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## INTRODUCTION

For several years, the editors of the '*Turyzm/Tourism*' academic journal have been publishing specially prepared issues on the occasion of International Geographical Union (IGU) world congresses and regional conferences.

The first such issue (issue 1, vol. 2/1992) was prepared for the 27<sup>th</sup> IGU Congress, held in August 1992 in Washington. It was published in English only and concerned the tourism assets of settlements in Poland. It contained 10 articles written by Polish tourism geographers on Kraków, Łódź, Toruń and Wrocław, as well as Krynica Zdrój, pilgrimage and rural tourism centres.

The issue of *Turyzm* (issue 1, vol. 18/2008) was published to coincide with the 31<sup>st</sup> IGU Congress which was held in August 2008 in Tunis. There were nine articles, six of which were research-focused, and the other three giving information on tourism geography in Poland. Their authors presented research directions in tourism geography in Poland, a new methodological approach, a review of urban tourism, research issues in tourism geography, thanatourism, and the development of tourism geography in Kraków. In the second the authors presented Polish research centres, academic journals on tourism, and regularly organized academic conferences.

On the occasion of the IGU Regional Conference to be held in August 2014 in Kraków, the editors have prepared two issues of '*Turyzm/Tourism*': issue 2, vol. 23/2013 and issue 1, vol. 24/2014.

The former contains seven articles written by academics at the Institute of Urban and Tourism Geography, University of Łódź. The publication was prepared in order to present the research interests of and the results of research conducted by academics at the Institute, the largest Polish tourism research centre. The articles concern cultural tourism at various places and in different forms (museums, medieval castles of the Teutonic Order, folk culture, architecture and the arts), Polish domestic tourism, new spaces and forms of tourism, as well as the use of holiday biographies in research on tourism space.

The latter issue of '*Turyzm/Tourism*' (issue 1, vol. 24/2014) is dedicated to tourism space as a paradigm for its geographical study. The authors of the ten articles included in this issue represent the major research centres in Poland and the publication as a whole shows the development of both theoretical foundations and empirical studies in Polish tourism space. Apart from these articles, the issue contains reviews of four habilitation theses published in the last two years.

Both the earlier issues of our journal and the latest two comprise a overview of tourism research in Poland in the past 20 years.

*The Editors*

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