

## FOREWORD

This volume comprises seven papers on fluvial geomorphology. Most of them concern issues such as the structure, classification and dynamics of channel systems.

The first five articles are connected by the methodology applied and form a whole. The paper by Maria Kamykowska, Ludwik Kaszowski and Kazimierz Krzemień presents an original method of field mapping and recording of morphological data, which has been developed in the Geomorphology Department of the Institute of Geography at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. The method facilitates a uniform classification of channel types and defining of their reach structure, as well as their spatial distribution and changes of form. It was developed in the Polish Carpathian Mts. and has been field tested many times.

In the second paper by Ludwik Kaszowski and Kazimierz Krzemień the authors, on the basis of the literature and their own considerations, present several approaches to typology and river channel typology methods.

The following three articles are a result of field research conducted strictly along the lines of the Kamykowska's (et al.) channel mapping method. Kazimierz Krzemień describes the structure and dynamics of the Plima high-mountain stream (26 km) in the Italian Alps. Wojciech Chełmicki and Kazimierz Krzemień present the results of their typology of the Feshie River (40 km), Scotland. The authors assumed two typological approaches and then verified them in the field. The third paper by Marek Angiel presents the results of a research from the Łeba River in the late-glacial relief area of Pomorze, northern Poland. The author used the above-mentioned method modified to suit the local conditions.

Ewa Smolska gives an account of a research project on the structure and dynamics of a channel system in a young-glacial area, namely a section of the Szeszupa River in north-eastern Poland.

And finally, Roman S. Chalov presents some of the results of his long studies on the typology and diversity of river channels in Russia and the former Soviet Union. So far, the author has published several books on fluvial processes and channel typology and organised 11 conferences attended by fluvial researchers from across the former Soviet Union, as well as from other countries.

Studies of the entire river channel systems lead to a greater knowledge of the tendencies in morphology development, and should be promoted as such. However, there is also a practical aspect to it. Any regulatory work may only be truly effective within a channel system if it is thoroughly understood first.

Simultaneously with the preparation of this volume there was released „Stream Reconnaissance Handbook” by C.R. Thorne (1998). In the handbook various methods of field inspection and data collection for valleys and river-bed reaches are presented. While studying the handbook the editor of this volume was confirmed in his conviction that there is a need for further studies of the whole fluvial systems and presentation of different approach to the geomorphological research.

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