

The founder of the map is the Polish Hill River Church Museum.

Our gift

Primary School No. 53 named after Paweł Edmund Strzelecki in Głuszyna, Poznań, has enriched its historical collections with a copy of the geological-geographical map of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) at a scale of 1:1, covering the explored territories of the Australian continent in the first half of the 19th century.



The first map of Australia and one of the first colored maps in the world was created by P.E. Strzelecki, who walked over 11,000 kilometers between 1839 and 1843.

In recognition of his contributions to the advancement of science about the contemporary world, the Royal Geographical Society in London awarded P.E. Strzelecki the Gold Founder's Medal for Explorers (November 1845) and accepted him as a member of the Society.

During the medal presentation ceremony, this map was displayed for the first time, garnering immense acclaim within scientific circles.

The original dimensions with the canvas are 7.6 m by 1.5 m; the length of the map itself is 5.6 m, and its width is 1.5 m. The publisher included a reduced copy of the map in the first book on the geology of Australia, "Physical Description of New

South Wales and Van Diemen's Land" (1845) by P.E. Strzelecki, which served as a textbook in universities around the world for 120 years.

The original map stored in an archive in London is not accessible to visitors because it must be kept under appropriate conditions.

When we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the explorer's death in May last year, the PHRCM organized a memorable exhibition at the Central Polish House in Adelaide titled "Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki, Australian Explorer - Irish Humanitarian."

At this exhibition, we presented the map at a 1:1 scale. It then went on to be displayed at the Polish Club named after Sikorski in Perth. Currently, it is at the primary school in Głuszyn, thanks to the decision of the PHRCM curator, Edward Dudziński, and the Board of the PHRCM.

Today, the map delights the students, the teaching staff, and visiting guests, allowing everyone to trace the journey of over 11 thousand kilometers of P.E. Strzelecki's expedition, who explored the Blue Mountains under extremely difficult conditions, climbed the highest peak on the Australian continent and named it Mt. Kosciuszko, discovered, explored, and named Gippsland, the region of the most fertile land on the continent, and conducted explorations in Tasmania.

On this occasion, the students of the Poznań school learn not only about the achievements of P.E. Strzelecki but also about the existence of Polish Hill River, where their ancestors from the areas around Zbąszyń and Dąbrówka Wielkopolska settled.

Here, they started a new life by building, among other things, a school and a church. Today, it is an important point on the map of South Australia, a place cared for by successive generations of Polish emigrants.

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