

SUMMARY

Poznań in names, names in Poznań

Series

ONOMASTIC MONUMENTS

OF WIELKOPOLSKA

This book is a dictionary of the proper names denoting the most important aspects of public space in present-day Poznań: districts, parks, streets, housing estates, squares, institutions, hotels, restaurants, pharmacies, hospitals, cinemas, theatres, churches, buildings, cemeteries, bridges, rivers and lakes. It fits into the trend of popular science onomastic publications, thanks to which readers without a linguistic education can learn about the meanings of numerous proper names. Moreover, this book does not contain specialist terminology, footnotes and quotations. The author has selected the names discussed both subjectively and arbitrarily, considering them interesting and worthy of description. These include both historical terms and those created and used today by the residents of Poznań. They have one element in common – they are all still alive in the language of residents, although they may be of a heterogeneous character: official (they have been administratively approved) or colloquial (they are only used by the residents of Poznań and are not included in lists, directories and maps). The first type is represented by the names *Garbary* and *Święty Marcin*. The second type includes the terms *Abisynia* and *Batman*. The individual entries are arranged alphabetically, but the dictionary of the names described is of a nesting character, meaning that each entry contains a discussion of other names related to it in terms of the subject, language, when it was established and where it is located. The names described in this book are accompanied by illustrations of the objects to which they refer.

The names collected here are explained in accordance with the latest knowledge about proper nouns, as well as in terms of their origin and specificity. The author discusses the most important linguistic processes that have led to the creation of these nouns, the causes of the changes they have undergone throughout history, patterns of declension, structurally similar types of names of other city objects, trends in the formation of the newest names, as well as similarities and differences between names from other areas of the country, at the same time fully emphasising their mythological dimension. They reflect the particular way of seeing a given space and the spirit of its creators. They are a kind of magnifying glass through which the residents of Poznań look at the world around them. The book explains the relationship of individual names with the topography of the city and with historical, social and cultural conditions. Therefore, proper names are considered a kind of cultural archive. As their life is longer than that of an individual, they are considered to be linguistic monuments which are indestructible as signs of culture.

Given the above-mentioned view of proper names, this book is the first volume of the series entitled *Nazewnicze zabytki Wielkopolski* [Onomastic Monuments of the Greater Poland Province], which was initiated by four exhibitions that took place in recent years in Poznań (2012), Nowy Tomyśl (2013), Bolewice (2014) and Trzcianka (2015). These were organised by the Onomastics Committee of the Poznań Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The next volumes will be devoted to the nomenclature of poviats in the Greater Poland voivodeship.

The aim of this publication is to disseminate the knowledge about the past nomenclature of Poznań along with the origin (etymology) of individual proper names and their structural changes which took place as a result of spontaneous linguistic transformations or as a result of official decisions. According to the author, however, it is important not to discuss all the names of the urban space, but to present significant linguistic and nomenclature processes that are visible in the process of consolidating individual names of various urban objects, for example, when a specific name becomes established in a given space. Therefore, the selection of individual names follows the order: *naming process, naming phenomenon* → *name*. This publication illustrates the ways of building a contemporary collective identity through proper names. Its specific aim is also to save and describe the proper names that the residents of the city continue to create, such as the colloquial terms for buildings, districts, streets, and so on.

This book is for the residents of Poznań and all those interested in the history and interpretation of this type of word, specialists in the field of proper names and scholars dealing with other disciplines, including history, sociology, anthropology and ethnology.