

*Bronisław Kortus*

## CITY OF CRACOW IN FOREIGN GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Cracovia totius Poloniae  
urbs celeberrima ...  
Mattheus Merian*

*Amsterdam, 1619*

*Abstract:* The geographical bibliography concerning the City of Cracow contains numerous publications by foreign authors. Two of them are outstanding works - those by Piero Innocenti (1973) and Francis Carter (1994). Among those authors are Italians, Germans, Britons, Americans. They were interested in a historic and spatial development of our city, its postwar transformation and the role of the Nowa Huta district and its steelworks in the functional and spatial structure of Cracow.

*Key words:* Historic Cracow, Old Town, Nowa Huta, Lenin/Sendzimir Steelworks, Cracow as European City of Culture, Cracow's „genius loci”

The city of Cracow, due to its long historical development, a peculiar site, a political and cultural significance and its characteristic spatio-urbanistic pattern was always interesting for scientists representing various sciences, geography included.

Until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. Cracow was a capital of Poland and one of the greatest European emporia. Being a seat of the oldest Central-European university (founded in 1364) the discussed city was – and still is – the important centre of science and culture. The loss of its capital function in the eve of the 17<sup>th</sup> c. began a regression, lasting to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. The later harmonious development of the city was considerably accelerated by the great industrialization, imposed to Cracow after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Its results – economic, social, ecological, urbanistic and spatial – were manifoldly analysed and criticized, also by geographers.

The geographical output concerning Cracow is plentiful. Prof. Karol Bromek's share in it is considerable. His works concerned both the demographical growth of Cracow and an evolution of the land use and the spatial city structure. Being usually synthetical, those works deepened the present knowledge on Cracow.

In this review – dedicated to the memory of Prof. Karol Bromek – the author wants to stress the great interest in Cracow shown by the foreign geographers, which result are numerous works, published abroad.

The most important and the most extensive work (667 pages) on Cracow by the foreign author is, no doubt, *La città di Cracovia*, by Piero Innocenti, the professor of geography in the Florence University, published in this city in 1973. This is an excellent synthesis of Cracow's genesis, development and the spatio-functional structure. The author knew Cracow personally in the turn of the 60s and 70s, used and analysed also the abundant bibliography on this city, both Polish and foreign one. He confronted the past with the present, stressing the actual city development against the wide background of historical, political and socio-economic changes of Poland. Prof. Innocenti pointed out also problems and difficulties connected with the recent city functioning, i.e. a lack of flats, an inefficient public transport, the lack of a sewage treatment plant, etc. His book is illustrated with numerous maps, diagrams – and black-and white photographs, available in this time. Prof. Innocenti has declared once that one of stimuli which made him to deal with Cracow was the reading of the collective work by the geographers from the Institute of Geography, Jagiellonian University, entitled: *Geographical Studies on Development and Economy of the City of Cracow (Studia geograficzne rozwoju i gospodarki miasta Krakowa, 1969)*. One of those geographers was Karol Bromek, who wrote an excellent chapter on the temporal-spatial development of Cracow. Moreover, this Italian geographer found and felt many similarities in the history and the „genius loci” of Florence and Cracow.

In the penetrative review of Prof. Innocenti's book, made by M. Kielczewska-Zaleska and A. Wrzosek, (1975) we read: „... probably there is no in the bibliography the second monography of the city written so universally by the foreigner ...”. For his work Prof. Innocenti was honoured in 1976 with the *City of Cracow Award*. The discussed book was put on the list of *Thousand Books on Cracow* in the *Encyklopedia Krakowa* (PWN, 2000).

With this monography is connected another Italian work, made by Prof. Gino De Vecchis of the *La Sapienza* University of Rome. His study, entitled *Cracovia – conflittuali spaziali in atto e prospettive di riordino territoriale* (Roma 1987) deals with the problems of Cracow's postwar development. In the 80s negative effects of this non-balanced socio-economic and spatial development appeared, causing social, spatial and ecological conflicts. Prof. De Vecchis observed them during his stay in Cracow (according to the co-operation agreement between the Jagiellonian University and *La Sapienza*). Using the actual data and Polish publications, he showed the situation of Cracow rather negatively.

His considerations on Cracow were continued in the paper: *L'atlante della città di Cracovia - un organico sistema di informazione territoriali* (1988), being the vast review of *Atlas Miasta Krakowa* (1988). Prof. De Vecchis highly appreciated this *Atlas*... treating it as an useful aid in the rational spatial planning of the city.

Another great work on Cracow is the book by Francis Carter, the English geographer, a lecturer at the London University, entitled *Trade and urban development in Poland. An economic geography of Cracow, from its origins to 1795* (1994).

This is the geographico-historical monography, dealing with commercial links of Cracow since its location (1257) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> partition of Poland (1795), consisted of 509 pages and published by the celebrate Cambridge University Press. The author (who dead in 2001) knew very well history and geography of the Central-Eastern Europe, Poland included. He visited Poland many times and had close contacts with Polish geographers and historians, especially with Cracow ones. His book is based on many year archiwal research, led in Cracow and Warsaw, and on other European sources, concerning good flows to/from and by Cracow. The role of Cracow as the important European commercial centre is presented against the wide background of Polish and European trade. F.Carter's book is illustrated with numerous maps, showing the important good flows from/to Cracow. In the top its development, i.e. in the 16<sup>th</sup> c., a scope of Cracow's commercial links reached westward Southern England, eastward – Moscow, south-eastward – the Black Sea, and southward – Northern Italy. This scope was defined by an archival good list transported to Cracow and exported from it. According to F.Carter, Cracow was in that time one of the greatest European emporia. The discussed book was the base to give to the author a degree of Ph. D. in geography at the Jagiellonian University in 1990 (he had obtained earlier also the Ph.D. degree at the Prague University)<sup>1</sup>.

It is worth to remember the earlier paper by famous German geographer, born in Austria – Norbert Krebs, the professor of the Berlin University – published in 1940, in Berlin, on Cracow and Warsaw as the cities reflecting the history of Poland (*Krakau und Warschau als Spiegelbilder polnischer Geschichte*, Krebs 1940). In the footnote there is the information that this was a text of lecture given by Prof. Krebs at the Berlin Geographical Colloquy, on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1939. The term, the place and the theme of this lecture on two capitals of Poland, the country just conquered by Nazi Germany are rather unusual.

The author deals with history and basic functions of both the cities, stressing the geographical and historical reasons influencing their growth. Among a considerable exposition of the Germans' role in Cracow's development (typical for German publications) the presentation of our city is real and in accordance with Polish understanding of Cracow's role in the history of Poland. The same concerns the description of Warsaw. N.Krebs' analysis reaches the end of the interwar period. He stresses the animated growth of both the cities – the urbanistic and economic one – after the regaining of independence by Poland after the 1st World War. There are 2 maps for each of the discussed cities, showing their site and the spatio-urbanistic growth. Both Polish and German publications and sources are cited. In the conclusion of his

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<sup>1</sup> There are also earlier F.Carter's publications on Cracow, published in the U.K., i.e. „*Cracow's early development*”, *The Slavonic and East European Review*, 61, 2, 1982, p.177-225, cited in his book.

paper Prof. Krebs writes on Cracow “... *that although this city was not Poland's capital no more, it remains a symbol of Polish traditions. From Cracow set out Kościuszko in 1794 and Piłsudski in 1914. During the partition period to Cracow came numerous Poles, longing for the national independence, and at present this city is a museum of the history of Poland. The estimable buildings and monuments pass to inhabitants a proud of past generations*” (Krebs 1940, p. 42). All those said in public, in the Third Reich capital, and wrote on Cracow a German geographer in October, 1939, when Warsaw ruins were still smoking and on the Wawel Castle tower was hanging the red flag with the hackenkreuz.

The City of Cracow is also a favourable and instructive didactic object for the geography teaching. In such the way it was shown in the interesting publication *Krakau und Nowa Huta. Alte und neue Städte in Polen* by a team of German geographers from the Osnabrück University (Breit G. et al., 1980). Due to an initiative of the Association of University Didacticians on Geography of the GFR, the series of the world city monographies was published (besides that on Cracow – those on Tokyo, Moscow, Berlin, Babilon, Damascus and Rio de Janeiro), as the education aid in the complex teaching of geography, history and contemporary social and political problems. According to this wide attempt, the work on Cracow contains the vast description of the historical development of the city against that of Poland, with the special stress on actual events and Polish-German relations. As it was written in the title, the authors show differences between the „old” Cracow and Nowa Huta district. They used German and English publications on Cracow and Poland.

Moreover, some of them spent several days in Cracow (in 1976), to know the city and to consult their observations with Cracow geographers. They appreciated highly advances in an expensive revalorisation of Cracow's monuments due to efforts of the whole nation. The second part of their work contains didactic advices and proposals of the group themes of lessons, i.e. Location of Cracow and Nowa Huta, Living standards in Cracow and Nowa Huta, Cracow's monument revalorization, Role of Cracow in the history of Poland, German cultural heritage in Poland, Nazi occupation in Poland, Territorial changes and population expulsions in Poland caused by the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The text is illustrated with photos and maps. The separate, second issue of this publication is prepared for pupils, being the set of exercises concerning the above listed themes. The discussed work is written in the friendly mood, of reciprocal understanding and respect.

The didactic aims were also those of other foreign publications on Cracow. The author wants to mention one of the latest, that by Werner Wallert, the geography teacher from the Göttingen gymnasium, entitled *Stadtgeographische Exkursion Krakau* (2000). W.Wallert describes a program and a course of several day trip to Cracow of advanced pupils of his school in February, 2000. Beside the sightsseeing of the city and the short seminar in the Institute of Geography, Jagiellonian University, the pupils made the mapping of Cracow's historic core (within the Planty garden ring), putting on the plan all catering units (as of February, 2000), by types. They were inspired by the map of the *Atlas Miasta Krakowa* (1988) showing the same phenomenon in 1983. Both the maps, that from the Atlas (1983) and this made by German pupils (2000) were published in the discussed paper. The result is that the number and the density of the catering units were in 2000 thrice greater than in 1983.

Also numerous foreign geography students chose Cracow – or its districts – as the themes of their diploma works. The genesis of such a decision was usually the short stay in Cracow of the student during the excursion being the element of his study program. Those who were fascinated by our city, asked next their professors whether they could write the diploma work on Cracow, with the help and support of Cracow geographers. Many such students/graduates from Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium and other countries worked in the Institute of Geography, Jagiellonian University. One of them was Dietmar Falk, the geography student from the Köln University, whose very good diploma work concerning the Cracow's historic core transition *Die Altstadt von Krakau im Wandel – Der Einfluss der Marktwirtschaft auf räumliche Entwicklungen* was published (Falk 1994).

This author visited Cracow several times in the eve of the 90s and using the earlier works of Cracow geographers on the historic core of this city, made comparison of their results with the situation, being to be shaped in this famous Cracow's district due to the political and economic transition, initiated in 1989. D.Falk noticed those changes and analysed them against those occurring in the whole city and in the country. This is the trustful and well-documented work, in which the author put considerable effort, enthusiasm and feeling.

Several years earlier another student, Andrew Ryder from the United States, studying in the UK, analysed the Lenin Steel works as an example of the „growth poles” in Poland (*Growth Poles Policy in Poland and the Lenin Steelworks*, 1990).

The second part of works on Cracow published in foreign languages is consisted of those made together by foreigners and Poles. Such the co-operation was usually the effect of the reciprocal contacts and the longer stays of foreign partners in Cracow. The same is the genesis of papers written by the author with Zoltan Antal from the Insitute of Geography, the Budapest University (Antal, Kortus 1978-79) or with Belgian geographer, Walter Vlassenbroeck from the Gent University (Kortus, Vlassenbroeck, 1979). Moreover, reprints of papers on Cracow by Polish and foreign authors were published in a manual of the London Open University (1981). In the comparative course entitled *City, Economy and Society. A comparative reader*, three cities were shown, those of Birmingham, Vancouver and Cracow. Our city was to be the example of a historic city functioning in the planned economy conditions. In this manual, to present the development of Cracow and Nowa Huta (The Growth of Cracow and Nowa Huta) the papers by N.J.G. Pounds (1969), K.Dziewoński (1943) and B.Kortus and W.Vlassenbroeck (1979) were used. The next B.Kortus' paper concerns *Structure and Development Trends of the Cracow Agglomeration* (1975). Z.Górka (1976) wrote *The Centre of Cracow*. The functioning of the regional plan on the example of Cracow and the Cracow voivodeship was illustrated with the paper by D.Jachniak-Ganguly *A Regional Plan in Practice: The Example of Cracow* (1978).

There is also the third group of publications on Cracow – those by Poles published abroad. They prove also the foreign opinion's interest in this city, because such the works were usually ordered by journal editors or by foreign publishing boards.

In 1943, in English *Town Planning Review* was published the paper by Kazimierz Dziewoński, Cracow architect (later the outstanding geographer), staying then in the UK,

entitled *The plan of Cracow, its origin, design and evolution*. In this work the spatio-urbanistic evolution of Cracow, since its eve to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War outburst was presented, together with the author's original plan of Cracow's development, elaborated in 1938.

In 1965, was ordered by the *Geographische Rundschau* (Braunschweig) editorial board, and published in this journal the paper by Antoni Wrzosek and Bronisław Kortus on the development and actual spatio-economic structure of Cracow, entitled *Krakau* (in the same issue there is the paper on Warsaw, by Leszek Kosiński). The paper on Cracow was written in the period of the cold war and the „political separation” of Poland and the FGR. In the author discussions with German editors prejudices and stereotypes, present in Polish-German relations and revealed in the analyse of Cracow's history and geography, had to be broken. In the eve of the 70s the actual Cracow development was interesting for the editing board of one of the GDR geographical journals, that of *Geographische Berichte*, thus the paper by B. Kortus on the development and the structure of the urban-industrial agglomeration of Cracow was published (1973).

In 1998, again ordered by the *Geographische Rundschau*, was published in this journal the paper by B. Kortus and A. Zborowski on Cracow in the transition period (*Krakau in den 90er Jahren*, 1998). The authors stressed the most socio-economic and spatial effects of transition in Cracow. Their work was put in the issue, which is all devoted to the contemporary changes in Poland.

In the foreign bibliography on Cracow numerous are publication on Nowa Huta and its Lenin Steelworks (since 1990 Sendzimir Steelworks). This plant, the greatest European steelworks (the Soviet ones excluded) for the foreign authors was a symbol of the „socialist industrialization” and the new housing complex of Nowa Huta was that of „socialist urbanisation”. One of the first information in West on the new steelworks in Cracow was the short paper by the famous American geographer, Norman Pounds entitled *Nowa Huta: a new Polish iron and steel plant* (1958). Earlier wrote about it Polish geographer, Antoni Kukliński (*La localisation d'un grand combinat – les forges Lenine*, 1955-1956).

Then the less favourable sides and effects of this great industrial plant and the disfunctions of the new Cracow's district, visible especially in the 80s, were considered by the geographers. From this period originate the mentioned above papers by B.Kortus – W.Vlassenbroeck (1979) or A.Ryder (1990). Moreover, in all other cited works on Cracow the authors usually much space devoted to the Nowa Huta and its steelworks, dealing with old and new elements in Cracow's development and structure.

The foreign publications made in the 90s analysed on Nowa Huta example the transition process in Poland, that of the industry restructuration included, on the Sendzimir Steelworks transformation example.

The typical of works of this type is that by Alison Stenning, the geographer from the Birmingham University, entitled *Placing (post)-socialism. The making and remaking Nowa Huta, Poland* (2000). The author shows from actual perspective political, social and ideological factors of the founding and the development of Nowa Huta and its steelworks. She ends her analysis in 2000, considering basic changes and elements of the Nowa Huta district transformation, with the special interest in the steelworks

restructuration, against the changes observed in Cracow and in Poland, too. Beside the publications, she used also results of interview made by her among the inhabitants as well as Cracow geographers. A. Stenning stresses the social and behavioral aspects concerning the population of Cracow and Nowa Huta, reminds its negative attitude in the period of the district realisation and analyses the actual, generally positive ones towards the transition process.

Ending this review, the author expresses a view that the City of Cracow also in future will be interesting for foreign authors and editing boards, although stresses in the descriptions and analyses can change. Nowadays Cracow image is more and more often that of the European cultural centre and that of international meetings. In 2000 Cracow was honoured by the title of *European City of Culture*. Growing is also the role of the modern industry and the applied research centers which closer and closer linked functionally (and even spatially) with Cracow university schools. More and more positive is also the attitude toward the foreign investment location in Cracow and in its environs. Let this Cracow's „genius loci” will be favourable for the further development of our city.

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## Miasto Kraków w zagranicznej literaturze geograficznej

### Streszczenie

W niniejszym szkicu – poświęconym pamięci Profesora Karola Bromka – pragnę wskazać na duże zainteresowanie Krakowem ze strony geografów zagranicznych.

Niewątpliwie najważniejszym, a zarazem najobszerniejszym dziełem autora zagranicznego o Krakowie jest *La città di Cracovia*, profesora geografii Uniwersytetu we Florencji Piero Innocenti (1973). Jest to doskonała synteza genezy i rozwoju oraz współczesnej struktury funkcjonalnej i przestrzennej miasta Krakowa.

Do monografii Krakowa Piero Innocentiego nawiązuje w pewnym sensie po 14 latach w swym opracowaniu inny włoski geograf, profesor Uniwersytetu Rzymskiego Gino De Vecchis (Roma 1987). Autor koncentruje się w tej pracy na problemach i konfliktach w rozwoju Krakowa po 2.wojnie światowej.

Kolejnym imponującym dziełem o Krakowie jest książka angielskiego geografa Francisa W.Cartera, wykładowcy Uniwersytetu Londyńskiego (Cambridge 1994).



Jest to praca geograficzno-historyczna traktująca o powiązaniach handlowych Krakowa od lokacji miasta w 1257 r. do 3.rozbioru Polski (1795). Pracę ilustrują liczne mapy przepływu ważniejszych towarów z i do Krakowa. Wynika z nich, iż w szczytowym okresie rozwoju, tj. w XVI.wieku, powiązania handlowe Krakowa sięgały po południową Anglię na zachodzie, po Moskwę na wschodzie, po Morze Czarne na południowym wschodzie i po północne Włochy na południu. Według autora, Kraków należał do większych emporiów handlowych ówczesnej Europy.

Miasto Kraków jest również wdzięcznym i pouczającym obiektem geograficzno-dydaktycznym. Jako taki został potraktowany w interesującej publikacji *Krakau und Nowa Huta. Alte und neue Städte in Polen* przez zespół geografów niemieckich z Uniwersytetu w Osnabrück (Breit G. i in., 1980).

Cel dydaktyczny przyświecał szeregu jeszcze innym opracowaniom zagranicznym o Krakowie (np. Wallert 2000) i in. Kraków budził też zainteresowanie u wielu zagranicznych studentów geografii, którzy za przedmiot swych prac dyplomowych obierali wybrane problemy bądź też dzielnice miasta Krakowa. Szereg takich dyplomantów z Niemiec, Francji, Wlk. Brytanii, Belgii i in. przewinęło się przez Instytut Geografii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. Jednym z nich był Dietmar Falk, student geografii Uniwersytetu w Kolonii, którego dojrzała naukowo praca dyplomowa dotycząca przemian Starego Miasta w Krakowie została opublikowana (Falk 1994). Wcześniej inny dyplomant Andrew Ryder, analizował kombinat Huty Lenina w Nowej Hucie jako przykład „biegunów wzrostu” w Polsce (Ryder 1990).

W drugiej grupie opracowań obcojęzycznych dotyczących Krakowa ująłem prace wspólne autorów zagranicznych i polskich. Do takich kooperacji dochodziło w rezultacie wzajemnych kontaktów naukowych i dłuższych wizyt partnerów zagranicznych w Krakowie (patrz bibliografia).

Wyróżnić też można grupę opracowań o Krakowie autorów polskich opublikowanych za granicą, z reguły zamawianych przez redakcje zagraniczne (por. bibliografię).

W zakończeniu można wyrazić przekonanie, iż miasto Kraków nie przestanie również w przyszłości budzić zainteresowania autorów i wydawnictw zagranicznych, przy czym mogą się zmienić akcenty czy punkty ciężkości w opisach i analizach tego miasta. Kraków bywa w ostatnich latach coraz silniej postrzegany jako europejskie centrum kultury i ośrodek międzynarodowych spotkań. Również znaczenie nowoczesnego przemysłu i myśli naukowo-technicznej coraz ściślej powiązanej z wyższymi uczelniami Krakowa. Nie bez znaczenia jest też coraz bardziej sprzyjający „klimat” dla lokalizacji inwestycji zagranicznych w Krakowie i w jego najbliższym otoczeniu. Oby ten swego rodzaju „genius loci” Krakowa sprzyjał rozwojowi miasta.

*Bronisław Kortus*  
*Institute of Geography and Spatial Management*  
*Jagiellonian University*  
*Cracow*

*Translated by Zygmunt Górka*

