Historical and economic problems on the pages of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny” (1887 – 1918)

Abstract. The purpose of publication is to reveal how the process of formation and development of the historical economy – new for the contemporary Polish historiography of the research direction – appeared on the pages of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny”. The methodology of the research is based on the principles of historicism, systematicity, scientificity, verification, authorial objectivity, moderate narrative constructivism, as well as the use of general scientific (analysis, synthesis, generalization) and special-historical (historical and genetic, historical and typological, historical and systemic) methods. The research novelty is that for the first time in historiography an attempt was made to reconstruct the process of the formation and development of the historical economy of Poland as a separate discipline on the pages of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny” (1887 – 1918). The Conclusions. A study of the publications of “Kwartalnik Historyczny” shows that the history of the Polish economy for a long time was closely linked to the reflection on the past of Polish society and government. Differentiation of issues in many points was simply impossible, since the state system led to socio-economic relations; on the other hand, the impulses of change in the realm of law and administration were dependent on society. Historians who have specialized in these fields have been forced to focus on all these issues. This entailed the need to broaden the view of certain problems and to
move to a higher level – from positivist micrographic studies to generalizing, synthetic studies, which in turn led to the modernization of existing models of historical knowledge and brought historical science to another level.

**Key words:** Polish historiography, historical press, “Kwartalnik Historyczny”, historical economy, Lviv.

**The Problem Statement.** At the end of the 19th century, on the pages of the Lviv universal history journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny”, episodic studies began to emerge from the field of Polish economy, yet not yet allocated to a separate branch of the Polish economy. And already at the beginning of the 20th century, when independent studies of this discipline began to emerge, a new stage began in its formation, connected with the activities of F. Bujak, J. Rutkowski, K. Tymieniecki, R. Grodecki and others.

The Analysis of Sources and Recent Researches. Historiography lacks general research on the formation and functioning of Polish economic history and a special place in this process of Lviv scholars (Inglo, 1937, pp. 377–411). Of particular interest were the issues of the functioning of historical and economic schools (such as the school of Franciszek Bujak) and some of the distinguished researchers in this field (Adam Shchelanhovskiy, Jan Rutkowski, etc.) (Morawska, 2011, p. 15–25; Maternicki, 2009, pp. 404–417; Topolski, 1986). In the historiography there are also enough generalizing works on the history of the formation and development of studies on the economic history of Poland, in particular in the context of the activities of the University of Lviv (Kula, 1963; Kowalski, 2016, pp. 429–459) researches on the history of the activity of some periodicals of educational and economic direction (Rejman, 2019, pp. 239–266), source studies of the press (Landau-Czajka, 2017, pp. 267–282). However, there are still no special studies dedicated to reflecting the emergence of historical economics as a science in the venues of Lviv scientific
historical publications. Of particular interest is the scientific and informational activity of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny”, which was published in Lviv from 1887 to 1939 and became a reflection of the development of Polish historical science of the time.

The purpose of publication is to reveal how the process of formation and development of the historical economy – new for the contemporary Polish historiography of the research direction – appeared on the pages of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny”.

**The Statement of the Basic Material.** The end of the 19th is the time when “Kwartalnik Historyczny” is going through its formation – coincides with the appearance of the first researches on the history of the Polish economy. There are no specialists at this time, and the discipline is not yet the subject of systematic university education, but is intertwined with courses in political history or the history of law and culture. S. Inglot wrote about this period the following: “This is a time when historians of law, politics and culture are interested in certain aspects of the history of society and economy” (Inglot, 1937, pp. 377–378). Thus, issues of the history of economics appear in separate studies of Lviv positivist researchers L. Finkel, O. Balzer, F. Papée, and A. Prochaska. Their greatest achievement is not so much their own historical and economic cognitive activity as professional training within the university. They have become the Atlanteans on whose shoulders the next generation of researchers will reach the fruits of such new historical disciplines as historical economics, history of law, history of culture, etc.

And already at the beginning of the 20th century, the first systematic and purposeful studies in historical economics appeared, which was connected with the change of the research paradigm and the introduction of representatives of the second generation of Polish scholars: neo-romantic and modernist directions. It should be noted that the general historical and economic studies of the beginning of the 20th century were the realm of young researchers. Development of research on the history of economics and agriculture, presented on the pages of the journal, related to the activities of F. Bujak, S. Grabski, J. Rutkowski, R. Grodecki, K Tymieniecki. Their interests extended to the history of the Middle Ages and the early modern times, and to the new era and covered both social and economic issues. In addition, they were noted for important methodological decisions and originality of judgment.

The theoretical constructions of S. Grabski actually marked the emergence of a historical and economic direction that has not yet been drawn up. On the pages of the journal, we find a reception of his research on the general issues of the development of Polish economic thought (Gargas, 1902, pp. 635–640). Thus, in the review of S. Grabski’s work on the history of economic research in Poland in the 18th and 19th centuries, it focused on methodological issues. In particular, the reviewer noted that S. Grabski drew attention to the differences between the tasks of the economist and the historian: “What for the economist is a phenomenon, for the historian is regularity. On the contrary, for the historian it is a fact, for the economist it is only a specific manifestation in particular socio-economic conditions. The historian examines literature as a product of the integrity of social relations, and the economist turns to theory for methodical guidance” (Gargas, 1902, p. 635). However, not all of his statements were agreed by the reviewer. Thus, S. Grabski’s views on the national peculiarities of historical and economic science, which he considered to be key one in conducting this type of research, caused ambiguous perception. It should be noted that similar theoretical approaches are widely used by modern historical science in Ukraine (Kornovenko, Svyaschenko, 2019, pp. 34–42; Kornovenko, Telvak, Ilnytskyi, 2018, pp. 133–141).

In the next decade, we are already seeing quite specific, implemented by all the current research rules of work on the history of the economy and the discussions around them. In
the journal during 1912 – 1913, it was published a study by R. Grodecki “Trebnytsky princely parish in the background of the organization of the princely estates of Poland in the 12th century”. (Grodecki, 1912, pp. 433–475; 1913, pp. 1–66). This work emerged as a result of a seminar at Jagiellonian University led by S. Kzizhanowski. It is interesting that the work was first published in the journal, and only later, after the return of R. Grodecki from the army in 1918 on its basis his doctorate was defended. The readers of the journal were presented with the development of the princely Trebnytsky estate in 1202 – 1208. In this model research, from many points of view, the author carefully studied the organization of the internal structure of this estate, including its social structure.

On the pages of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny”, R. Grodecki’s study of a polemical character “Studies on the history of economics of the 12th century” was published (Grodecki, 1915, pp. 257–294). In fact, it was a reflection on the work of K. Tymieniecki, whose studies, paired with the studies of R. Grodecki, marked the emergence of systematic studies of the economic foundations of Poland in the 12th century.

The genesis of this type of work was deduced from the researches of K. Potkanski and F. Bujak, since both revealed a strong influence on both R. Grodecki and K. Tymieniecki (Maternicki, 1982, p. 130). And a significant innovation of young scientists was that, under the influence of familiarization with the methodological views of Western European scholars of history, they began to use the achievements of ethnography and sociology in their studies. Therefore, in the mentioned work, K. Tymieniecki, paying tribute to positivism, paid much attention to the authenticity of ancient documents, in particular royal privileges. And then he went on to a features specific analysis of the colonization of Ancient Poland terrains: the nature of land, population density, social and economic relations, etc.

R. Grodecki highly appreciated this study, considering it very important to elucidate the peculiarities of economic history of the 12th century. It raised many pressing issues and it was based on new research methods for the study of colonization. The reviewer noted the weaknesses of the work, not only in his opinion, insufficient elaboration of source materials, but also with their arbitrary interpretation (Grodecki, 1915, pp. 257–294).

Questions of agrarian history of later period were addressed by J. Rutkowski. As J. Kolbuszewska emphasized: “J. Rutkowski was a pioneer in the implementation of theoretical models based on the history of economics. Demonstrating a remarkable erudition and methodological culture, with some superstitiousness he treated factual data, which for him was not an end in itself, but only a starting point” (Kolbuszewska, 2005, p. 196).

On the pages of the journal we see his research “Perestroika reconstruction in Poland after the wars of the 17th century” (Rutkowski, 1916, pp. 309–342). Appealing to the need to use statistical methods in this type of research, we see how the author applies them in the study of royal lustration of the 17th century. Another innovation of J. Rutkowski was the consideration in his study of the role of such an external factor, which had a direct impact on the history of the economy as a natural disaster.

Issues of trade history and finance occupied a significant place on the pages of the journal from the beginning of its activity. One of the first such essays was presented by V. Łoziński. His research “Lviv Merchant of the 17th century” was marked by an innovative approach and was not typical of publications in “Kwartalnik Historyczny”. V. Łoziński was not a professional historian and he was mainly engaged in literary activities, journalism and collecting antiquities. Almost all of V. Łoziński’s explorations in “Kwartalnik...” were devoted to the social and historical and cultural aspects of Lviv’s past. In 1888 V. Łoziński published the story of the life of a “little man” –
a Lviv dealer of the 17th century Petro Kunashchak. Again, this was not typical of a rather dry, academic edition of an incredibly lively, emotional narrative based on the analysis of a source of not much respected by the historians of the era of positivism – the diary. V. Łoziński submitted a description of the business diary of the Lviv merchant, Rusyn P. Kunashchak, which he kept for 33 years – from the time of his arrival in Lviv in 1663 until his death in 1696. A comprehensive analysis of this document allowed V. Łoziński creating a vivid image of the Lviv tradesman of the 17th century and the lifestyle he led (Łoziński, 1888, pp. 355–380).

More characteristic of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny” in the 80 – 90s of the 19th century were studies of the type published by A. Prochaska “Protest of the Wilenski merchants of 1621” (Prochaska, 1893, p. 436–446). On the pages of the journal he submitted and commented on a document illustrating the economic relations of the Polish king with the Wilenski merchants in the beginning of the 17th century. This type of publication – short, meaningful, thoroughly commented sources that exemplified the use of positivist techniques – was most characteristic of the journal at the beginning of its activities. We see this type of publication in F. Papée. It was an exploration based on documents from the city books of Krakow that shed light on the economic relations of King Casimir IV Jagiellonchik with the townspeople in 1487 (Papée, 1895, pp. 648–656).

And already at the beginning of the 20th century, in the journal appeared quite different in character historical-financial research, conducted by A. Szelągowski. This Lviv historian was famous for being deeply immersed in economic issues, exploring issues of international politics: he studied the economic interests of individual countries, changes in trade routes, price movements, etc. (Maternicki, 1982, p. 130). It is believed that one of the most important works of A. Szelągowski was the study “Money and the Revolution of Prices in Poland in the 16th – 17th Centuries” (1902), influenced by G. Schmoller – at that time the most prominent representative of a new school in the German political economy (Kowalski, 2016, p. 432). “Raising so many questions in one book, as the modern researcher of his work E. Maternicki notes, the author could not deeply study them all, even looked through a little… However, this was an innovative study, and Szelągowski became one of the pioneers of modern historical and economic studies in Poland” (Maternicki, 2009, p. 91). In general, this work was of great importance for the development of Polish economic history. And modern researcher K. Kowalski even considers the appearance of this book the date of the initial new stage of development of Polish historical and economic studies (Kowalski, 2016, p. 431).

On the pages of the journal A. Szelągowski made his debut with studies on the financial crises in Poland in the 16th – 17th centuries, which were provoked by the fall in grain production and its prices on the foreign market (Szelągowski, 1900a, pp. 585–623; Szelągowski, 1900b, pp. 18–44). Reflecting on the role and importance of economic factor in the history of A. Szelągowski was far from economic determinism, he assigned to economic issues certain functions that were revealing the life history of the people. The researcher successfully identified the monetary issue as a barometer representing the political, social and economic life of a certain time. Thus, such an integrated understanding of historical progress, which implied interconnections between the economy, politics and cultural conditions, became a distinctive feature of his views. Focusing on the causes of the depreciation of the Polish coin in the seventeenth century, A. Szelągowski studied the economic views of Polish intellectuals of the time and sought to explain the economic policy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

J. Rutkowski was another researcher specializing in the history of finance in Lviv. Under the guidance of L. Finkel, J. Rutkowski defended his dissertation on “The Polish Treasury of the
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Times of Alexander Jagellonchyk”, the main provisions of which were published on the pages of the journal “Kwartalnik Historyczny” (Rutkowski, 1909, pp. 1–77). First of all, we should note that the source of this study (including the Crown Metric royal papers, palace treasury books of receipts, tax registers) looked incredibly solid, providing statistics on the treasury of the king and describing monetary relations in monetary form and countries the royal court. As we can see, J. Rutkowski used a large number of sources, which contained information about mass historical and economic phenomena.

As this topic was covered in Polish historiography for the first time, it was widely distributed to readers through publication in the most authoritative historical journal, which was “Kwartalnik Historyczny”.

As we can see, the overwhelming majority of the journal’s material concerned the history of the Middle Ages and the early modern times. However, works on the history of modern times were published at times. An example is F. Bujak’s polemical study on Austrian trade policy in Galicia since its accession to the Habsburg Empire (Bujak, 1916, pp. 343–356). At its core, it was an overview of G. Grossman’s study of the trade policy of Vienna against Galicia in 1772 – 1790. F. Bujak quite sharply criticized this work. He noted, in particular, that even from a formal point of view, G. Grossman’s work lacked adequate structure, and its reading was hampered by the lack of elementary scientific indicators. The observer and the lack of the source base of the study noted. He drew attention to the tendency in the coverage of the attitude of the Polish society of Galicia to the Austrian authorities. Given such significant remarks, it is not surprising that F. Bujak proposed to view this work not as a serious historical and economic study, but as “an introduction to an article by a Galician-born Viennese publicist” (Bujak, 1916, p. 350).

Another historical and economic theme that has been raised on the pages of the journal from the first years of its existence was the problem of polluting the lands of ancient Poland and the further colonization expansion of the state. And one of the landmark studies of the topic was O. Balzer’s “Revision of the Theory of Primary Sedimentation in Poland” (Balzer, 1898, pp. 21–64). In this work, O. Balzer, a Lviv resident, one of the most respected Polish historians of law, argued with F. Piekosiński about his theory of the ancestral settlement of Polish lands. F. Piekosiński defended the theory of the expansive origin of the nobility (he, in particular, was the author of the so-called runic theory of the origin of emblematic images, which he derived from the Scandinavian runes), to confirm which he provided a thorough analysis of the influence of external factors on the state of society and the creation of society (Piekosiński, 1890, pp. 674–730). Instead, O. Balzer believed that this theory was not confirmed in the source materials and was a supporter of the view that the ancient Polish state evolved through the evolution of relations of local tribes without the intervention of foreigners (Balzer, 1898, pp. 21–64).

Historiography considers that the 40-page “Revision of the theory of the primary colonization of Poland” by O. Balzer was a turning point in the development of the theory of origin of the Polish people and the state. In addition, this relatively small article contributed to the growing interest in the issues of primary colonization of Polish lands. O. Balzer’s construction is widely recognized in Polish historical science. And, as Adamus, a historian of law and one of the first researchers of O. Balzer’s work, rightly remarked: “This theory would have evolved, but it is unknown if anyone would have argued it” (Adamus, 1958, p. 203).

And another landmark study on historical economics is F. Bujak’s “Studies on the Settlement of Malopolska” (1905). In 1908, A. Winiarz published in the journal an overview of this work, which went beyond the boundaries, because it contained a universal sociological program
of agrarian research (Winiarz, 1907, pp. 466–471). This study was the basis of his habilitation in the historical economy – the first in the history of Polish science, which took place in 1905. At this meeting, for the first time in Polish science, he provided a theoretical justification for a new historical discipline. F. Bujak argued that the history of the development of the people, which reaches all manifestations of his life, “cannot be understood without full coverage of its economic development, which, more sensitive and understandable in itself, facilitates the understanding of spiritual and political phenomena” (Bujak, 1963, p. 498).

The authors of the journal were also keenly interested in the topic of colonization of Ukrainian lands, as the Historical Society and its publishing project, “Kwartalnik Historyczny” journal, had a particular focus on the history of the lands of Red Russia. In 1893 A. Jablonowski, whose scientific interest also extended to the history of the Russian Voivodeship of the Commonwealth of Poland, published a study entitled “Colonization of Ukraine in the Times of the Last Jagellons” (Jablonski, 1893, pp. 50–65). The published study was a polemical review of the second volume of the Acts of the Occupation of Southwestern Russia (1890), prepared by M. Vladimirskaia-Budanov. A. Jablonowski argued with the author about some aspects of colonization of Ukraine in Lithuanian times (from the end of the 15th century to the Union of Lublin). As the publication was accompanied by a voluminous preface, in which the Russian historian presented his vision of the process of becoming obsolete, the controversy turned out to be quite specific.

The Conclusions. A study of the publications of “Kwartalnik Historyczny” shows that the history of the Polish economy for a long time was closely linked to the reflection on the past of Polish society and government. Differentiation of issues in many points was simply impossible, since the state system led to socio-economic relations; on the other hand, the impulses of change in the realm of law and administration were dependent on society. Historians who have specialized in these fields have been forced to focus on all these issues. This entailed the need to broaden the view of certain problems and to move to a higher level – from positivist micrographic studies to generalizing, synthetic studies, which in turn led to the modernization of existing models of historical knowledge and brought historical science to another level.

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