

PRACE GEOGRAFICZNE, zeszyt 110

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## PREFACE

The present volume of the series "Prace Geograficzne" No. 110 is titled "Climate variability in Europe: Case studies". This publication is an effect of the co-operation within the field of regional climatology, initiated by the researchers from the Department of Climatology (Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland), and realized together with colleagues from other European research centers. The problem of climate variability is shown here in a few aspects. First, as an attribute of a phenomena revealed in multi-annual series of climatic elements, e.g. air temperature, atmospheric pressure and precipitation. Such interpretation of climate variability can be found in the papers of Barring et al., Piotrowicz and Domonkos, and Twardosz et al.

Another approach was presented in the papers of Gabała and Kühne, and Kühne and Matuszko. The authors focused on spatial climate variability in local scale, due to the anthropopression.

The paper presented by the authors from Moldavian Academy of Sciences in Kishinev (Chisinau) shows the connection between temporal and spatial temperature variability in the period 1887-1999, and possibilities of horticulture development. Therefore, it provides valuable agroclimatic information, defining threshold values of a chosen economical activity.

In the presented papers other research issues were mentioned as well. In the first three ones, the Cracow's series of meteorological observations is used, thanks to its extraordinary value. This homogenous series forms a basis for valuable contributions in the research of climate variability in Europe. It allows to distinguish and reliably verify climatic fluctuations since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the papers of Gabała and Kühne, and Kühne and Matuszko, the mechanism of human influence on climate and bioclimate in local scale was elaborated, including the impact of environmental factors (relief, local wind circulation and land use), and urban heat island functioning.

Summarising, I shall make bold to say that the present volume of "Prace Geograficzne" No. 110 contributes to evaluation of climate changes in different scales in the European mid-latitude zone. It also focuses the reader's attention on the dynamics of climate change and its significance for the realized economic functions.

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