

SUMMARY

In spite of large possibilities of being applied in practice the interpretation of aerial photographs as a method of research did not find, for long, a proper position in the curricula of universities.

It is only since four years that two centres, namely the Warsaw and the Wrocław Universities, have introduced the subject of photo-interpretation into their training programmes.

This year, a conference was held to present the achievements attained so far in the field of using aerial photographs as a base for geographical studies and also to exchange views on the programmes prepared in this respect.

The present volume is devoted to the proceeding of this conference and it contains the papers read during the meeting. The authors of the papers discussed the programmes of the geographical interpretation of aerial photographs of the geographical departments of the universities in the Soviet Union, the United States, the Netherlands and France, and also in Poland at the Universities of Warsaw and Wrocław.

The paper of B. Winid dealt with the American programme. The author indicated to the big popularity of the interpretation method among the American geographers. During the recent four years the number of students of the special courses on interpretation of aerial photographs has increased fivefold.

Then A. Keşik took floor and presented the system of studies in the International Training Centre for Aerial Sur-

vey /the Netherlands/, being an international centre of training specialists in photogrammetry and photointerpretation. The good equipment of the centre, excellent teaching staff make it possible to fully master the ability of interpreting of aerial photographs although in a relatively limited specialistic scope.

A further paper was read by A. Ciołkosz who spoke about the programme of the geographical department of the Moscow University. The author stressed the big amount of time devoted to the practical duties during which the students prepare problem maps on the base of aerial photographs the latter being simultaneously the object of a thorough analysis. Geomorphology, hydrology and pedology are the main fields of interest.

M. Skotnicki informed then on the application of aerial photographs in exploration activities in Africa and he stressed the importance of this technics in the researches carried on by the Centre for African Studies at Sorbonne in Paris.

Detailed information on the most recent achievements in photographic and interpretation technics was presented by E. Piechowicz. He spoke, among others, about the various kinds of photographs applied depending on the aim and character of studies /panchromatic, colour, spectroscopy and radio-bearing photography/.

Then followed the papers by W. Walczak and L. Baraniecki who reported on the studies based on aerial photographs which had been carried out by the Department of Regional Geography of the Wrocław University. A detailed geomorphological map of a part of the Sudeten Mountains was mentioned as an example. The authors stressed the importance of the aerial photograph in distinguishing the forms of microrelief and also a considerable shortening of time needed for the elaboration as compared with classical methods. Other studies dealt with detailed land utilization with respect to alterations in spatial economy.

The authors then spoke about the training programme which is mainly based on G.W. Gospodinow's book entitled "Deszifrowanie aero-snimkow". The method of interpretation is generally used by students in preparing their master's theses.

The last paper presented at the conference dealt with the programme of geographical interpretation of aerial photographs of the Department of Regional Geography of the World at the University of Warsaw. The programme begins with the problems of photography and photogrammetry which are the base for further studies of interpretation with respect to land utilization, geomorphology and hydrography. The studies also concern the geographical problems of arid and humid zones and are illustrated with a large set of photographs owned by the Department.

A. Ciołkosz informed then the participants of the conference about the establishing of a Laboratory of Interpretation of Aerial Photographs which is concerned with limnological studies /slime and plant overgrowing of lakes/, with studies of transportation /intensity of traffic, traffic capacity of thoroughfares/, and also with analysing the directions in changing the agricultural landscape in result of new industrial investments.

Summing up the results of the conference B. Winid postulated the necessity of creating a commission on interpretation of aerial photographs at the Section of Science of the Polish Geographical Society. Its task would be to coordinate studies carried on by particular centres and to secure materials related to the programme under realization.

An exhibition - "Aerial photographs in geography" - was exposed during the conference. The aim and character of the display was described by K. Trafas.

Annexes to this volume deal with the discussions held during the conference. Also is enclosed a programme of the course on interpretation of aerial photographs as it is realised by the Department of Regional Geography of the World of the Geographical Institute of the Warsaw University.