studies in polar regions
3. Popularization of the knowledge on polar regions
4. Paying the yearly dues determined by the membership in the Polish Geographic Society
5. Participation in the yearly conventions, which will be organized for the presentation of reports from the previous year expeditions.

### Meetings and conventions of the Club

1. A plenary meeting and a convention of the Club members take place every year
2. The convention is a chance of the evaluation of Club activities, in contains three parts:
  - a) scientific (a symposium, presentation of papers)
  - b) administrative (Club meeting)
  - c) social
3. The Club meeting chooses the Council in a year when the Council of the Polish Geographic Society is changed.

### The Club Council

1. The Club is headed by:
  - a) The Committee headed by the President, Vicepresident and Secretary
  - b) The Club Board, with representatives of all active polar groups in Poland
2. The Committee and the Board are elected every three years on the yearly convention and meeting of the Club members
3. Committee and the Board are accepted by the Council of the Polish Geographic Society
4. The President of the Club takes part in the plenary sessions of the Main Committee of the Polish Geographic Society
5. The Committee performs all administratory duties necessary for the Club activities according to this regulation
6. The Club Board meets before every yearly meeting of the Club members, evaluated and advises the works of the Committee and informs on the activities of particular groups in Poland.

The General Meeting of the Club called the following new Council: President — Prof. Dr. Alfred Jahn, Vicepresident — Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Birkenmajer, Secretary — Dr. Stanisław Baranowski (died on 27 August 1978). During the illness of the Secretary his duties were preformed by Dr. Jerzy Pereyma (Wrocław).

The Club Board has 22 members from all active polar centres in Poland: Gdańsk — Dr. Dariusz Bogucki, Prof. Stanisław Szymborski; Katowice — Dr. Marian Pulina; Cracow — Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Birkenmajer, Prof. Dr. Zdzisław Czeppe; Lublin — Dr. Kazimierz Pękala; Łódź — Prof. Dr. Anna Dylkowa, Dr. Józef Jersak; Poznań — Prof. Dr. Stefan Kozarski, Prof. Dr. Ryszard Schramm; Szczecin — Leszek Czarnecki M. Sc., Stefan Matalewski M. Sc.; Toruń — Prof. Dr. Jan Szupryczyński, Dr. Gabriel Wójcik; Warsaw — Prof. Dr. Gertruda Biernat, Dr. Wojciech Krzemiński, Dr. Stanisław Rakusa-Suszczewski, Prof. Dr. Roman Teisseyre, Dr. Maciej Zalewski; Wrocław — Dr. Stanisław Baranowski, Dr. Jerzy Cegła, Dr. Jerzy Fabiszewski, Prof. Dr. Alfred Jahn.

The Polar Club participates actively in the scientific activities initiated and supervised by the Committee of Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The representatives of the Club participated in the international conference on "Current Polar Problems" organized in September 1978 in Warsaw and in Polish-Russian conference on "The History of Polish, Russian and Soviet polar research" organized in September 1978 in Wrocław.

A Laboratory of the Polar Studies Documentation was called into being within the Geographic Institute of the Jagiellonian University by an initiative of the Polar Club on 1 September 1979. The main goals of this Laboratory are: protecting against the loss, dispersion or oblivion of various archival materials, documents, letters, elaborations and relics connected with Polish polar activities and monitoring of Polish polar expeditions and studies. The data on 39 expeditions and on 14 yacht cruises were elaborated during the 1979. A register of the participants of polar expeditions after 1918 was elaborated, containing 307 names and 103 names of the participants of the yacht cruises. The bibliography of Polish polar studies and explorations was started. Nearly 3500 titles were gathered till the end of 1979.

The organization of the polar museum or of a polar exposition within an existing museum was discussed on the last convention of the Club in Cracow and Osieczany near Myślenice (24—27 April 1980). An initiative of prof. dr. Alfred Jahn of writing a monograph of the south Svalbard (region of the Hornsund fiord) was backed up. The Polar Club has at present (after the acceptance of new members by the plenary meeting in Osieczany on 27 April 1980) 343 members.

Jan Szupryczyński