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REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE  
“ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ENTREPRENEURS AND  
ENTERPRISES: BETWEEN SYNTHESIS AND CASE STUDY.  
ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHAIR AND  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC HISTORY  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF POZNAŃ AND  
THE ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY”  
IN POZNAŃ ON 22–23 SEPTEMBER 2022

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On September 22–23, 2022, at the Collegium Historicum of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, an academic conference was held to celebrate the centenary of the Department of Economic History. This conference and celebrations were planned for 2020 when the above anniversary fell, but the COVID-19 pandemic thwarted the organizers' plans and caused it to be postponed by more than two years.

The gathered guests representing the environment of economic historians from Poland, Germany and Ukraine were welcomed by Prof. UAM dr hab. Tadeusz Janicki Head of the Department of Economic History of the Faculty of History of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

The conference was opened by her magnificence Rector prof. dr hab. Bogumiła Kaniewska together with Prof. UAM dr hab. Katarzyna Balbuza, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of History. In her speech, the Rector emphasized the achievements and merits for Polish science of both the founders and first employees of the Department of Economic History in

the interwar period and in the post-war period, as well as the contribution to the development of economic history of the current employees of the Department of Economic History.

After the official opening of the conference, Prof. Tadeusz Janicki, who briefly presented the history of the Chair and Department of Economic History over the last 100 years. The next speaker was Prof. Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast from Frankfurt (Oder), who shared with the gathered her memories of the long-term scientific cooperation between the Chair of Economic and Social History of Modern Times (Lehrstuhl für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte der Neuzeit) of the European University "Viadrina" and the Department of Economic History and its then head Prof. Stefan Kowal. She thanked for the cooperation so far and expressed the hope that it will continue for the benefit of both parties in the future.

The last speaker in the introductory part was prof. dr hab. Tomasz Schramm, grandson of the founder and first head of the Department of Economic History at the then University of Poznań, prof. Jan Rutkowski, who shared with the conference participants a few memories about his grandfather from his family home.

The conference began with a session devoted to the economic history itself - "Economic history in Poland - history and the present" - during which the following papers were delivered: prof. Cecylia Leszczyńska from the University of Warsaw (*Economic history in Poland and the subject of its research in the 20th century*), prof. Wojciech Morawski from the Warsaw School of Economics (*Economic historiography in Poland. Achievements and challenges*) and Dr. Radosław Poniak and prof. Piotr Guzowski from the University of Białystok (*Polish research on economic history - a look from the outside*). The presented papers sparked a lively discussion during which the gathered guests reflected on the state of research and the place of economic history at the junction of two fields of science - history and economics.

In the second session - "Economic history - Specifics and methodological problems" - Dr. Marian Zalesko from the University of Białystok (*Economics and economic history in the 21st century*), prof. Lucyna Błażejczyk-Majka from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (*The role of statistical methods in research on economic history*) and prof. Rafał Matera from the University of Lodz (*How syntheses are created in economic history*), which sparked further discussion on the interconnections of economic history and economics, as well as on methodological problems related to research on them.

In subsequent sessions, the participants of the conference discussed entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs and enterprises in successive historical periods, starting from modern times and ending with the period of political and economic transformation in Poland at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries.

In the third session – on “Entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs and enterprises in the modern era and the nineteenth century” – prof. Piotr Guzowski from the University of Białystok (*Economic inequalities among the nobility at the end of the 18th century*), prof. Irina Shandra from the State Academy of Culture in Kharkiv (*Industrialists’ conventions as a form of presenting the interests of entrepreneurs and a manifestation of their self-organization in Ukrainian and Polish lands [late 19th and early 20th century]*), Beniamin Czaplą, MA, from the Silesian Library (*Not only Antoni Patek: Watchmaking as a source of income of Swiss Polonia in the first half of the 19th century*) and Prof. Piotr Franaszek from the Jagiellonian University (*Group portrait of Galician oil entrepreneurs*).

In the fourth session – on “Entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs and enterprises in the 20th century (until the end of World War II)” prof. Janusz Kaliński from the Main School of Economics (*State Entrepreneurship in Interwar Poland*), prof. Elżbieta Słabińska from the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce (*Landowners’ activities aimed at improving the economic condition of farms in the years 1918–1939 [on the example of the Kielce Province]*), prof. Ryszard Kaczmarek from the University of Silesia (*Methods of Polish industry recovering from the great economic crisis [based on the assessments and analyzes of German economic experts published in “Oberschlesische Wirtschaft” 1929–1939]*), Dr. Iwona Kawalla-Lulewicz from the Museum of the City of Krakow (“Juliusz Grosse” – *between tradition and modernity*) and exceptionally in this session prof. Małgorzata Machałek from the University of Szczecin (*Jan Baier – director of the State Farm Combine in Manieczki: A case study on the history of state farms in the years 1960–1991*).

The next, fifth session began on the second day of the conference, and its subject was “Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurs and Enterprises in the Interwar Period and the People’s Republic of Poland”. The papers were presented by Prof. Paweł Grata from the University of Rzeszów (*The state as an entrepreneur in the system of treasury monopolies in the Second Polish Republic*), prof. Jędrzej Chumiński from the University of Economics in Wrocław (*Management staff of Polish industry 1945–1956*), prof. Dariusz Jarosz from the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences (*Resourcefulness in everyday life as an element of the functioning of society and*

*the economy in the People's Republic of Poland [introductory remarks]*) and Dr. Krzysztof Popiński also from the Wrocław University of Economics (*Design and management in the realities of the People's Republic of Poland on the example of the activities of Professor Zbigniew Horbowy*).

Before the next session of the conference began, there was a very nice ceremony of awarding the Franciszek Bujak Award of the Polish Society of Economic History for the best monographs in the field of economic history. The jury of the award awarded it for 2021 to Dr. Jakub Kujawa from the Department of Economic History of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań for the work entitled *City space in the socialist economy: Industrialization and housing construction in the years 1950–1980 in Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Włocławek*. The award was presented by prof. Tadeusz Janicki, the President of the Polish Society for Economic History.

The sixth session of the conference concerned “Entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs and enterprises in the People's Republic of Poland” The speakers were Dr. Sylwia Straszak-Chandoha from the University of Economics in Wrocław (*State agricultural and related enterprises in the economy of the People's Republic of Poland in Lower Silesia*) prof. Andrzej Synowiec from the Jagiellonian University (*Lower Silesian Factory of Nicotine Preparations, 1952–1958*), and prof. Adriana Merta-Staszczak from the Wrocław University of Technology (*Polish State Enterprise and their impact on the reconstruction of cultural resources in Lower Silesia [1950–1989]*)

The last session ending this two-day conference concerned “Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurs and Enterprises in the Times of Systemic Transformation”. Prof. Zbigniew Hojka from the University of Silesia (*The second life of post-mining facilities. Mines as a tourist attraction in Southern Poland*), Dr. Dariusz Grala from the Institute of Cliometrics and Transformation Studies in Poznań (*Organizational development and construction projects of the PBG JSC capital group in the 21st century as an example of the contribution of the Poznań entrepreneurship in building Poland's raw material independence*) and as the last, Dr. Przemysław Czechanowski from the Institute of Cliometrics and Transformation Studies in Poznań presented a paper entitled *Entrepreneurship transformation in Wielkopolska after 1989. Some questions and research problems on the example of research on entrepreneurship in Wielkopolska*.

Closing the discussion and at the same time the entire conference, prof. Tadeusz Janicki as the head of the Department of Economic History – thanked all its participants for very interesting papers and constructive

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participation in the conference, including especially numerous voices in the discussion, and wished the whole circle of economic historians further interesting research projects and more interesting and constructive meetings at symposiums and conferences.

**Jan Miłosz**, habilitated doctor, graduate of the Department of History of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, in the years 1987–1995 an employee of the State Archives in Poznań, and in the years 2003–2008 an employee of the Department of Public Education of the Institute of National Remembrance in Poznań. Since 2008, he has been working as a researcher at the Department of Economic History of the Faculty of History of the Adam Mickiewicz University, currently as a university professor. Research interests – local government and its economy in the period of the People’s Republic of Poland, planned economy in the People’s Republic of Poland, religious associations in Poland in communist era.

Co-organizer of the conference “Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurs and Enterprises: Between synthesis and case study. On the centenary of the Chair and Department of Economic History at the University of Poznań and the Adam Mickiewicz University” in Poznań, September 22–23, 2022.