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HISTORY OF THE DANIŁOWICZ SHAFT
Summary

The Daniłowicz shaft was deepened in the years 1635—42. The excavation drilling was completed at a time when the function of mine manager was held by Jan Mikołaj Daniłowicz, the Grand Treasurer of the Crown. Over 230 years it reached only to level 1 (64 m deep). In the second half of the nineteenth century it was deepened in stages to level 5 and in 1929 to level 6 (240.6 m deep).

Throughout its history, the shaft was repeatedly modernized and served a variety of functions. For more than 200 years, it was used to draw large amounts of salt, mainly located in the solid deposit. As a result of the work carried out with this shaft, most splendid chambers of the current tourist route and the most beautiful excavations of the underground exhibition of Wieliczka Cracow Salt Works Museum were created. Since the eighteenth century it also served the growing tourist traffic. After it was deepened and thoroughly modernized in the 1970s, it had only communication functions, serving both the crew and tourists. Since the beginning of the 1960s, its sole task is to serve the visitors of the Wieliczka mine. After the installation of air-conditioning in 1996 and a modern hoist (years 2011 – 12), every year it provides great comfort and safety to over one million tourists.