



TWENTY YEARS OF THE POLISH ANTARCTIC STATION *HENRYK ARCTOWSKI*



A panoramic view of the Polish Antarctic Station *HENRYK ARCTOWSKI* (62°09'S, 58°28'W, 3 m a.s.l.) at Admiralty Bay on King George Island (South Shetland Islands), West Antarctica. Photograph by Andrzej GAŹDZICKI, January 1981.

At present, the Polish research activities in Antarctica are focused on the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula region, where the year-round *ARCTOWSKI* Station was opened on the 26th of February 1977 on King George Island. The station was named in honour of the Polish scholar and explorer Henryk *ARCTOWSKI* — the scientific leader of the Belgian *DE GERLACHE DE GOMERY Belgica* Expedition to Antarctica in the years 1897–1899.

Since 1977 the *ARCTOWSKI* Station has been a place of ongoing research, and it has built up an impressive international reputation in the fields of Life Sciences, Oceanography and Earth Sciences.