

Wojciech PREIDL  
Andrzej J. WÓJCIK

## SECRETS OF THE FORMER MINES

*history of the mining, protection of monuments, exploration*

As increasingly more mines are gradually being closed down, the interest in mining past is growing. The enthusiasts of history of technology, adventurers and explorers wander in the area looking for signs, excavation, mining equipment, and former slag heaps, where ore, chemical raw materials and fuel mining used to flourish. Traces of the underground or opencast mines can be found in different parts of Poland. Many enthusiasts struggle to describe and, most of all, document the traces of this historic heritage so that they are not forgotten. Quite often these actions lead to great results and so called “memorabilia” of the former mines become a basis of a new tourist attraction for the incoming visitors. This article presents the secrets that underground excavations hide and the stories they can tell based on the examples of three selected mines.