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## THE JOURNAL

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### *The Annals of Polish Social and Economic History* (Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych)

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As in many other European countries the study of economic history began in Poland in the late XIXth century, and was directly connected to the development of the historical school in economics. Among the works written in that period, which are still of interest, the publications by T. Lubomirski, K. Potkański, and T. Korzon should be remembered as well as the thirteen volumes of primary sources for the geographical and statistical history of Poland in the XVIth century started by A. Pawiński<sup>1</sup>. Economic and social history as a separate subject with its own university chairs and publications however, only became established in the first quarter of the XXth century, and its rise was largely due to the activities of two outstanding historians - Franciszek Bujak and Jan Rutkowski.

Franciszek Bujak (1875-1953),<sup>2</sup> graduated from the Jagellonian University as a student of K. Potkański, and in his *Studies on the Settlements in Little Poland* (published in 1905) he demonstrated the possibilities for applying economic history to medieval history. His work was the first thesis in economic history to qualify for an assistant professorship (*do-centura*). Subsequently F. Bujak lectured at Cracow University and in 1909 took over the first economic and social history chair in Poland. He

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<sup>1</sup> *Polska XVI wieku pod względem geograficzno-statystycznym*, Poland in the XVIth century, « Geographical and Statistical Features », vol. 1-13, Warsaw 1883-1915, ed. by A. Pawiński et al.

<sup>2</sup> H. MADUROWICZ-URBAŃSKA, *Franciszek Bujak - o nowy kształt historii*: (FRANCISZEK BUJAK, *Towards a New Concept of History*), in: F. BUJAK, *Selected Works*, vol. I, Warsaw 1976.

combined teaching and administrative work with research, devoting his time mainly to rural history which resulted in several volumes of monographic studies. In 1921 he moved to Lvov University where the newly established economic history chair attracted a group of students and here he initiated a new style research. The group dealt, with the history of prices, natural calamities, credit, land ownership and similar subjects. The results of this research began to be published after 1925 when F. Bujak launched a monographic series entitled *Research in Social and Economic History*.

At the same time F. Bujak continued his own research on both the medieval and modern periods, in the latter period concentrating especially on agrarian problems. He kept abreast of developments in economic history abroad, and took an active part in certain international research subjects, such as price studies. The results of his students' research on prices in ancient Poland began to be published after 1929.<sup>3</sup>

Jan Rutkowski (1886-1949)<sup>4</sup> was born in Warsaw and concluded his studies at Lvov University with a post-graduate research visit to Italy and France, where he became closely connected with Henri Sée. From the beginning he had concentrated on agrarian problems and on the history of land ownership, adopting a comparative approach. He was mainly interested in the XVIth-XVIIIth centuries, and attempted to reach general concepts concerning the distribution of income. This did not narrow his field of interest, however, and resulted in his comprehensive works dealing with economic history of Poland, from early times to the late XVIIIth century (later extended till 1918).<sup>5</sup> In 1919 J. Rutkowski became professor of economic history at Poznań University, where he brought together a group of scholars and followers. The work of the group originally concentrated on problems connected with the occupational structure of the rural population, and later included general problems of agriculture, industry, trade, mining, and land ownership.

The birth of economic history as a specialized field of historical research, resulted in the appearance of scientific journals devoted to economic history, although more often to both to economic and social history. *Zeitschrift für Social-und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* first published in 1893 (and after 1903 entitled *Vierteljahrschrift*) was followed by the *Revue d'Histoire Economique et Sociale* in 1913. However, it was only at the end of the 1920s that there was a breakthrough of different periodicals devoted to social and economic history. In 1927 in England the first issue of *The Economic History*

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<sup>3</sup> S. HOSZOWSKI, *Ceny we Lwowie w XVI i XVII wieku*, «Prices in Lvov in the XVIth and XVIIth century», Lvov 1928.

<sup>4</sup> J. RUTKOWSKI, *Historia gospodarcza Polski [do 1864 r.]*, «Polish Economic History up to 1864», Warsaw 1953, preface by W. Kula.

*Review* was published, in the U.S.A. *The Journal of Economic and Business History* appeared in 1928, and in 1929 the first volume of *Annales d'Histoire Economique et Sociale* (at present *Annales E.S.C.*) appeared in France, whereas in 1931 the first volume of the *Annals of Social and Economic History* (*Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych*) was launched in Poland, founded and edited by Franciszek Bujak and Jan Rutkowski.

The preface to the first volume of the *Annals* briefly described the aims of the publication,<sup>5</sup> though the editors were reticent to call this a programme and stressed that achievements not promises were what was important. Scholarly contributions were invited in the form of short papers or articles dealing with problems of general interest, or of methodological or critical value. Important fragmentary contributions were also acceptable. Special stress was placed on the critical review of Polish and foreign works on social and economic history and related fields, with detailed appraisals of the most important publications. The newly created periodical was also intended to be of help to teachers interested in regional research.

The aims of the *Annals* eventually became much broader, as was evident from the contents of the first issues. Three subsequent volumes were each prefaced with remarks concerning the function and features of the publication. Volume II mentioned the interest that the *Annals* had evoked among Polish historians, which resulted in 87 authors contributing articles, essays, reviews, and short papers included in the volume. At the same time, the editors also mentioned the comprehensive information included in the so called abstracts on the social sciences.

The preface to Volume III indicated a further broadening the scope of the *Annals*, which now ran to 800 pages. Outstanding foreign scholars were also invited to contribute (for example, H. Hauser, and F.L. Ganshof), as well as numerous Czech and Slovak historians which established the *Annals* as an indispensable aid for both Polish and Czechoslovakian scholars. The cooperation between the two countries proved difficult however, though after 1935 the *Annals* became the principal scientific publication in Poland. Originating as the editors' private enterprise, in 1935, the *Annals* were taken over by the *Society of Sciences* in Lvov, which secured its financial basis and guaranteed its continuity in the future.

The original aims of the publication indicated the editors' pragmatism and their willingness to experiment. It soon became clear, however, that this pragmatism was sufficiently broad that changes in structure and contents which were needed after the start were small and the original concept has

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<sup>5</sup> J. RUTKOWSKI, *Historia gospodarcza Polski*, « Polish Economic History », vol. I, Poznań 1946, vol. II, Poznań 1950.

<sup>6</sup> *Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych*, (*Annals of Social and Economic History*), vol. I, 1931, pp. III-VI.

remained valid until the present day, 45 years later. The arrangement and contents of Volume I then shows features characteristic of the publication in general.

From the very beginning each volume of the *Annals* has been divided into two parts — one entitled *Essays and Papers*, and second *Reviews and Reports*. The balance of the two parts, usually of one volume each, was an important feature, and the tendency was to devote over 50% to the documentary section. In some issues the documentary section was sometimes followed by short additions such as a review of research activities or information on primary sources and unpublished works, or on current debates. Such additions appeared occasionally, from Volume II onwards, and never extended to more than the several final pages of the *Annals*.

The contents of the first section (*Essays and Papers*) in Volume I was exceptional, as it contained more on the programme of the Journal than the later volumes. Generally speaking, the articles were shorter which probably resulted from the conditions laid down by the editors. Of the ten texts, two were articles on primary sources, two were related to the general programme (dealing with research as prices and natural calamities), and two were polemics with foreign scholars (A. Dopsch and J. G. Triebe). There were also two interesting contributions on peasant movements in 1767-69, and on free towns, as well as an article devoted to M. J. Tuhan-Baranowski's cooperatives theory and a book review of publications dealing with the history of trade. The contents of this volume were exceptional, as in later issues while book reviews and critical articles on sources were still included, polemics and principal articles took up more space. The subjects of the essays and papers will be dealt with later.

The second section of each volume, entitled *Reviews and Reports* consisted mainly of reviews and bibliographic notes. The original fourteen or fifteen sections were gradually condensed, and in 1938 all the information was divided into eleven sections. That arrangement was preserved nearly unchanged until the present although Part I was divided in 1950. At present the sections are as follows: Methodology, teaching; Bibliography, primary sources; Social and Economic History, general works; Rural Relations; Urban Relations; Industry and Mining; Trade and Transport; Money, Prices, Credit, Finances; Population, Settlements, Migrations; Social Strata and Movements (till 1950 the part was entitled Social Problems — Work, Welfare, Social Movements); History of Doctrines; Related Sciences. Volume I of the *Annals* included also sections devoted to general essays on cultural history, historical geography, economy and statistics which disappeared with time, especially as the section on *Related Sciences* allowed the presentation of the most interesting works on those subjects.

Each section was divided into two parts, one dealing with critical reviews and information notes and the other with bibliography. The reviews

were usually detailed and comprehensive, and the information notes, especially in the first volumes, took the form of short abstracts with brief explanation of the range, problems, and results of particular research which were generally not longer than a half a page. Bibliographic notes in each section were arranged in order of countries or languages, with Polish items first, followed by French, German, English and American, and Russian. In the majority of volumes, moreover, there appeared bibliographic information on Czech and Italian works on economic and social history, and less frequently on Spanish, Hungarian, Roumanian, Scandinavian, and other works.

In 1931 the editors still believed that it was possible to present a full bibliography of the subject for the previous year, but in fact it became impossible. As time went by the method of selecting the items discussed had to be improved not only for foreign but also for Polish publications. It should be stressed, however, that the selection was never accidental, nor had this been the case for the documentary contents of the *Annals*. This is evident from the reviews published in the 1930s, and in Volume VI, for example, among the authors of the original works the names of J. M. Keynes, J. Nef, M. J. Elsas, E. J. Hamilton, H. Hauser and others, are to be found.<sup>7</sup> During the prewar period the number of reviews in subsequent volumes amounted to between 100-200 (including information notes), and the number of bibliographical notes totalled between 500 to 1400.

Editorial efforts had an important influence on the publication's character, especially in the arrangement of lists, registers, and explanatory notes which are easy to forget but which provide an important research apparatus. The editors' special care in this respect can be observed from Volume I of the *Annals*. The initial pages of the volume give not only the contents but also a list of authors, giving both the place of origin and the title of their contribution (with page references). This was followed, in alphabetical order, by a list of the books and essays discussed with the appropriate data. For a long time each article or essay was preceded by a synopsis, a short summary, arranged similarly to the original text. This was particularly useful in longer works and made it easier to find relevant information without reading the whole text. Over time, unfortunately, these editorial demands were not maintained.

This clear indexing and also the arrangement of reviews and bibliography made the publication readable outside the Polish-speaking community. The *Annals* also had French version of its title (*Annales d'Histoire Sociale et Economique*) on the cover of each volume. There was a double list of contents — in Polish and French. Soon the articles had brief summaries in French: in cases of diagrams and tables, subtitles were given in the two

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. VI, 1937, *passim*.

languages (i.e. Polish and French). It is worth mentioning that during the period of close cooperation with Czech historians (in 1934) some articles in the *Annals* were published in Czech.

We have mentioned that the structure and editorial supervision of the *Annals* remained unchanged for 45 years after the publication of the first volume. This did not lead, however, to stagnation, and some changes in balance, proportions, and subjects, according to readers' needs and development of historical research can be observed. But the general editorial arrangement continued, and the names of the founders, F. Bujak and J. Rutkowski, continued to appear on the cover. This is an indication of the continuity look of the publication and of the historical school by which it was created and conducted, and also of the validity of the format devised by F. Bujak and J. Rutkowski long after 1931.

This continuity was not incidental in the changing conditions under which the *Annals* was published. The *Annals* were originally published in Lvov as the editors' private enterprise, and from 1935 under the auspices of the *Society of Science*. By 1938 eight volumes had appeared, (Volume II covering 1932 and 1933 jointly), and of Volume VIII only the first issue was published in 1939. The war stopped the publication and broke up the official activity of all Polish learned institutions. It was not possible to issue the second number of Volume VIII for the years 1939-46 until 1946. Shortly afterwards the *Annals* were adopted by *Poznań Society of Sciences*, which had patronized its publication since 1947. Until 1948 the editorial staff remained unchanged consisting of F. Bujak and J. Rutkowski, and between 1949-1950 F. Bujak's pupil, S. Hoszowski, joined them. He took over the management after the death of J. Rutkowski in 1949 and the gradual withdrawal of F. Bujak from the active research. In the following years A. Grodek (Warsaw) became the editor of the *Annals* (1951-52), and since 1953 the publication has been supervised by Władysław Rusiński, J. Rutkowski's pupil, and a former coeditor.

The main contents of the *Annals*, the research and documentary material provided for and to influence the scholarly community, depended mainly on the circumstances of publication. In 1931, at the very beginning, social and economic history evoked some interest, although it was studied in only two universities (under F. Bujak at Lvov, and under J. Rutkowski at Poznań). The Lvov school produced a considerable group of specialists and also founded a series of studies entitled *Research on Social and Economic History* (*Badania z Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych*), which published thirty five monographic works in the years 1925-39. Other historical periodicals dealt with general history, generally concentrating on politics, or else specialized in military science, The Reformation, History of law, archives, or sometimes concentrated on various regional issues. In those circumstances the *Annals* had to provide the lead for the studies in the field,

and also bring together studies on the subject, influence discussions and raise the level of methodological research on society and economy. And they certainly fulfilled their function, as is evident from the number of contributors from the very beginning. Even if this was due to novelty, the later number of 50-60 contributors indicates the popularity and the demand for such a publication. The authors came from all the university centres, and also smaller towns, and sometimes from abroad.

The *Annals* were re-established in Poznań after the war under different conditions. Social and economic problems in particular became widely discussed, especially due to the influence of Marxist methodology. But research on the subject were published in wide range of journals and periodicals, book in general reviews, such as *Przegląd Historyczny* (*Historical Review*), *Kwartalnik Historyczny* (*Historical Quarterly*), and also in certain regional and specialized publications. *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* (*Quarterly of Material Culture History*) which began in 1953 covered economic problems in the majority of its articles. The periodicals, especially the quarterlies, enjoyed advantage of frequent appearance and printing possibilities and published most of short articles and polemics. The *Annals* began to specialize in longer essays, which often extended to over a hundred pages. Thus in the post-war *Annals*, section I contained five to six items compared to eight articles on average in the pre-war editions.

A little later the external function of the *Annals* was changed. The two-language lists of contents and short summaries still remained, but amongst the same circle of economic historians at Poznań a new publication was founded with the aim of presenting the results of Polish research to foreign readers. Entitled *Studia Historiae Oeconomicae*, it has been published annually since 1967 under the editorial supervision of C. Łuczak and J. Topolski. It was not meant to compete with the *Annals* but to be complementary, and shared some of the aims of the *Annals*. This also consisted of two sections - texts and documentation. In the first section all the articles are in foreign language (mostly in English, French or German), and the second part contains large a bibliographic selection (about 400-500 items) on Polish works on history and economy published in the previous year.

The pre-war *Annals* started vol. I and II with articles on the programme and the critical source reviews, stressing the need for the creation and development of historical and economic research in Poland. Similar aims can be seen in the articles on new research methods in archeology (by T. Sulimirski) and ethnology (St. Klimek).<sup>8</sup> Volumes IV to VII were partly devoted to economic theory, namely the articles by T. Brzeski on the theory of economic development and the relationship between economy and geography, and the articles by R. Rybarski and St. Grabski on the position of

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. III, 1934, pp. 1-76.

history in social economy, and J. Swidrowski's stud of the doctrines and system of John Law.

The reviews of foreign developments in economic history influenced research in Poland. In volume II V. Černý discussed the results of research conducted in Czechoslovakia after 1918, and complemented it in volume VII with further information for 1932-1937.<sup>9</sup> Russian and Soviet economic history research was reviewed by W. Zaikin in volumes III and IV.<sup>10</sup> M. Kring described the development of social and economic history in Hungary in the previous quarter of the century,<sup>11</sup> and L. Koczy discussed similar research in Denmark as well as the primary sources for the history of Baltic trade.<sup>12</sup> Similar aims were reflected in essays of other scholars, namely G. von Below and G. Des Marez (volume II), J. Peisker (volume III), Z. Daszyńska-Golińska (volume IV), H. Sée (volume V) and J. Pekař (volume VII). The concern for the development of historical and economic research lead J. Rutkowski in 1937 to publish a short report on the usefulness of microfilm, especially for gathering primary sources.

Besides stimulating and shaping research, the *Annals* provided a forum for the publication of new articles and studies. It is difficult to mention all the authors and subjects of their works from the very beginning of the journal existence. It is, however, worth pointing out the predominant subjects: stratification of the rural population and its conflicts with the manor-owners; trade, especially markets; and protection of labour in factories in the XIXth century. There are also tentative analyses of estate accounts and research on the structure of the ancient noble family. Among the publications, one of the most important was an essay by H. Łowmiański on the economic structure of Mohylew in the XVIth century, which is outstanding for its broad approach and daring quantative analysis of the phenomena.<sup>13</sup> Generally speaking, before 1939 the majority of articles dealt with the XVIth-XVIIIth centuries, less with the Middle Ages and the XIXth century; and the studies were concerned mainly with rural problems, less frequently with prices or credit, towns and trade and, in smaller degree, with social problems.

In post-war Poland the *Annals* no longer had to guide historical and economic or social research, which developed spontaneously in the 1950s among numerous scientific groups and was aided by various journals and publications. So seminal articles as well as critical studies on the primary sources began gradually to disappear. But this was not an immediate change, as post-war research was in need of new programmes and for this J. Rut-

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. II, 1932 and 1933, pp. 163-233; vol. VII, 1938, pp. 141-200.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. VII, 1934, pp. 213-293; vol. IV, 1935, pp. 121-223.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. VI, 1937, pp. 215-263.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. V, 1936, pp. 85-99; vol. VI, 1937, pp. 179-214.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. VIII/1, 1939, pp. 37-93.

kowski's articles (published between 1947-1949) were very helpful. Other articles in this period were devoted to establishing information about the damage caused to archives by the war, reporting on the destruction of numerous unpublished research works, and similar problems. Reviews of foreign social and economic history also continued, with references to Roumania and Sweden,<sup>14</sup> Czechoslovakia,<sup>15</sup> Hungary,<sup>16</sup> Italy,<sup>17</sup> the German Democratic Republic<sup>18</sup> and the Ukraine.<sup>19</sup> The posthumous publication of the scholarly work of various scholars and historians continued to appear (namely J. Rutkowski's (volume XI), F. Bujak's (volume XX), and R. H. Tawney's (volume XXV). The number of debates diminished, and were taken over by other journals.

The changes in the subject matter of the articles and essays were related to the development of research in economic history, the growing number of authors, of studies and breadth of interest. The changes affected not only the chronological range but also the subject-matter. A slight lead was still held by studies and articles dealing with the XVIth-XVIIIth centuries as in the previous period. But the works on the contemporary history (the XXth century) follow closely, together with many articles on the XIXth century. The number of papers concerned with the Middle Ages became relatively small, and there were even less on Antiquity. It should be stressed, however, that there were no chronological gaps.

In the post-war volumes rural problems occupy less space, with trade and transport, social strata and movements, industry, mining, and population problems taking a greater share. There are numerous studies and articles on money and prices, less on urban history, but with no overall increase compared to the pre-war issues. However, essays on primary sources as well as those on the history of economic theory and on the so-called related sciences slowly declined. The pre-war volumes of the *Annals* dealt with social problems only to a small degree, and although the post-war issues show slight increase in their number, there was no attempt to broaden and modernize their scope. The contents of the *Annals* do not conform with its title, and social history remains subordinate to economic history.

The *Annals*, which was originally the only historical and economic journal, has become one of many in the last twenty-five years, but still holds an outstanding position, with nation wide contributors and readers as well as nationwide documentary and methodological services, and maintains a high level of erudition and methodology in the essays it publishes. At the

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<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. VIII/2, 1939-1946, pp. 293-299; vol. IX, 1947, pp. 107-128.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XIII, 1951, pp. 231-295.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXII, 1960, pp. 167-189.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXXIII, 1972, pp. 163-183.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXXVI, 1975, pp. 1-8.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXXVII, 1976, pp. 121-137.

same time, the essays and articles in the *Annals* have become differentiated in their subjects, and are less imposed by the editors, which reflects the many-sided and gradual development of economic history research in Poland. It is difficult to determine separate stages or periods of development, but for the practical reasons the material can be divided into three decades (1947-1956, 1957-1966, 1967-1976), which characterize the contents and reflect post-war research trends.

The first post-war decade of the *Annals* was devoted to the restoration of historical studies, and J. Rutkowski's articles mentioned above played a part in this, and then later to the methodological reorganization of Polish academic research. This comprised articles on production techniques in modern times, with special stress on agriculture (J. Topolski, J. Fierich, S. Sreniowski and S. Borowski), and also on industry (by M. Małowist, C. Łuczak and W. Kula). Several articles dealt with social conflicts and their background (among others: B. Baranowski, St. Szczotka, A. Gilewicz and J. Pazdur). There were also essays on prices, trade, and especially home market (W. Rusiński). A separate group was devoted to demographic problems (W. Kula, S. Hoszowski, E. Vielrose and S. Waszak). Special attention should be drawn to a general essay by L. Krzywicki (published posthumously), on the impact of economic development on popular culture. Generally speaking, this was the period of the growth of new trends in historical and economic research, corresponding to the changing interests of historians and many articles not only introduced new problems but also established specific lines of research.

The second post-war decade of the *Annals* was characterized by a widening range of research interests which was connected with the appearance of new specializations among the young generation of historians. Among them the studies on the economic history of ancient Rome should be mentioned (M. Jaczynowska, A. Krawczuk and S. Mrozek) and on the history of ancient Lithuania and Byelorussia (J. Ochmański and S. Alexandrowicz), or on Polish economy in the years 1918-1939 (M. M. Drozdowski, J. Tomaszewski and J. Orczyk). The invitation to contribute to the *Annals* also attracted articles by Czech historians (A. Mika and V. Šadova). To summarize the contents of the *Annals* in that period, although rural questions prevailed, problems of industry, trade, prices and money as well as those of population and social movements were also widely discussed. The articles were sound and solid but a few were unconventional in approach or of genuine methodological interest, such as the study by Z. Zabiński on the application of biological rates in evaluating the buying power of money.<sup>20</sup>

The continuation of those tendencies can be seen in the next decade

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<sup>20</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XX, 1958, pp. 37-53.

(1967-1976), though there have also been attempts to introduce the new methodological problems. The predominance of agrarian issues has continued with the almost total disappearance of demographic problems. The XVIth-XVIIIth century and the XXth century remain the principal field of the journal. Articles on the contemporary Polish economy also hold an important position, while the Middle Ages and Antiquity occupy a less prominent place. Links with the earlier interests are apparent in the essays and articles on the XXth century (e.g. Z. Landau and L. Hass) on the Lithuanian and Byelorussia territories (e.g. M. B. Topolska and M. Kosman). The latter subject is also tackled by Soviet historians who have been invited to contribute to the *Annals* (P. I. Kozlovski and P. G. Meleshko). Other foreign contributions have also appeared, among them historians from Italy (L. De Rosa), Denmark (E. M. Pedersen), the United States of America (E. H. Tuma) and the German Democratic Republic (J. Peters), which clearly indicates the willingness to reestablish broad relations with the international historical research. In order to make awareness of foreign methodological trends more accessible for Polish historians, a number of articles were published for example on French quantitative methods (by W. Rusiński), on American « new economic history » (by E. H. Tuma) and on the possibilities of using factor analyses (by A. Czyżewski).<sup>21</sup> In volume XXXVII the Polish contributions to the 6th International Congress of Economic History held in Copenhagen in 1974, were published, due to the absence of a comprehensive volume containing the reports delivered and discussed at the Congress.<sup>22</sup> Among the specifically Polish topics treated in these years, the broadly researched article by L. Żytkowicz explaining the economic position of ancient Poland in terms of the low crop levels should be mentioned.<sup>23</sup>

As we have already mentioned, the clear functional and editorial continuity of the *Annals* is apparent in its documentary apparatus. We have in mind particularly the section entitled *Reviews and Reports*, which after some modifications between 1948-1949 was renamed *Reviews, Reports and Bibliography*.

As well as documents, this section contains critical reviews on foreign economic historians of the past and present. Some of the articles on new research methods and their application are related to the essays mentioned above. The information on archives and on research-in-progress published in the first post-war issues of the *Annals* are also of documentary value.

Our discussion of the contents of the *Annals* shows that the documentary sections changed little, and one can only talk about the wider or narrower range of different sorts of information in the various periods. The most

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<sup>21</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXXV, 1974, pp. 1-47.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXXVII, 1976, pp. 1-119.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. XXXIV, 1973, pp. 1-29.

constant elements, however, are the reviews and the bibliographic surveys, where little change has occurred. In the pre-war volumes as well as detailed reviews there were numerous short abstracts, but after the war the number of the abstracts diminished. The reviews and the bibliographic notes are arranged according to sections, the organization of which we have already described, and the bibliographic material varied without, however, changing its character. Polish publications were covered more comprehensively in 1931-1939 (100-200 items), but were chosen more selective in the later period (150-300 items annually). Information on foreign publications was even more restricted, with the number varying from several hundred to over a thousand items within one volume. Generally speaking, despite changing conditions, and the changing interests of historians and the development of historical research, the documentary function of the *Annals* has remained unchanged. The same is true of the contents and scholarly value of the articles, which is the best demonstration of the validity of the editorial concept which originated with F. Bujak and J. Rutkowski, and of the requirements of social and economic historians, which were so fully foreseen by the founders of the *Annals*.