NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF POLAND AND ITS PROTECTION
in Łódź University Geographical Research

Edited by Elżbieta Kobojek and Tadeusz Marszał
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Łódź is located in the central part of Poland, but for a long time little attention was devoted to this city in geographical research, for a variety of reasons. It was partly due to its location on the border of two large historical regions: Greater Poland to the west and Masovia to the east. In some physical-geographical divisions the borderline between these two regions runs along Piotrkowska Street, Łódź’s main north-south artery. More extensive research in this area was initiated by geographers from Łódź University, which was established in 1945. The next generations of Łódź University geographers continued exploration of the specificity of the Łódź region, along with conducting research work in all the country.

In terms of the natural environment, Łódź has a border location as regards geology, topography, hydrography and flora. It lies on the watershed, in the highest part of the Central Polish Lowlands. The climate in Poland is mostly temperate, and climatic conditions of Łódź are similar to the country’s average annual, seasonal and monthly characteristics. For about a hundred years, though, some climate modifications have been observed, caused by the presence of a large city. In the vicinity of the northern limits of Łódź are the boundaries of the northernmost occurrence of the main forest-forming trees: common beech (Fagus sylvatica), common silver fir (Abies alba) and common spruce (Picea abies), which is why a border between high-order geo-botanical regions has been drawn in this area. Because of the marked distinctness of the
natural conditions, a physical-geographical unit named Łódź Uplands, comprising high- and low-lying areas, has been established. The chapters contained in this volume present the diversity of Poland’s geographical features and Łódź University geographers’ contribution to expansion of this area of study.

_Elżbieta Kobojek and Tadeusz Marszał_