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## REPORT ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROF. PIOTR FRANASZEK, KRAKÓW, 14 NOVEMBER 2025

**Abstract:** On 14 November 2025, the Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University hosted the 70th anniversary celebration of the distinguished Polish historian, Prof. Piotr Franaszek, who specialises in economic history, accompanied by the ceremonial presentation of a commemorative book. It was a kind of tribute paid to the honouree by the academic community, in which the professor has been active for almost half a century. The ceremony was attended by numerous guests from the scientific world and his family. The Jagiellonian University Academic Choir added splendour to the speeches and the entire gala.

**Keywords:** Piotr Franaszek, jubilee, 70th birthday, economic history, Jagiellonian University

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On 14 November 2025, Room 52 of the Collegium Novum at Jagiellonian University hosted a ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of Prof. Piotr Franaszek, a distinguished economic historian and long-standing member of the Institute of History at Jagiellonian University.

The celebrations were presided over by Prof. Stanisław Sroka, Dean of the Faculty of History at the Jagiellonian University. After welcoming the many guests, the dean read a letter addressed to the honouree from the Rector of the Jagiellonian University, Prof. Piotr Jedynak, in which he expressed gratitude for his long-standing service to the university and congratulated him on his scholarly achievements and publications, particularly those related to the history of the Krakow Alma Mater. Subsequently,

the director of the Institute of History, Prof. Janusz Mierzwa, spoke and highlighted Prof. Franaszek's significant contributions – who was the director of the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University from 2002 to 2008 – to the development and modernisation of Collegium Witkowskiego, the home of the Institute.

A eulogy in honour of Prof. Franaszek was delivered by his student from the Economic and Social History Department of the Institute of History at the Jagiellonian University, Prof. Andrzej Synowiec, who outlined the profile of the honouree, his professional career, scholarly achievements and his own experiences from many years of cooperation with the Professor. He emphasised that Prof. Franaszek is not only a renowned scholar and erudite, but also a person of great culture, imbued with the ideal of harmonious human coexistence. Prof. Synowiec also expressed his hope that the honouree's memoirs of his extremely rich life would be published in the future.

On behalf of the Polish Historical Society (PHS), its president, Prof. Robert Litwiński from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, took the floor and read a letter prepared by the PHS for this occasion. Prof. Tadeusz Janicki from the University of Adam Mickiewicz, Poznań also read a special letter from the Dean of the Faculty of History, Prof. Przemysław Matusik. Prof. Janicki then addressed the honouree, this time as president of the Polish Economic History Society. It is worth mentioning that former presidents of the Society were also present in the hall – Prof. Wojciech Morawski from the Warsaw School of Economics and Prof. Paweł Grata, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Rzeszów.

Both Prof. Litwiński and Prof. Janicki emphasised the significance of Prof. Franaszek's contributions to Polish science, especially in economic history, where he is recognized as one of the most distinguished and renowned figures both in Poland and internationally. Prof. Franaszek's work will continue to be valued for many years, not only by students of economic and social history, but also by anyone interested in history.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a commemorative book to the honouree by his students and long-time colleagues, Prof. Aleksandra Arkusz and Prof. Andrzej Synowiec. The book is titled *Studies in Social and Economic History: A Commemorative Book Dedicated to Professor Piotr Franaszek*. It was published by the Kraków-based publishing house Towarzystwo Wydawnicze 'Historia Iagellonica'. The book contains 22 academic papers authored by friends and colleagues

Picture 1. Prof. dr hab. Piotr Franaszek



Source: <https://historia.uj.edu.pl/institut/pracownicy/piotr-franaszek>

of the honouree, who accepted the invitation to participate in this project. The articles are divided into three thematic groups: economic history (authors: Tomasz Kargol, Grzegorz Zamoyski, Jędrzej Chumiński, Krzysztof Popiński, Sylwia Straszak-Chandoha, Krzysztof Broński, Mirosław Kłusek, Paweł Grata, Sławomir Kamosiński, Janusz Kaliński, Damian Bębnowski, Rafał Matera and Janusz Skodlarski), political history (authors: Wojciech Morawski, Michał Baczkowski, Bogusław Górka, Mariusz Krzysztofiński, Józef Marecki, Wojciech Polak and Sylwia Galij-Skarbińska, Dariusz Iwaneczko) and social history (authors: Krzysztof Ożóg, Andrzej Synowiec, Jan Draus, Aleksandra Arkusz, Artur Patek, Wanda Łuczak). Additionally, the book includes: *Tabula gratulatoria*, a biography and bibliography of the Professor's publications from 1981 to 2025, and lists of master's and doctoral theses supervised by Prof. Franaszek. The volume is complemented by an insert containing 31 photographs.

Finally, the esteemed guest himself took the stage and shared a lively account of his life and academic journey. Professor Franaszek's story, rich with many anecdotes, received enthusiastic applause from the audience, who responded with extended recognition. Clearly moved, the honouree probably did not anticipate such a warm reception.

The entire anniversary celebration was honoured by the outstanding Academic Choir of the Jagiellonian University, which performed three times before the honouree and the guests. It is also worth mentioning that Prof. Franaszek's jubilee was a kind of culmination of an earlier scientific conference, which took place on the same day and in the same room 52 of Collegium Novum, entitled 'Franciszek Bujak, a pioneer of economic history research in Poland. On the 120th anniversary of the memorable lecture *History of Economic Relations*. Professor Franaszek, who refers to himself as Prof. Bujak's academic grandson, delivered a presentation entitled 'Franciszek Bujak's team research projects as the basis for research on Poland's social and economic past'. There is no doubt that these two momentous events will go down in the annals of the growing number of economic history researchers in our country.

**Andrzej Synowiec**, PhD, is a professor at the Jagiellonian University and the head of the Economic and Social History Laboratory at the Institute of History. He has authored of numerous works on the economic and social history of the 19th and 20th centuries, specialising in the history of the tobacco industry in Poland. This includes the monograph: *Zakład Uprawy Tytoniu Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego w Krakowie-Czyżynach (Krakowska Wytwórnia Tytoniu Przemysłowego)* [The Polish Tobacco Monopoly's Tobacco Cultivation Plant in Kraków-Czyżyny (Kraków Industrial Tobacco Factory)], Kraków 2016.