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SULFUR MINE SWOSZOWICE

1786 – 1887

Summary

The theme of this article is an attempt to reconstruct the history of the Mining and Metallurgy Plant in Swoszowice in the years 1786-1887, that is, from the acquisition of the abandoned and neglected sulfur mine by the Austrian authorities until its liquidation in the years 1884-1887. The liquidation was decided upon because new and rich deposits of sulfur had been discovered in Sicily, the reserves in Swoszowice had been depleted, the conditions for extraction had become more difficult, and the excavations had been flooded, which made the overall production unprofitable.

The work is divided into three main parts: the first one includes the start-up of the company and determining its legal and organizational basis in the years 1786-1811, the second one represents the "golden years" in the development of Mining and Metallurgy Plant in the period 1811-1860, and the third one includes the decline of its activity and the liquidation of the company in the years 1861-1887. As far as possible, the author tries to determine at least approximately the volume of production and the number of staff despite the lack of complete and comprehensive source materials and studies, believing that even an incomplete outline of the company's history will be useful for future researchers.