

Preface

This monograph presents early studies and documents on historical earthquakes in Central Europe, in particular in the border regions between the three countries: Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia. These regions, embracing the Western Carpathians and the Sudetes, are a site of considerable geotectonic activity. The monograph is dedicated to the recent seismology; it complies with the recommendations of the European Seismological Commission of 1986 expressing the need for historical earthquake research. In such research, the macroseismic maps for the second half of the nineteenth century and archival documents for the late eighteenth century, presented in the monograph, have the same value as the seismograms in the instrumental era and provide data for seismic hazard assessment. The knowledge of seismic hazard is of utmost importance for the contemporary huge industrial projects in Europe; its detailed recognition is a must, notably in the areas where nuclear power plants, water power plants and other investments are planned, for which the seismic hazard should be determined as well as possible.

The documentation on seismic activity presented in the monograph provides a background for systematic monitoring of selected regions. We should keep in mind that there are no fully aseismic regions, as still evidenced by new events and newly retrieved historical data. Earthquakes of 2004 in the vicinity of Kaliningrad, 60 km NE from the Polish border, are a good example of events that unexpectedly occurred in the area regarded as quite aseismic.

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Studies of Historical Earthquakes in Southern Poland
Outer Western Carpathian Earthquake of December 3,
1786, and First Macroseismic Maps in 1858-1901

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