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WIELICZKA ORPHANAGES – THEIR ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE TIMES  
OF THE AUSTRIAN PARTITION

Summary

In the era of dynamic economic and, especially, industrial development of various European countries in the nineteenth century, and a broad-scale process of pauperization, the ideas of philanthropy were generally revived, which highlighted the need to undertake organized care initiatives. It was at the time of the industrial revolution that various charity institutions were established. The first kindergartens called orphanages occupied a special place among them. No wonder that in one of the most important mining centers of the then Austrian monarchy such centers emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The main subject of the following study is the history of the creation and the first two years of the Wieliczka orphanages – the urban one and the one serving the salt mine – under the Austrian partition. The appearance of this type of care and education institutions in Wieliczka is probably not, for those times, unusual and unique. However, the case of Wieliczka deserves mentioning. The singularity of the internal situation of Wieliczka is based on the fact that the inhabitants of the city could use the same offers two ways – on the part of the city or the salt mine. This work closely describes the history of creation, legal and financial base of both institutions and the cooperation and coexistence of both institutions until Poland regained its independence.