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UNDERTAKE INVENTORY OF POLISH CITIES

In 1947, the Institute of City Planning of the Warsaw Polytechnicum was ordered by the Ministry of Reconstruction to work out a detailed chart of Pultusk Island for its historical landmarks. This involved a listing of all the buildings of historical importance according to types, original and current purpose, style of architecture, etc.

This was the beginning of a gigantic project called Urban Inventorying. After Pultusk Island, the towns of Pultusk, Tarlow, and Warka were inventoried. In the same year, 40 students from the Warsaw Polytechnicum, under the supervision of two professors, inventoried 17 cities in the Mazury area, including Biskupiec, Orneta, Olsztynek, Jeziorany, Szczytno, Dobre Miasto, and the old section of Olsztyn. A general inventory of 16 cities of Szczecin Wojewodztwo, as well as 27 cities of the Mazury area, was made in the autumn of 1947.

In 1948, the cities of Olecko and Raczki in Bialystok Wojewodztwo were inventoried. In Lublin Wojewodztwo, six cities, including Bilgoraj, Goraj, and Frampol, were inventoried. In Kielce Wojewodztwo, Stopnica, Nowy Korczyn, Staszow, Klimontow, Polaniec, and Koprzywnica were inventoried. In the Krakow Wojewodztwo two towns and nine of the Kujawy cities were inventoried.

In 1949, 11 more Kujawy cities were inventoried, including Raciazek and Sluzew. Also inventoried were 11 cities of Lodz Wojewodztwo, a group of Sandomierz towns (Zawichost, Tarlow, Solec, etc.), four cities of Bialystok Wojewodztwo, as well as Wachok and Ilza in Kielce Wojewodztwo. The 1949 survey was conducted by six groups (40 persons) under the Ministry of Construction. The plans for 1950 call for the inventorying of cities located along the Sandomierz-Kujawy belt.

The inventory of a city may be general, detailed, or special. The first step is a map, with a scale of 1:5,000. In the general inventory, the area is surveyed by a group of enumerators who list, sketch, and photograph all the developed, semi-developed, and undeveloped areas, with orchards, parks, lawns, and the number and types of springs, ponds, and streams. Quantitative and descriptive data are collected on public buildings and municipal communications. An enclosure contains

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data on historical places, economic data, demography, communications, administration, and a description of monuments. This information is obtained either from local records or through library research. The inventory plan for all cities is uniform.

For detailed inventory, a map with a scale of 1:1,000 or 1:2,000 is used. A detailed survey is made for the principal part of the city, with accurate building dimensions, type of building material, purpose for which the buildings are being used, type of roofing, etc.

The special inventory covers specific problems such as communications (together with diagrams of roads), agricultural (the layout of fields), trade (distribution of stores), and industry (the types of industrial establishments, local sources of raw materials, etc.).

The general inventory, together with the detailed and the special, gives a complete picture of the municipal centers. The information is so extensive and the drawings and photographs so detailed that future construction or reconstruction plans of a city can be made without any delay. It is also valuable as a guide to economic and social planning.

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