

#### EDITORIAL

*We have a pleasure to present a special volume of the „Geological Quarterly” of Państwowy Instytut Geologiczny (Polish Geological Institute). It is one of rather rare cases in the history of this periodical — the whole set of papers devoted to one subject. This time it is the geology and genesis of the Mississippi Valley-type Zn–Pb deposits of Upper Silesia in southern Poland*

*The Upper Silesian economic concentrations of Zn–Pb ores were known since the Middle Ages and their exploitation continued with various intensity ever since. If one calculates the total of metal produced over those centuries and adds the existing proven geological reserves, we may come up with tonnage which places the Upper Silesian mineralized zone very high, at the top ranges of the richest Zn–Pb-bearing regions of the world.*

*Accordingly, the geological literature on the subject, growing up for over a century, has developed very rich spectrum of ideas on the genesis and the geological structure of the Upper Silesian Zn–Pb deposits. In this volume you will find a very broad review of those, sometimes controversial, ideas and the synthetic presentation of the Zn–Pb deposits geology.*

*I would like to draw special attention of the readers to papers reviewing the present status of the leading genetic concepts: the ones emphasizing the role of the karst processes, and the others ascribing the importance to the fault tectonics. I should also mention here several very interesting presentations of the geostatistical isotopic and fluid inclusions models of the Upper Silesian Zn–Pb ore deposits.*

*I do really hope that information contained in this volume help foreign specialists in better understanding of the geological processes leading to Zn–Pb ores concentration not only in Poland but also elsewhere in the world.*

*Dr. Maciej Podemski  
Deputy Director  
The Polish Geological Institute*