

Krzysztof MACIEJAK, Marcin MACIEJAK

SCHWARZE MINNA

*mining history, lignite, tuff,
Sichów, Lower Silesia*

The Schwarze Minna coal mine was opened between 1854 and 1855 and functioned for a period of at least 10 years. Initially lignite was mined; its deposit was, however, disturbed by tertiary basaltic volcanism. Once the lack of profitability of mining coal has been determined, as the deposit was established to be irregular and highly nodular, the mining company initiated an attempt to extract and market ground trass-like volcanic tuff as affordable building material of good quality and a substitute for mortar. The discovery of coal and fossil remains in volcanic tuffs between Chroślice and Sichów was of certain significance in the XIX century's geology, and was researched as such by established scholars of that age who contributed to furthering the geological knowledge about that particular part of Lower Silesia.