

Wojciech PREIDL
Andrzej J. WÓJCIK
Grzegorz DYDUCH

**PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION
OF STONE CASINGS OF UNDERGROUND EXCAVATIONS**

*history of mining, mining excavations,
preservation of mining heritage*

Protection of underground excavations against the negative impact of environmental factors is an extremely complicated and complex issue. The construction, which may be made of natural or artificial stone, undergoes destructive influence depending on the type and quality of the material from which it was made. Other factors such as execution time, the manner of execution and quality of materials used in construction will also influence its resistance. Environmental factors affecting the underground constructions can be very diverse as well. The nature and intensity of their activities depend on the type of rock, the depth of the excavation, water conditions on the surface and in the rocks surrounding the excavation. The way of ventilation and the chemical composition of air entering the pit determine the intensity and type of material corrosion. There is neither one clear diagnosis nor the methodology on solving the issue on protection and maintenance of underground constructions. Each pit needs to be examined individually, taking into account special environmental conditions, type of construction but also its natural and historical values. Even the most effective activities aimed at protecting excavations cannot lead to the destruction of their outlook and historical assets.