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**BLANOWICE COAL – AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY  
OF IDENTIFICATION AND EXPLOITATION BEFORE 1870**

*history of mining, lignite mine,  
19<sup>th</sup> century, Zawiercie, Siewierz*

Among many various types of Mesozoic brown coal in Poland, which typically do not create complex forms, the so called Blanowice coal originating from Lower Jurassic series in Częstochowa-Zawiercie region, is unique. An increased coal bearing capacity that appears locally in the profile of land deposits of Upper Lias was the main reason for coal mining development in the area between 1818 and 1959. The centre of coal mining of the time focused around Poręba near Zawiercie as well as in several other locations, including but not limited to: Ciągowice, Blanowice, Łazy, Siewierz. The main activity was the exploitation of shallow coal deposits of the thickness of up to 2.0 m. The geological identification of the region began at the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. Leopold von Buch, Georg G. Pusch, Ludwik Zeuschner (Zejszner) and Ferdinand Roemer contributed significantly to the research in the area.