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CREATION OF THE JOURNAL “STUDIA HISTORIAE OECONOMICAЕ”

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This year it has been 50 years since the first issue of “*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*” appeared in 1967. The idea that led the founders of this scientific journal was to overcome the language barrier and to present the scientific achievements of the Polish economic and social historians on a global scale.

In the 1960s, the negative effects of language isolation were felt not only by Poland but also by other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, whose languages do not belong to the world languages. This concerned, to a smaller or greater extent, all fields of culture and science, yet it was particularly noticeable in the field of history. Even today, despite the increasingly widespread use of English as *a lingua franca*, the language barrier remains one of the main obstacles to communication and dissemination of research results in various language areas.

In this state of affairs, the logical and necessary solution was and is to disseminate Polish research achievements by publishing them in one of the main Western European languages. In Poland this function has been fulfilled for over 50 years by “*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*”, established in 1966 in Poznań by prof. dr Czesław Łuczak and prof. dr Jerzy Topolski, whose first issue appeared in 1967.

The SHO genesis is associated with the Congress of Economic Historians in Munich, which took place on August 23-27, 1965. Under the influence of congressional experience among the Polish delegation, part of which were professors: Witold Kula, Czesław Łuczak, Marian Małowist, Jerzy Topolski, Izabela Biezuńska-Małowist, Bronisław Geremek and Antoni Mączak, discussed was the necessity of publishing a foreign-language

business magazine in Poland, whose task would be to familiarize scientists of other countries with the achievements of the Polish economic history. This was a reaction to the opinions of many scholars from all over the world, who indicated that due to the language barrier the achievements of Polish historiography are unknown. Meanwhile, in the 1960s, Polish economic history was gaining greater recognition abroad, establishing a dialogue with world science through a few publications in Western languages, and by the increasing presence of its representatives at congresses and international conferences. Consequently, in the unanimous opinion of the members of the Polish delegation, the strengthening of the position of the Polish science acquired in this way required dissemination of its achievements by publications in foreign languages.

Under the influence of a discussion in Munich, at the turn of 1965 and 1966, prof. Cz. Łuczak conducted a number of talks with economic historians from the most important academic centers in Poland and in the Ministry of Higher Education, which resulted in the creation of scientific journals in foreign languages, which were to be published by the Adam Mickiewicz University.

The final concept of the journal was the result of the cooperation between prof. Cz. Łuczak and prof. J. Topolski, who became co-authors of the planned books. The functions of the editorial secretary were entrusted to mgr Witold Szulc.

The first official meeting of the editorial team took place on March 1, 1966 in Poznań, during which it was decided to publish reviews and problematic articles related to socio-economic history, as well as a selected bibliography of works related to the subject matter published in Poland from 1965. During subsequent meetings of the editorial team, from March to October 1966, matters concerning name, languages, rules of the qualification of texts for printing, and publishing procedures were settled.

In the initial stage of organizational work, five titles for the resulting journal were proposed: *Acta Poloniae Oeconomice-Historica*, *Comentationes Rerum Oeconomicarum*, *Commentaria Universitatis Poznaniensis*, *Studia ad Historiam Oeconomicam Pertinentia*, *Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*. As stated in the minutes of the editorial board meeting "after a long discussion" the last one was chosen.

It was also decided that the articles would be published in one of four languages, namely English, French, German or Russian. The choice of foreign language in which the article was to be published was dependent upon the wishes of the author or on the possibility of obtaining a com-

petent translator. Simultaneously, the concept that individual notebooks were to be printed interchangeably in one of these languages was rejected. In turn, the bibliography was to be translated entirely into English.

The following professors were asked to submit the articles to the first notebook: B. Baranowski, W. Długoborski, S. Hoszowski, P. Korzeca, W. Kula, G. Labuda, H. Łowmiański, Cz. Madajczyk, G. Missalowa, I. Pietrzak-Pawłowska, W. Rusiński and Dr. R. Łangowski. In addition, prof. Cz. Łuczak and prof. J. Topolski pledged to provide the articles and W. Szulc the bibliography of the works published in Poland in 1965.

Ultimately, the first issue of the "*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*", which appeared in 1967, contained 10 articles and bibliography. Among the authors were J. Topolski, H. Łowmiański, B. Baranowski, P. Korzec, I. Pietrzak-Pawłowska, Cz. Łuczak, T. Filipiak, W. Rusiński, H. Słabek, R. Łangowski, and W. Szulc who developed the bibliography.

Since 1967, up to now, 35 volumes have been published. In retrospect, it can be stated that „Studies” has fulfilled the tasks assigned to it. For 50 years it has been a forum where Polish economic and social historians have published the results of their research in congressional languages and thus have become participants in international scientific life.

Among the thirty-five volumes published there are four special volumes from the early 1970s, namely number 5 published for the 6th International Congress of Economic History in Leningrad in 1970 (36 worksheets) and number 9, which appeared before the 7th Congress in Copenhagen in 1974 (34 worksheets). In addition, part of the papers presented at the symposium in Zamość (1972), devoted to forced displacement of the population during the last war, was included in volume 8, and volume 10 contains the results of an international colloquium on the rural economy before and during the early industrial revolution in Białowieża in 1973. In later years, volumes 21 of 1994, 23 of 1998 and 27 of 2009, dedicated to the next editors of this periodical, professors Cz. Łuczak and J. Topolski, and S. Kowal. These volumes gathered an extremely large group of authors who have analysed a wide range of issues covering the period from the Middle Ages to the present.

The narrow framework of this article does not allow for a more detailed characterization and a deeper substantive assessment of hundreds of articles with a wide variety of topics published in the „*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*” in the last 50 years. Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that „*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*” throughout the period of its existence has consistently informed about the main directions of historical-eco-

conomic research in Poland, reflected their dynamics and presented the most important achievements. For a long time „*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*” was the only such magazine in the socialist countries, becoming a good showcase of progress in Polish scientific life, especially in the historical and economic sciences.

Due to the publication of studies in congressional languages, the „*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*” was eagerly acquired by western researchers dealing with the history of Central and Eastern Europe as well as libraries of leading world universities and research institutes. Foreign readers highly appreciated the content level of the presented articles and emphasized the value of the extensive bibliography of Polish publications devoted to socio-economic issues, published in the „*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*”.

The most prominent representatives of Polish historiography were published in the papers of this periodical, including J. Topolski, Cz. Łuczak, M. Bogucka, W. Długoborski, J. Dobosz, M. Eckert, B. Geremek, D. Jarosz, A. Jezierski, J. Kaliński, S. Kowal, Z. Landau, H. Łowmiański, Cz. Madajczyk, J. Kochanowicz, A. Mączak, H. Madurowicz-Urbańska, J. Orczyk, I. Pietrzak-Pawłowska, J. Pomorski, W. Rusiński, H. Samsonowicz, W. Szulc, A. Sulik, J. Tomaszewski, A. Wyczański, S. Wykrętowicz, J. Zabłocka i J. Żarnowski.

Nowadays, the „*Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*” is a year’s issue aimed at historians, economists, sociologists and other social scientists who are interested in the issues of management theory and practice in the context of social and cultural conditions.

Tadeusz Janicki, Associate professor, Chair of Economic History, Institute of History at University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań. His main research interests includes general socio-economic history of the 19th and 20th centuries, with special reference to the civilization changes; history of rural areas and agriculture in the capitalistic and socialist economy; Also under investigation are problems of Nazi occupation of Polish territory, Polish political thought of the peasant movement (especially agrarianism) and Wielkopolska regional history. He published *Wieś w Kraju Warty 1939 – 1945* [“*Countryside of Wartheland 1939–1945*”], Poznan 1996; *Kształtowanie się polityki rolnej w RFN w latach 1949–1969* [“*Development of agricultural policy in the Federal Republic of Germany in the years 1949–1969*”], Poznan 2010. Since 2017 professor Janicki is an Editor in Chief of the *Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*.