

Wiesław KOTARBA

**THE SMALL IRON ORE MINE “ALEKSANDER 20”  
IN UJKÓW STARY NEAR BOLESŁAW**

*the history of mining, iron ore, “Aleksander 20” mine,  
Ujków Stary, Zagłębie Dąbrowskie*

The small iron ore mine “Aleksander 20” in Ujków Stary near Bolesław was situated in the location of a mining charter “Aleksander No. 20”, directly adjacent to the charter “Triumwirat”. Mining in this location had been undertaken well before the first recorded date in 1920 which is documented not only in the intangible memory of local landowners but also preserved in the old names of locations derived from mining nomenclature. Old mine “Wiśniowska”, “Złota góra”, and Michalska spoil heap are the evidence of old mining exploitation in this region that from the 20s was a domain of two industrial entrepreneurs Zięba and Bardoń. Zięba was an accomplished mining businessman who was well known and respected in the industry. Bardoń, on the other hand, was an entrepreneur and a man with assets, capable of collecting the required funds. The research into the history of the Mine “Aleksander” was crucial for better understanding of its role in creation and development of a new identity of the “industrial society” between the local landowners. The collected information also allowed not only for the recreation of the history of exploitation of the iron ore in the region of Zagłębie Dąbrowskie, but also for a better insight into the administrative processes in the first years after Poland regained its independence after 123 years under Partitions. Based on an example of a relatively small mine, we are able to trace the influence such small enterprises had on local community and hence the living conditions of its employees. Although of an insignificant size, the Mine “Aleksander” employed a significant proportion of the local population.