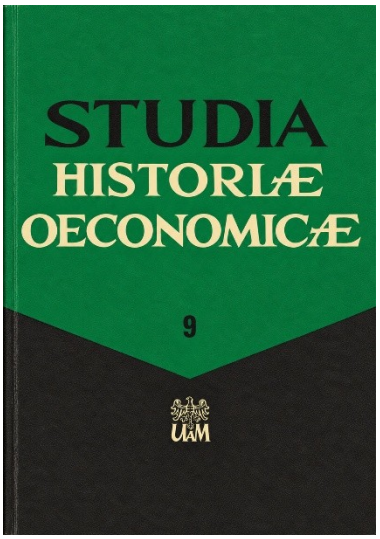


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INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON PEASANT ECONOMY BEFORE AND DURING THE EARLY PERIOD OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

According to the plan of the conference of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1973 Preliminary Colloquium for VI International Congress of Economic History took place in September 17th - 21st in Białowieża and Białystok. Colloquium was devoted to one of the central problems of economic history, i.e. to the factors and methods of modern industrialization, the problem which stood aloof a scientific interest so far. In Colloquium took part thirty participants from England, Belgium, Denmark, France, Yugoslavia, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, USA, Hungary, Italy and Poland. Furthermore a communication was sent from the USSR.

On September 18th 1973 the following communications were delivered: Prof. Dr. J. I. Thirsk (Oxford), "The Peasant Economy of England in the Seventeenth Century"; Prof. Dr. C. Poni (Bologna), "Capitalistic Agronomy and Primitive Accumulation, the Case of Brescia"; E. van Cauwenberghe (Gand), "Les changements de la productivité, du revenu et des formes des exploitations paysannes aux Pays Bas, XIV^{e} - XVI^{e} ss: analyse des comptes du Domaine Royal (avec l'usage de l'ordinateur)"; Prof. Dr. G. Heitz (Rostock), "Bauer und Gemeinde in Deutschland vor und am Anfang der Industriellen Revolution"; Prof. Dr. W. Achilles (Barienrode), "Determining Factors of the Agricultural Income and Share of Non-agricultural Population in the Total Yields of Farms in Germany before the Industrial Revolution"; Prof. Dr. H. Madurowicz-Urbańska (Cracow), "Peasant Settlement under the Impact of Industrialization in the XVIIIth Century Poland".

In the second day of the conference their papers presented: Prof. Dr. J. Huttman (San Francisco), "The Impact of Land Reform on Agricultural Production in Ireland"; Dr. E. H. Pedersen (Copenhagen), "Modernization of the Danish Peasant and Cottager Agriculture during the First Part of the Danish Industrial Revolution (1860 - 1890)"; Prof. Dr. W. Długoborski (Katowice), "The Peasant Economy in the Mining and Smelting Regions of Middle-East Europe (second half of the XVIIIth Century — 1870)".

To the same problems was devoted the morning session on September 20th, 1973 and the communications were presented as follows: Prof. Dr. I. Wellman (Budapest), "Influence of Rural Community on the Improvement of Traditional Agriculture in Hungary"; Prof. Dr. N. Vučo (Belgrade), "Les effects de la révolution industrielle et agraire sur le développement agricole en Serbie au XIX-e siècle".

The subject matter of the afternoon conference concentrated on the problems presented in the communications: S. Tveite, "Labour Productivity in Norvegian Agriculture 1850 - 1914"; Prof. Dr. S. Borowski (Warsaw), "Resources of Manpower for Agriculture and Industry in Polish Economy (XVIIIth - XIXth centuries)".

The recapitulation of the conference and the propositions for the Congress of Economic History in Copenhagen were submitted by Prof. Dr. J. Topolski and Prof. Dr. A. Wyczański.

The papers presented during Colloquium (summaries or full texts were distributed earlier) gave the survey of the problems of peasant economy in connection with the problems of industrialization in various regions of Europe and at the same time pointed out to the main investigative postulates. Lively debates indicated similarities and differences with regard to the place of peasant economy in the process of industrialization and the changes to which this economy was submitted. Finally a general model of that process occurring in various specific forms in different areas and time began to emerge.

In particular the following problems helping to create that general model as well as its substantiation were investigated during Colloquium. These were; 1. peasant economy as a part of a larger economic system (also social and cultural and political); 2. peasant economy versus the consumers' market and the manpower market; 3. changes in peasant economy under the impact of industrialization; 4. the problems of incomes and the peasant consumption.

ad 1. From the point of view of the interrelations of peasant economy and a broader system the attention was paid to the essential difference (as regards the problem of economic decisions of the peasants) between the regions of a manorial serf economy system and other regions where the market influence on a peasant economy was more direct. Nevertheless, in the former the influence of early industrialization on a peasant economy can also be noticed. However, it was pointed out to the great differences as regards the lord supervision even in the countries of Western Europe. Another system in which peasant economy existed was a parish community, the economic and social situation of which was also the matter of great dispute.

ad 2. In the discussion it was indicated that in the period of industrialization the role of peasant economy as a source of manpower and agricultural goods markedly increased. That question was examined from the two points of view; as reflected in a growing regional and local interdependence, and in the development of international market. The structure of the international market points out to the differences in the process of industrialization in different countries. The problem of manpower was viewed from the two points at least; as a reflection of the process of peasant expropriation as well as of a more "peaceful" passing on to the industry.

ad 3. In the course of debates three types of changes were distinguished: a change from transactions in kind to transactions in money, intensification of a peasant economy, and a higher stage of changes when new industrial and scientific inputs had been introduced in a peasant economy. For the first time the problem of early innovations in a peasant economy and the motivations of peasants in this respect were so thoroughly examined.

ad 4. Many interesting ideas about the analysis of the situation in which economic decisions of peasants were made, were presented during Colloquium.

To sum-up, it may be stated that Colloquium will be in the feelings of the scientific world an important step in the development of investigations of the problems discussed. It took the form of a broad and fruitful exchange of opinions and became an interesting testimony of an international co-operation in scientific investigations. The practical purpose of Colloquium was to inspire the participants in preparing the paper for debates during the International Congress of Economic History in Copenhagen, 1974. And from this point of view the group preparing this report (W. Kula, J. Topolski, A. Wyczański) estimate Colloquium as a very successful one. The participants of Colloquium spoke well of the whole conference.