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IRON ORE UNDERGROUND MINING AROUND OSTROWIEC ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKI AND A CATALOGUE OF OLD MINING WORKS RELICS

The article embraces the history of iron ore mining near Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski – one of the major metallurgy centres of the Old-Polish Industrial Region. It presents a short historical outline of local mining and metallurgy as well as the preserved relics of the past mining works and exploitation techniques. The author emphasizes the lack of studies over the issue of iron ore mining in this region and underlines the need to protect the remnants of mining history. The relics of old mines located around Ostrowiec constitute a valuable record of the region's mining traditions. However, they are now exposed to destruction as a result of human activities. A detailed cataloguing should be a stepping stone in ensuring protection and taking further actions to save the relics. The article describes the course and results of the first phase of terrain cataloguing works.