

Urban History Research in Poland

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Academic reflections on urban history research have a long tradition in Polish historiography as the first attempts to pinpoint the requirements of research stem from as early as the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth – in the period when urban history started to develop.¹ In the twentieth century, Polish and German historians repeatedly evaluated the research conducted on the history of Polish towns.² It goes beyond the scope of this article to discuss the achievements of Polish historical science, for the aim of the article is to focus on the dynamics of the development of research paradigms as well as the social and political factors which affected the development of research into the history of pre-industrial towns conducted from the end of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first century.

1 The beginnings of Polish urban history in the Austrian partition

In the second half of the nineteenth century, urban history was not the main focus of interest for Polish historians. The marginal role that towns played in Polish research during the initial period of Polish historical science was culturally conditioned. Towns and burghers played a minor role in the political system of Poland in the past; therefore, historiography in the most urbanized areas (Silesia, Greater Poland and Pomerania) was mainly influenced by German researchers. The viewpoints of most researchers connected with the universities of Cracow and Lviv concerning the significance of this area of history are reflected in the words of Stanisław Smolka, a professor at Lviv University, who (in his speech given at the first convention of Polish historians in Cracow in 1880) associated research into towns with local history, considering urban history researchers to be secondary school teachers. A similar opinion was expressed by Ksawery Liske, professor of Lviv University and founder of the first Polish historical journal *Kwartalnik Historyczny*, who said that the history of towns should be dealt

¹ STANISŁAW KUTRZEBA: *W sprawie historii miast w Polsce* [For the History of Towns in Poland], in: *Pamiętnik III. Zjazdu Historyków Polskich w Krakowie, Kraków 1900*, pp. 1-12.

² ROMAN CZAJA: *Bilanz und Perspektiven der polnischen Städteforschung*, in: HEINZ DUCHHARDT, WILFRIED REININGHAUS (eds.): *Stadt und Region. Internationale Forschungen und Perspektiven. Kolloquium für Peter Johaneck, Köln et al. 2005*, pp. 13-30, here pp. 13-14.

with by local scientific circles.³ However, at the end of the nineteenth century suggestions started to arise that urban history become part of mainstream historical science, although it must be stressed that towns and burghers at that time were not treated as an independent subject of research, but as one of the elements necessary to understand national history dominated by the nobility (*szlachta*). At the second convention of Polish historians in Lviv in 1890, Michał Bobrzyński, professor at Jagiellonian University and founder of the Cracow historical school, commented on urban history in the following way: 'Towns have become a thermometer where the increasing and falling level of the mercury indicates not only the prosperity and development of towns, but also the social balance in the whole *Rzeczpospolita* (republic). It determines the significance and development of the whole nation and state'.⁴ Taking into consideration the institutional foundations of the research, it must be underlined that historians associated with the universities in Cracow and Lviv were involved in the research of urban history to a relatively small extent. In the 1890s, archives in Cracow and Lviv as well as academic societies provided institutional support for urban historiography, particularly important being the Society of Lovers of History and Monuments of Cracow, which in 1898 launched the publication of *Rocznik Krakowski* – the first Polish academic journal devoted to the history of the city. According to the model of historical science applied in the second half of the nineteenth century, the aspiration to give urban history its academic character was combined with the demand for ordering urban archives and the edition of sources. The first significant editorial venture concerning urban history was the publication of the sources devoted to the history of Cracow in the Middle Ages.⁵ At the beginning of the twentieth century, at the initiative of the archive of the city established in 1890, a separate editorial series was created, the aim of which was to publish

³ STANISŁAW SMOLKA: O przygotowawczych robotach do geografii historycznej Polski wraz z podniesieniem potrzeb uprawy historii lokalnej [The Preparatory Works to the Historical Geography of Poland and the Need to Research Local History], in: MICHAŁ BOBRZYŃSKI, MARIAN SOKOŁOWSKI (eds.): Pamiętnik Pierwszego Zjazdu Historycznego Polskiego imienia Jana Długosza, Kraków 1881, pp. 133-139, here p. 139; XAWERY LISKE: W jaki sposób dałby się rozbudzić i rozwinąć ruch naukowy na prowincji [How to Awaken and Develop the Scientific Movement in the Provinces], in: Pamiętnik drugiego zjazdu historyków Polskich we Lwowie, vol. 1, Lwów 1890, pp. 1-4, here p. 3.

⁴ MICHAŁ BOBRZYŃSKI: O kierunku nowszych prac nad historią organizacji społecznej w Polsce [The Direction of the Most Recent Works Regarding the History of Social Organization in Poland], in: Pamiętnik drugiego zjazdu historyków Polskich we Lwowie, vol. II, Lwów 1891, pp. 11-21, here p. 19

⁵ FRANCISZEK PIEKOSIŃSKI, JÓZEF SZUJSKI (eds.): Libri antiquissimi civitatis Cracoviensis 1300-1400 / Najstarsze księgi i rachunki miasta Krakowa: od r. 1300 do 1400, Kraków 1878; FRANCISZEK PIEKOSIŃSKI (ed.): Codex diplomaticus civitatis Cracoviensis (1257-1506) / Kodeks dyplomatyczny miasta Krakowa 1257-1506), pars 1, 2, 3, 4, Kraków 1879-1882; the continuation of this *codex diplomaticus* was the edition of the legal sources: FRANCISZEK PIEKOSIŃSKI, STANISŁAW KRZYŻANOWSKI (eds.): Leges, privilegia et statuta civitatis Cracoviensis (1507-1795) / Prawa, przywileje i statuta miasta Krakowa (1507-1795), vol. 1-2, Kraków 1885-1909.

sources concerning the history of the city.⁶ In the 1890s, historians associated with the Lviv historical entourage launched the publication of the series including the most important sources concerning the history of Lviv in the Middle Ages.⁷ Nevertheless, the publication of the sources did not entail an increase in the development of research in urban history. The field remained the focus of interest of very few researchers – those who were dealing mainly with the history of Cracow and Lviv. Undoubtedly, the pioneering role came in the form of the research of Stanisław Kutrzeba (born 1876), a historian of law who at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries published a few works concerning finance and trade in Cracow as well as the financial structure of Cracow's burghers. His studies provided a reliable documentation of sources; moreover, he applied a statistical method and manifested his knowledge of current European research.⁸ Other studies based on a reliable source foundation included the research into the patriciate and merchants of Cracow and Lviv conducted by Jan Ptaśnik and Władysław Łoziński;⁹ they were part of local history as they did not contain references to European historiography. Stanisław Kutrzeba, in 1900, was quite critical of the condition of Polish research into the history of cities: 'We must start almost from the very beginning, because what has been done so far is useless – we have to start from the edition of sources'.¹⁰ He was right, for only publications devoted to

⁶ Wydawnictwa Akt Dawnych Archiwum Miasta Krakowa [Publishers of Old Files of the Archive of the City of Cracow]: STANISŁAW KRZYŻANOWSKI (ed.): *Acta Scabinalia Cracoviensia 1365-1376 et 1390-1397*, Kraków 1904; KAZIMIERZ KACZMARCZYK (ed.): *Libri iuris civilis cracoviensis 1392-1506*, Kraków 1913.

⁷ ALEKSANDER CZOŁOWSKI, FRANCISZEK JAWORSKI (eds.): *Pomniki dziejowe Lwowa z archiwum miasta* [Historical Monuments of Lviv from the City Archive]: vol. 1-4, Lwów 1892-1921.

⁸ STANISŁAW KUTRZEBA, *Finanse Krakowa w wiekach średnich* [Finance of Cracow in the Middle Ages], in: *Rocznik Krakowski* 3 (1900), pp. 27-152; IDEM: *Ludność i majątek Kazimierza w końcu XIV stulecia* [Population and Property of Kazimierz in the End of the 14th c.], *ibidem*, pp. 183-20; IDEM: *Historia rodziny Wierzyńków* [The History of the Family Wierzynek], in: *Rocznik Krakowski* 2 (1899), pp. 9-88; IDEM: *Handel Krakowa w wiekach średnich na tle stosunków handlowych Polski* [Trade of Cracow in the Middle Ages Against a Background of Trade Relations of Poland], in: *Rozprawy Akademii Umiejętności. Wydział Historyczno-Filozoficzny* 19 (1903), pp. 1-196; for the research of Kutrzeba on the history of Cracow, see MARCIN STARZYŃSKI: *Średniowieczny Kraków w badaniach Stanisława Kutrzeby* [Medieval Cracow in the Research of Stanisław Kutrzeba], in: STANISŁAW KUTRZEBA: *Finanse i handel średniowiecznego Krakowa*, Kraków 2009, pp. IX-XXXVI.

⁹ JAN PTAŚNIK: *Studia nad patrycjatem krakowskim wieków średnich* [Studies on the Patriciate in the Middle Ages], part 1, in: *Rocznik Krakowski* 15 (1913), pp. 23-95, part 2, *ibidem* 16 (1914), pp. 1-90; IDEM: *Bonerowie* [The Boners], *ibidem* 7 (1904), pp. 1-134; ŁADYSŁAW ŁOZIŃSKI: *Przekupień lwowski w XVII w.* [The Vendor of Lviv in the 17th c.], in: *Kwartalnik Historyczny* 2 (1889), pp. 355-380; IDEM: *Kupiectwo lwowskie w XVI w.* [Tradespeople of Lviv in the 16th c.], in: *Biblioteka Warszawska* 3 (1891), pp. 429-453; IDEM: *Patrycjat i mieszczaństwo lwowskie w XVI i XVII w.* [Patriciate and Townspeople of Lviv in the 16th and 17th c.], Lwów 1892.

¹⁰ KUTRZEBA, *W sprawie historyi* (as in footnote 1), p. 2.

the history of Cracow and Lviv met the requirements of academic research, whereas studies concerning other towns were mostly devoid of any academic value.

2 Urban history on the margins of university science in 1920-1939

The reconstruction of the Polish state after WWI did not bring any significant breakthroughs in the development of research into the history of towns. At the fourth convention of Polish historians in Poznań in 1925 there was only one paper devoted to the history of towns. The Poznań historian Kazimierz Kaczmarczyk presented in the paper his plan to publish sources concerning the history of Polish towns; he considered it necessary 'both in academic and national terms' to catch up with German historical science.¹¹ However, it should be underlined that the resolution regarding the editing of urban history sources issued at the convention stipulated that the edition of such sources be dealt with by local and provincial authorities. According to the Polish academic elites of the time, urban history did not belong to the main stream of university science, remaining the focus of interest of local historians.¹² Similarly, not much space was devoted to urban history at the conventions of historians in Warsaw in 1930 and Vilnius in 1935.¹³ In the interwar period, texts concerning urban history were never published in *Kwartalnik Historyczny* and *Przegląd Historyczny* – the two most important Polish historical journals. The whole interwar period in the context of research into urban history may best be characterized by the Lviv historian Łucja Charewiczowa, who stressed the minor role of the historical academic method in the research into the history of towns: 'Practical reasons combined with local patriotism created the first titles in the biblio-

¹¹ KAZIMIERZ KACZMARCZYK: Wydawnictwa do historii miast polskich [Publications to the History of Polish Towns], in: Pamiętnik IV. Powszechnego zjazdu historyków polskich w Poznaniu 6-8 grudnia 1925, vol. 1, Lwów 1925, pp. 1-10; the program of the edition of sources was carried out to a very small extent: Toruń, Poznań, Cracow, Warsaw, Przemyśl, see CZAJA, Bilanz (as in footnote 2), p. 19.

¹² See the opinion of STANISŁAW ZAJĄCZKOWSKI, professor at Lviv University from 1932 in the review of the book: FRYDERYK PAPE: Historia Lwowa [History of Lviv], Lwów 1924, in: *Kwartalnik Historyczny* 38 (1924), p. 498, 'the conditions in which the Polish society lived in the 19th century made it difficult to develop a local history which includes research into the history of towns'.

¹³ It should be underlined, though, that the only paper concerning urban history at the convention in Warsaw by ŁUCJA CHAREWICZOWA: Znaczenie planów miast dla ich historii [The Significance of City Plans for the History of Cities], in: Pamiętnik V Powszechnego Zjazdu Historyków Polskich w Warszawie, vol. 1: Referaty, Lwów 1930, pp. 1-10, was included in the section 'General History'. At the convention in Vilnius two papers addressed solely the problem of neglect in the organization of the city archives: JAN ADAMUS: O archiwa miejskie i gminne [Concerning the City and District Archives], in: Pamiętnik VI Powszechnego Zjazdu Historyków Polskich w Wilnie 17-20 IX 1935, vol. 1: Referaty, Lwów 1935, pp. 425-431; EUGENIUSZ BARWIŃSKI: O archiwa miejskie i gminne [Concerning the City and District Archives], *ibidem*, pp. 432-438 (coreferat).

graphy of the history of our towns'.¹⁴ Suggestions that monographs be written about the history of individual towns preceded by proper synthetic studies went unnoticed.¹⁵ The synthesis of Jan Ptaśnik's *Miasta i mieszczaństwo w dawnej Polsce* (Towns and Burghers in Old Poland) published in 1934 was outdated and reflected the condition of research from the beginnings of the twentieth century.¹⁶ The low quality of town monographs proves the fact that professional researchers were not particularly interested in the issue of towns until 1939. The outstanding economics historian Jan Rutkowski, a professor at Poznań University, wrote in 1946: 'The majority of urban monographs are a failure both in terms of spreading historical culture among society and in terms of academic progress'.¹⁷ The exception among many worthless works was the study by *Dzieje Torunia* (History of Toruń), which was published in 1933 to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the town. The work constitutes an example of a joint publication, individual chapters of which were written by professional historians, experts in a given field or historical period.¹⁸

3 Innovative research in the interwar period

In the interwar period, university science addressed problems connected with urban history in relation to two issues only. The questions surrounding the origins of Polish towns, still under discussion in terms of the origin of society in medieval Poland, provided a strong impetus to commence inventive research. In the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth century, Polish historical science adopted the colonial theory formulated by German historians, according to which towns in Poland had not been formed until the thirteenth century upon the influx of settlers from the West and the reception of German law, known as the Magdeburg Law. In the second half of the nineteenth century, the theory was supported by historians and the source editors of the history of Cracow – Franciszek Piekosiński and Józef Szujski – and at the beginning of

¹⁴ ŁUCJA CHAREWICZOWA: Stan badań nad dziejami miast polskich [The State of Research on the History of Polish Towns], in: *Kwartalnik Historyczny* 27 (1928), 1, pp. 139-152, here p. 141.

¹⁵ See JÓZEF SKOCZEK: Dotychczasowy stan badań nad historią Lwowa [The Current State of Research on the History of Lviv], in: *Kwartalnik Historyczny* 39 (1925), 2, pp. 336-350, here p. 336.

¹⁶ JAN PTAŚNIK: *Miasta i mieszczaństwo w dawnej Polsce* [The Towns and Burghers in Old Poland], Kraków 1934.

¹⁷ JAN RUTKOWSKI: Niewyjaśnione i sporne zagadnienia z zakresu gospodarczych dziejów Polski w czasach przedrozbiorowych [Unexplained and Contentious Issues of Economic History of Pre-partition Poland], in: *Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych* 9 (1947), pp. 65-106, here pp. 76-77.

¹⁸ KAZIMIERZ TYMIENIECKI (ed.): *Dzieje Torunia* [History of Toruń], Toruń 1933; see the review of this book by ERICH MASCHKE, in: *Altpreußische Forschungen* 14 (1935), pp. 95-100.

the twentieth century by historians of law and historians of culture dealing with urban history.¹⁹

Despite the fact that at the beginning of the twentieth century some publications proved the establishment of towns in Polish lands before the appearance of the German settlement in the thirteenth century, the momentous role of the foundation of towns in accordance with German law was not questioned. In his study *Kraków biskupi* (Bishops' Cracow), published in 1906, Stanisław Zachorowski stressed the economic functions Cracow had had before the implementation of the Magdeburg Law.²⁰ Franciszek Bujak in his research into rural settlement in Lesser Poland – Małopolska – put forward a hypothesis about the foundation of towns in accordance with Polish law in Silesia preceding town foundation in accordance with German law.²¹ At first, the remarks of Zachorowski and Bujak did not raise much interest. However, a wider discussion was inspired by the article by Kazimierz Tymieniecki published in 1919, in which the author polemicized against the colonial theory and put forward a thesis of the evolutionary beginning of towns in Polish lands.²² In his analytical studies devoted to towns in Masovia and Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) he presented not only the beginnings but also the history of towns, with particular emphasis on the social and ethnic composition of their inhabitants. He underlined the major significance of the Polish population and marginalized the role of German colonization.²³ Undoubtedly, the con-

¹⁹ See e.g. the opinion expressed by FRANCISZEK PIEKOSIŃSKI in the preface to: PIEKOSIŃSKI, *Codex diplomaticus, pars 1* (as in footnote 5), p. VIII, 'These Institutions [municipal government R. Cz.] are not of Polish origin. We received them, like our whole civilization, from our western neighbours where they had been established earlier than in our country; however, their development was determined by our Polish conditions, which gave them their own characteristic features'. Similar opinions were expressed by Józef Szujski in the introduction to *The Oldest Book and Accounts of the City of Cracow*, PIEKOSIŃSKI/SZUJSKI, *Libri antiquissimi* (as in footnote 5), p. LXXXII, 'We are still embarrassed and unwilling to admit the German origin of burghers as if acquiring western municipality from the Germans and transmitting it over the Dnieper and Daugava rivers had not been one of the major achievements of our civilization'; JAN MARIA PISKORSKI: *Stadtentstehung im westslawischen Raum. Zur Kolonisations- und Evolutionstheorie*, in: *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung* 44 (1995), pp. 317-357, here pp. 318-323.

²⁰ STANISŁAW ZACHOROWSKI: *Kraków biskupi* [Bishops' Cracow], in: *Rocznik Krakowski* 8 (1906), pp. 103-126.

²¹ FRANCISZEK BUJAK: *Studia nad osadnictwem Małopolski* [Studies on Settlement in Lesser Poland], Kraków 1905; Franciszek Bujak was the first to use the term 'location of town under Polish law', *ibidem*, p. 225.

²² KAZIMIERZ TYMIENIECKI: *Zagadnienia początków miast w Polsce* [Questions Surrounding the Origins of Towns in Poland], in: *Przegląd Historyczny* 21 (1919), pp. 319-342; re-edition of this paper with the comment of the author see in: KAZIMIERZ TYMIENIECKI: *Pisma wybrane* [Selected Works], Warszawa 1956, pp. 207-241.

²³ KAZIMIERZ TYMIENIECKI, *Z dziejów miast i mieszczaństwa w późnośredniowiecznej Wielkopolsce* [The History of the Towns and Burghers in Late Medieval Greater Poland], ed. by ZBIGNIEW WIELGOSZ, Poznań 2007; *IDEM: Procesy twórcze formowania się społeczeństwa polskiego w wiekach średnich* [Processes of the Shaping of Polish Society in the Middle Ages], Warszawa 1921, here the second chapter *Powstanie miasta mazowieckiego po koniec*

cept of the evolutionary origin of towns resulted from the desire to polemicize against German historiography. Moreover, it must have been influenced by the aforementioned book by Franciszek Bujak, who underlined the development of rural colonization in Lesser Poland prior to the colonization in accordance with German law.²⁴ Another researcher who addressed the concept of the evolutionary origin of towns in the interwar period was Karol Maleczyński from Lviv, who proposed the concept of “Polish urban law” which was to develop from market law – *ius fori*.²⁵ In their polemics with German researchers about the origin of towns, Polish historians also tried to use arguments arising from the analysis of the city space. The most famous was the theory of Heinrich Münch, who intended to prove that towns which had been granted foundation privilege would continue the topography and layout of towns before the foundation charter had been granted.²⁶ Münch’s hypothesis reflected the general tendency of Polish research into the beginnings of towns and towns granted foundation privilege, which emphasized the economic factor and the evolutionary process of the creation of towns, thereby reducing the importance of German colonization. Such a perspective on the subject resulted from the political conditions of the interwar period. Research into the origin of towns in Poland developed very quickly as a reply to the concepts presented by German historical science and it constituted one factor in Polish-German antagonism.

Inventive research drives occurred in the interwar period in the field of economic history. Researchers who contributed considerably to the development of the research field were Jan Rutkowski and Franciszek Bujak who at the beginning of the 1930s, following the group *Annales*, attempted to introduce quantitative methods and the analysis of phenomena over a long period of time.²⁷ Nevertheless, new methodological assumptions were adopted to a limited extent. There were a few inventive studies about craft and guilds in Przemyśl and Toruń,²⁸ but most researchers preferred the old model of re-

wieków średnich [The Beginning of Towns in Masovia in the Late Middle Ages], pp. 32-85; PISKORSKI (as in footnote 19), pp. 326-329.

²⁴ TYMIENIECKI, *Pisma* (as in footnote 22), pp. 7-8; Kazimierz Tymieniecki wrote about this in the introduction to the re-edition of his studies.

²⁵ KAROL MALECZYŃSKI: *Najstarsze targi w Polsce i stosunek ich do miast przed kolonizacją na prawie niemieckim* [The Oldest Fairs in Poland and their Relation to the Towns before the Colonization under German-Law], Lwów 1926; for a discussion concerning the concept of towns under Polish law see EDUARD MÜHLE: *Einleitung*, in: IDEM (ed.): *Rechtsstadtgründungen im mittelalterlichen Polen*, Köln et al. 2011, pp. 1-11, here pp. 1-3; PISKORSKI (as in footnote 19), pp. 326-332.

²⁶ HENRYK MÜNCH: *Geneza rozplanowania miast wielkopolskich XIII i XIV w.* [Origins of the Town Plan in Greater Poland], Kraków 1946.

²⁷ HELENA MADUROWICZ-URBAŃSKA: *Franciszek Bujak – o nowy kształt historii* [Franciszek Bujak – for the New Shape of History], in: FRANCISZEK BUJAK: *Wybór Pism*, vol. 1, Warszawa 1976, p. 91; JERZY TOPOLSKI: *Jana Rutkowskiego życie i rola w rozwoju nauki historycznej* [Jan Rutkowski’s Life and his Role in the Development of Historical Sciences], in: JAN RUTKOWSKI: *Wokół teorii ustroju feudalnego*, ed. by JERZY TOPOLSKI, Warszawa 1982, pp. 5-68, here p. 19.

²⁸ KAZIMIERZ ARLAMOWSKI: *Dzieje przemyskich cechów rzemieślniczych w dawnej Polsce* [The History of Craftsman Guilds of Przemyśl in Old Poland], Przemyśl 1931; STANISŁAW

search.²⁹ Urban craft was still considered through the perspective of the guild while the technical issues of production, its magnitude and market, were omitted.³⁰ An example of innovative research is the initiative of Franciszek Bujak, who carried out some research into the history of prices. The research included prices in Lviv from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, in Cracow and Warsaw from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, and in Danzig and Lublin from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.³¹

4 The history of towns in Poland in 1945-1989: between historical materialism and the annals school

After 1945 began a golden epoch in the development of the history of towns when it became an independent field of historical science. A rapid development of research into the history of towns resulted both from the new political situation in Poland and from practical needs connected with the reconstruction of towns after war damage. The incorporation of German lands in the East resulted in extending the territorial scope of historical research, which now included towns in Silesia, Pomerania, former East Prussia (in Polish terminology: Warmia and Mazury), and Danzig. The socialist system and the Soviet political doctrine entailed the appearance of Marxist methodology which attributed considerable importance to economic history. It must be stressed, however, that the influence of historical materialism was reflected in the choice of research subject matters rather than in the choice of a research method.

The thematic scope and methodology of Polish research into the history of towns after 1945 was influenced significantly by the outstanding historian Marian Małowist, a professor at Warsaw University. He considered the economy to be the main factor influencing the development of society. He believed that the analysis of demand and supply allows the comprehension of social and political relations: 'it is impossible to examine

HERBST: *Toruńskie cechy rzemieślnicze* [The Craftsman Guilds of Toruń], Toruń 1933.

²⁹ ŁUCJA CHAREWICZOWA: *Lwowskie organizacje zawodowe za czasów Polski przedrozbiowej* [Professional Organizations in Lviv in Pre-Partition Poland], Lwów 1929; ANTONI MINKIEWICZ: *Cechy białostockie* [The Craftsman Guilds of Białystok], Białystok 1936.

³⁰ JERZY TOPOLSKI: *Badania nad dziejami miast w Polsce* [The Research on the History of Towns in Poland], in: *Materiały do dziejów Wielkopolski i Pomorza* 6 (1960), pp. 5-43, here p. 10; MARIAN MAŁOWIST: *W sprawie badań nad historią rzemiosła miejskiego w średnio-wiecznej Polsce* [The Issue of Research on the History of Urban Craft in Medieval Poland], in: *Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych* 13 (1951), pp. 1-22, here, pp. 3-4.

³¹ STANISŁAW HOSZOWSKI: *Ceny we Lwowie w XVI i XVII w.* [The Prices in Lviv in the 16th-17th c.], Lwów 1928; EDWARD TOMASZEWSKI: *Ceny w Krakowie w latach 1601-1795* [The Prices in Cracow 1601-1795], Lwów 1934; JULIAN PELC: *Ceny w Krakowie w latach 1369-1600* [The Prices in Cracow 1369-1600], Lwów 1935; IDEM: *Ceny w Gdańsku w XVI i XVII w.* [The Prices in Danzig in the in the 16th-17th c.], Lwów 1935; STANISŁAW SIEGEL: *Ceny w Warszawie w latach 1701-1815* [The Prices in Warsaw 1701-1815], Lwów 1936; WŁADYSŁAW ADAMCZYK: *Ceny w Warszawie w XVI-XVII w.* [The Prices in Warsaw in the 16th-17th c.], Lwów 1938; IDEM: *Ceny w Lublinie w XVI i XVII w.* [The Prices in Lublin in the 16th-17th c.], Lwów 1935.

such an important problem as the development of our cities without the prior analysis of their production bases conditioned by the level of manufacturing forces of the whole country', wrote Małowist in 1951.³² Behind the Marxist terminology there was a modern programme of research into trade and production. The characteristic feature of his research was an extensive source base, using quantitative methods and analyzing phenomena within a longer period of time and within a broad territorial range.³³ Marian Małowist's students exerted a major influence on the development of Polish research into the history of pre-industrial towns. Henryk Samsonowicz, Bronisław Geremek and Benedykt Zientara focused their academic interests on the history of medieval towns, while Maria Bogucka and Andrzej Wyrobisz examined the history of towns in the early modern period (the sixteenth-eighteenth centuries).³⁴ In the 1970s, researchers from the school of Marian Małowist extended their field of research. Influenced by contact with the *Annales*, they started to examine urban culture and the city model of life.³⁵ Henryk Samsonowicz, who, in his research into cities in the Baltic zone in the Late Middle Ages, referred to the book by Fernand Braudel *The Mediterranean Sea and the Mediterranean World in the Times of Philip II*, posed a question about the development dynamics of the area.³⁶

After 1945 one of the most commonly examined subject matters was the question of the beginnings of cities. As opposed to the interwar period, there took place a considerable development in research methods and the extension of their territorial range. Studies on the beginnings of cities became interdisciplinary and they were dealt with not only by historians, but also by archeologists, art historians, urban planners and linguists.³⁷ Until the 1960s – as with the interwar period – it was believed that German

³² MAŁOWIST, W sprawie badań (as in footnote 30), pp. 1-3.

³³ HENRYK SAMSONOWICZ: Mariana Małowista pisarstwo historyczne [Historical Writings by Marian Małowist], in: *Historyka* 20 (1990), pp. 52-56; IDEM: Badania nad dziejami miast w Polsce [Research on the History of Towns in Poland], in: *Kwartalnik Historyczny* 72 (1965), 1, pp. 111-126, here p. 119.

³⁴ CZAJA: Bilanz (as in footnote 2), pp. 22-23.

³⁵ HENRYK SAMSONOWICZ: La culture urbaine en Pologne au bas Moyen Age, in: STANISŁAW BYLINA (ed.): *La Pologne au Xve Congrès des Sciences Historiques à Bucarest, Wrocław 1980*, pp. 127-152; IDEM: Zur Lebensweise des Danziger Bürgertums im 14.-15. Jahrhundert, in: KONRAD FRITZE, ECKHARDT MÜLLER-MERTENS et al. (eds.): *Der Ost- und Nordseeraum. Politik – Ideologie – Kultur vom 12. bis zum 17. Jahrhundert*, Weimar 1986, pp. 82-90; MARIA BOGUCKA: Zur Lebensweise des Danziger Bürgertums im 16. Jh., *ibidem*, pp. 81-90; EADEM: *Das alte Danzig. Alltagsleben vom 15. bis 17. Jahrhundert*, München 1988; ANDRZEJ WYROBISZ: *Miasta prywatne w Polsce w XVI-XVIII w. jako inwestycje kulturalne* [The Private Towns in Poland in the 16th-18th c. as Cultural Investment], in: *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* 26 (1978), 1, pp. 47-56.

³⁶ HENRYK SAMSONOWICZ: Les liens culturelles entre le bourgeois du littoral baltique dans le bas moyen âge, in: *Studia Maritima* 1 (1978), pp. 9-29; IDEM: *Późne średniowiecze miast nadbałtyckich. Studia nad dziejami Hanzji nad Bałtykiem* [The Baltic Towns in the Late Middle Ages. The Studies of the History of the Hanse on the Baltic Sea in the 14th-15th c.], Warszawa 1968.

³⁷ TADEUSZ LALIK: Recherches sur les origines des villes en Pologne, in: *Acta Poloniae Historica* 2 (1952), pp. 101-132; PIERRE FRANCASTEL (ed.): *Les origines des villes polonaises*, Paris

colonization and the appearance of the Magdeburg Law in the thirteenth century constituted one of the stages of the evolutionary development of Slavic towns.³⁸ The research carried out by Karol Buczek and Benedykt Zientara led to the rejection of the idea of the existence of Polish urban law and firmly established the idea of the so-called "foundation privilege threshold" in Polish historiography in the 1970s, casting new light on research into the law, political system and the development of the town network.³⁹ A town granted a foundation charter based on the Magdeburg Law began to be perceived as a revolutionary breakthrough connected with the appearance of a new form of urban life in Poland.

In the 1950s and the 1960s the issue of the construction of towns, urban planning and spatial development grew in importance owing to the reconstruction of cities destroyed during WWII. Apart from studies devoted to various forms of urban layout, much attention was given to technical problems and social and economic conditions in the construction sector.⁴⁰ At the end of the 1950s researchers had addressed the problem

1960; WITOLD HENSEL: Untersuchungen über die Anfänge der Städte in Polen, in: HERBERT JANKUHN, WALTER SCHLESINGER et al. (eds.): Vor- und Frühformen der europäischen Stadt im Mittelalter, T. 2, Göttingen 1974, pp. 176-189.

³⁸ ALEKSANDER GIEYSZTOR: Les origines de la ville slave, in: Settimane di studio del centro di studi sull' alto medioevo 6: La città nell' alto medioevo, Spoleto 1959, pp. 279-303; see the papers from the international conference: L'artisanat et la vie urbaine en Pologne médiévale (Warsaw 1959) in: Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej 10 (1962), pp. 279-563; LECH LECIEJEWICZ: Początki nadmorskich miast na Pomorzu Zachodnim [The Beginnings of Sea Towns in West Pomerania], Wrocław 1962; EDWIN ROZENKRANZ: Początki i ustrój miast Pomorza Gdańskiego do schyłku XIV stulecia [The Beginnings and Government of Towns in Danzig Pomerania], Gdańsk 1962; PIKORSKI (as in footnote 19), pp. 328-329.

³⁹ KAROL BUCZEK: Targi i miasta na prawie polskim (okres wczesnośredniowieczny) [Fairs and Towns under Polish Law (Early Middle Ages)], Wrocław 1964; BENEDYKT ZIENTARA: Der Ursprung des deutschen Rechts (ius teutonicum) auf dem Hintergrund der Siedlungsbewegung in West- und Mitteleuropa während des 11. und 12. Jahrhunderts, in: Jahrbuch für Geschichte des Feudalismus 2 (1978), pp. 119-148; IDEM: Socio-economic and Spatial Transformation of Polish Towns during the Period of Location, in: Acta Poloniae Historica 34 (1976), pp. 57-83; IDEM: Przełom w rozwoju miast środkowoeuropejskich w pierwszej połowie XIII w. [Breakthrough in the Development of Central European Towns in the First Half of the 13th c.], in: Przegląd Historyczny 67 (1976), pp. 219-243; MARTA MŁYNAŃSKA-KALETYNOWA: Wrocław w XII-XIII wieku. Przemiany społeczne i osadnicze [Wrocław in the 12th-13th c. Social and Settlement Transformations], Wrocław 1986; SŁAWOMIR GAWLAS: Die Lokationswende in der Geschichte mitteleuropäischer Städte, in: MÜHLE (as in footnote 25), pp. 77-106, here pp. 78-81.

⁴⁰ WOJCIECH KALINOWSKI: Badania nad historią budowy miast polskich w trzydziestoleciu [Research on the History of Building of Polish Towns], in: Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki 20 (1975), 2, pp. 101-127; ANDRZEJ WYROBISZ: Ze studiów nad budownictwem krakowskim w XVI i w pierwszej połowie XVII w. [Studies on the Building of Cracow in the 16th and in the First Half of the 17th c.], in: Przegląd Historyczny 49, 4 (1958), pp. 647-680; WAĆLAW OSTROWSKI, PRZEMYSŁAW SZAFAER, WOJCIECH TRZEBIŃSKI: W sprawie metody badań nad historią budowy miast [For Method of the Research on the History of Town Building], in: Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki 2 (1957), 3-4, pp. 217-241; TADEUSZ

of relationships between the city and the countryside in the Middle Ages and in the early modern period which showed, for instance, the process of the creation of an internal market and the social connections between the countryside and the city.⁴¹

After the Second World War, the topography of Polish research into the history of towns gradually changed. If until the end of the 1960s researchers had concentrated mainly on Warsaw, in the 1970s their research turned also to Cracow, Wrocław, Danzig and Toruń. The Commission for the History of Towns, established at the end of the 1970s in the Committee for Historical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, plays an important role in the integration of historians dealing with the history of towns and inspires new research. Under the patronage of the Commission, conferences devoted to selected issues of the history of towns are organized every year. The first attempt to synthesize research into the history of towns in Poland was the book written by Henryk Samsonowicz and Maria Bogucka, published in 1986.⁴² Political events which took place in East Central Europe a few years later helped the synthesis close a certain epoch in Polish historiography.

5 The research on the history of towns in the new political and social conditions after 1989

However, it must be stressed that the democratization of political life in Poland from 1989 onwards did not entail any major changes in the methodology and organization of research into the history of towns. Nevertheless, new phenomena occurred in historiography owing to new political and social conditions. The rebirth of the local authorities and a growing role played by local and regional tradition in shaping social identity meant that demand for urban monographs increased. Such monographs are usually financed by local city authorities. In the last twenty years, over 100 books of this type have been published. Most of them are joint publications, written by professional historians; as a result, the academic standard is gradually improving compared with books written in the 1960s and the 1970s. The development of this form of publication helps to make up for the neglect in the field of local history, but it has not led to the modernization of research into the history of towns in Poland as authors of urban monographs

KOZACZEWSKI: *Rozplanowanie, układ przestrzenny i rozwój miasta średniowiecznego* [The Spatial Layout and Development of the Medieval Town], Wrocław 1973.

⁴¹ TADEUSZ LALIK: *Geneza sieci miasteczek w Polsce średniowiecznej* [Origins of the Network of Small Towns in Medieval Poland], in: ALEKSANDER GIEYSZTOR, TADEUSZ ROSLANOWSKI (eds.): *Miasta doby feudalnej w Europie środkowo-wschodniej. Przemiany społeczne a układy przestrzenne*, Warszawa et al. 1976, pp. 115-142; JAN MAŁECKI: *Studia na rynku regionalnym Krakowa w XVI w.* [Studies on the Regional Market of Cracow in the 16th c.], Warszawa 1963; HANNA MADUROWICZ, ANTONI PODRAZA: *Rejony gospodarcze Małopolski Zachodniej w II połowie XVIII w.* [Economic Regions of the Western Part of Lesser Poland in the Second Half of the 18th c.], Wrocław 1958.

⁴² MARIA BOGUCA, HENRYK SAMSONOWICZ: *Dzieje miast i mieszczaństwa w Polsce przedrozbirowej* [History of Towns and Burghers in Poland before the Partitions], Wrocław 1986.

do not tend to use current methodological suggestions nor the norms of modern European research to any great extent.

In the context of making up for the neglect in the field of fundamental research, another two projects deserve our attention. After 1989 it became possible to edit cartographic sources in publications concerning the history of towns. The plan of the edition initiated by Toruń's historians and cartographers is now being carried out under the patronage of the International Commission for the History of Towns in the form of The Historical Atlas of Polish Towns in Toruń, Wrocław, Cracow and Danzig. Atlases of 14 towns have been published so far. They include both large cities (such as Cracow, Wrocław and Toruń) and small towns.⁴³

Since the end of the 1990s, the project *Registers of Town Officials in the Former Commonwealth, Silesia and Western Pomerania* has been carried out under the supervision of Krzysztof Mikulski. Its aim is to create the basis for prosopographic and genealogical research into urban elites in the Middle Ages and in the early modern times. The project also involves historians from Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine.⁴⁴

New phenomena which have considerably affected the research into the history of towns over the last two decades include the introduction of archaeology into the examination of towns granted the foundation charter. It is true that archaeologists became interested in the history of towns in 1945, but until the 1970s their interests had focused on early urban settlements (proto-urban settlements), which was the reason why they omitted towns granted the foundation charter.⁴⁵ Archaeological excavations in the areas

⁴³ ROMAN CZAJA: Der historische Atlas polnischer Städte, in: Siedlungsforschung. Archäologie – Geschichte – Geographie 20 (2002), pp. 277-281; JANUSZ TANDECKI: Polnische Städteatlanten. Zur Edition von kartographischen und ikonographischen Quellen, in: MATTHIAS THUMSER, JANUSZ TANDECKI (eds.): Quellenvielfalt und editorische Methoden, Toruń 2003, pp. 89-98.

⁴⁴ ROMAN CZAJA: Urzędnicy miasta Torunia w średniowieczu [Town Officials of Toruń in the Middle Ages], Toruń 1999; IDEM: Urzędnicy miejscy Elbląga do 1524 r. [Town Officials of Elbląg until 1524], Elbląg 2010; KRZYSZTOF MIKULSKI: Urzędnicy miejscy Torunia 1454-1650 [Town Officials of Toruń 1454-1650], Toruń 2001; IDEM: Urzędnicy miejscy Elbląga w latach 1524-1772 [Town Officials of Elbląg 1524-1772], Elbląg 2010; JERZY DYGDALA: Urzędnicy miejscy Torunia 1651-1793 [Town Officials of Toruń 1651-1793], Toruń 2002; MATEUSZ GOLIŃSKI, JAROSŁAW MALINIAK: Urzędnicy miejscy Świdnicy do 1740 r. [Town Officials of Świdnica until 1740], Toruń 2007; ZDZISŁAW NOGA: Urzędnicy miejscy Krakowa, część II: 1500-1795 [Town Officials of Cracow, part II: 1500-1794], Kraków 2007; MIRON KAPRAL: Urzędnicy miasta Lwowa w XIII-XVIII wieku [Town Officials of Lviv in the 14th-and 18th c.], Toruń 2008; STANISŁAW JUJEZKA, KRZYSZTOF KUPEĆ: Urzędnicy miejscy Legnicy do 1740/1741 [Town Officials of Legnica until 1740/1741], Toruń 2012; EWA GRIN-PISZCZEK: Urzędnicy miejscy Przemyśla w XIV-XVIII wieku [Town Officials of Toruń of Przemyśl in the 14th-18th c.], Toruń 2012.

⁴⁵ ROMANA BARNYCZ-GUPIENIEC: Badania nad wczesnośredniowiecznym Gdańskiem. Historia – rezultaty [The Research on Early Medieval Danzig. History and Results], in: HENRYK PANER (ed.): Gdańsk średniowieczny w świetle najnowszych badań archeologicznych i historycznych, Gdańsk 1998, pp. 5-11; TADEUSZ NAWROLSKI: Archäologische Forschungen in den mittelalterlichen Städten Pommerns, in: MANFRED GLÄSER (ed.): Archäologie des Mittelalters und Bauforschung im Hanseraum. Eine Festschrift für Günther P. Fehring, Rostock

of Elbląg, Kołobrzeg and Wrocław – a town granted the foundation charter – were pioneering. It was not until the 1990s that archaeologists included research into the towns which had been granted the foundation charter.⁴⁶ Archaeological sources have enabled considerable improvement in the quality of our knowledge about the history of towns. On the one hand, they allow us to verify the viewpoints of historians about stages of the spatial development and planning of the city space. On the other hand, archaeological examinations show the changes of cultural models resulting from the development of medieval communes and settlement based on the Magdeburg Law.⁴⁷

The significant increase in the number of publications and the great variety of subject matters as well as research methods hinder any assessment of the most recent Polish research into the history of towns in the Middle Ages and the early modern period. The history of towns is certainly not included among any major research problems for Polish historical science. In the last twenty years no important methodological breakthrough has taken place which could be compared with the influence of historical concepts of cultural sciences on research into the history of towns in Germany. Nevertheless, there exist a few research paths which have attempted to perceive things from a new modern perspective.

In the research concerning the origin of towns granted the foundation charter, the most important question in recent years has been the issue of the role of towns in the

1993, pp. 27-33; MARIAN REBKOWSKI: Pierwsze lokacje miast w księstwie pomorskim. Przemiany przestrzenne i kulturowe [The First Locations of Towns in Pomerania. Spatial and Cultural Changes], Kołobrzeg 2001, pp. 10-12.

⁴⁶ MARIAN REBKOWSKI (ed.): Archeologia średniowiecznego Kołobrzegu [Archaeology of Medieval Kołobrzeg], vol. 1-5, Kołobrzeg 1996-2010; IDEM: Możliwości archeologii w poznaniu procesów lokacyjnych na przykładzie wybranych miast południowego wybrzeża Bałtyku [The Possibilities of Archaeology in Getting to Know Location Processes on the Example of Selected Towns of the Southern Baltic Coast], in: CEZARY BUŚKO, MATEUSZ GOLIŃSKI et al. (eds.): Procesy lokacyjne miast w Europie środkowo-wschodniej, Wrocław 2006, pp. 203-226; ANTONI CZACHAROWSKI, TADEUSZ NAWROLSKI et al. (eds.): Archeologia Elbingensis, vol. 1-2, Elbląg 1992-1997; JERZY PIEKALSKI: Die Lokation Breslaus als archäologisches Forschungsproblem, in: MÜHLE (as in footnote 25), pp. 139-155; the results of the archaeological excavations in Wrocław are published in the book series *Wratislavia Antiqua. Studia z Dziejów Wrocławia* [Wratislavia Antiqua. Studies on the History of Wrocław], vol. 1-16, Wrocław 1999-2012.

⁴⁷ MARIAN REBKOWSKI: Technologietransfer als ein Faktor der Kulturwandlungen im pommerischen Raum im 13. Jahrhundert, in: *Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters* 34 (2006), pp. 63-69; IDEM: Pierwsze lokacje (as in footnote 45); GRAŻYNA NAWROLSKA: Początki Elbląga w świetle źródeł archeologicznych [The Beginnings of Elbląg in the Light of the Archaeological Evidence], Elbląg 2012; HENRYK PANER: The Spatial Development of Gdańsk at the Beginning of the 14th century. The Origins of the Old and Main Town, in: PRZEMYSŁAW URBAŃCZYK (ed.): *Polish Lands at the Turn of the Beginning of the Second Millennium*, Warszawa 2004, pp.15-32; CEZARY BUŚKO, JERZY PIEKALSKI: Die Altstadt von Breslau im 13. bis 15. Jahrhundert, in: *Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters* 23/24 (1995/96), pp. 155-181; JERZY PIEKALSKI: Current Problems of the Research of High Medieval Towns in East-Central Europe, in: ANDRZEJ BUKO, MIKE MCCARTHY (eds.): *Making a Medieval Town. Patterns of Early Medieval Urbanization*, Warszawa 2010, pp. 191-202.

process of modernizing the structures of territorial authority and the diffusion of a new model of urban culture and new consumption patterns.⁴⁸

As for the problem of religious life, the most interesting research deals with the creation of sacred space in towns⁴⁹ and the studies on the corporation forms of pietism and religious foundations of burghers – influenced to a large extent by *Memoria-Forschung*.⁵⁰ Recently Polish researchers have attempted to apply the experiences from the research into *région civique* to Polish research into the history of towns.⁵¹ Since the 1980s, research concerning education in the city and the literisation of urban society has been conducted.⁵² Research into pragmatic literacy, which remained the subject of

⁴⁸ SŁAWOMIR GAWLAS: Fürstenherrschaft, Geldwirtschaft und Landesausbau. Zum mittelalterlichen Modernisierungsprozess im piastischen Polen, in: MÜHL (ed.) (as in footnote 25), pp. 13-76; HALINA MANIKOWSKA: Miasta i mieszczaństwo na ziemiach polskich w średniowieczu [The Towns and Burghers in the Polish Lands in the Middle Ages], in: WOJCIECH FALKOWSKI (ed.): Pytania o średniowiecze. Potrzeby i perspektywy badawcze polskiej mediewistyki, Warszawa 2001, pp. 99-127, here pp. 118-119.

⁴⁹ HALINA MANIKOWSKA: La topographie sacrée de la ville: le cas de Wrocław du XIIe au XVe siècle, in: MICHAŁ TYMOWSKI (ed.): Anthropologie de la ville médiévale, Warszawa 1999, pp. 65-82; KRZYSZTOF SKWIERCZYŃSKI: Custodia civitas. Sakralny system ochrony miast w Polsce wcześniejszego średniowiecza na przykładzie siedzib biskupich [The Sacred System of Town Protection in Poland in the Early Middle Ages on the Example of Bishop Residences], in: Kwartalnik Historyczny 103 (1996), 3, pp. 3-51; ALEKSANDRA WITKOWSKA: Przestrzeń sakralna późnośredniowiecznego Krakowa [The Sacred Spatial of Late Medieval Cracow], in: HALINA MANIKOWSKA, HANNA ZAREMSKA (eds.): Ecclesia et civitas. Kościół i życie religijne w mieście średniowiecznym, Warszawa 2002, pp. 37-48; MAREK DERWICH, ANNA POBÓG-LENARTOWICZ (eds.): Klasztor w mieście średniowiecznym i nowożytnym [Monasteries in Towns in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period], Wrocław – Opole 2003.

⁵⁰ MAREK SŁOŃ: Wspólnoty religijne w XV-wiecznym Lwowie [Religious Communities in Lviv in the 15th c.], in: ANTONI CZACHAROWSKI (ed.): Studia nad dziejami miast i mieszczaństwa 1, Toruń 1998, pp. 117-130; IRENEUSZ CZARCIŃSKI: Les confréries en Pologne – état de la question, in: Quaestiones Mediaevi Novae 2 (1997), pp. 85-96; STANISŁAW LITAK: Bractwa religijne w Polsce przedrozbiorowej XVIII-XVIII wiek. Rozwój i problematyka [Religious Fraternities in Pre-Partition-Poland. The Development and Issues], in: Przegląd Historyczny 88, 3-4 (1997), pp. 499-523; PIOTR OLIŃSKI: Fundacje mieszczańskie w miastach pruskich w okresie średniowiecza i na progu czasów nowożytnych: (Chełmno, Toruń, Elbląg, Gdańsk, Królewiec, Braniewo) [Burgher Foundations in Prussian Towns during the Middle Ages and upon the Threshold of modern Times (Chełmno, Toruń, Elbląg, Gdańsk, Królewiec, Braniewo)], Toruń 2008.

⁵¹ See the collection of papers MANIKOWSKA/ZAREMSKA (as in footnote 49).

⁵² See the collection of papers by WOJCIECH IWAŃCZAK, KRZYSZTOF BRACHA: Nauczanie w dawnych wiekach. Edukacja w średniowieczu i u progu ery nowożytnej. Polska na tle Europy [Learning in the Past. Education in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period. Poland with Europe in the Background], Kielce 1997; JAN RYŚ: Szkoły parafialne w miastach małopolskich w XV w. [Parish Schools in the Towns in Lesser Poland in the 15th c.], Warszawa 1995; KRZYSZTOF STOPKA: Szkoły katedralne metropolii gnieźnieńskiej w średniowieczu [Cathedral Schools in Gniezno Archbishopric in the Middle Ages], Kraków 1994.

interest as part of research into the history of municipal offices, is in its preliminary stage.⁵³

In the 1970s Polish historians undertook research into the socio-topography of medieval and early modern towns. In the last thirty years there have been written monographs of this type devoted to both large and small towns (Wrocław, Toruń, Chełmno, Poznań, Elbląg, Sieradz, Krosno, and Grodno).⁵⁴ Socio-topographic research varies in terms of methodology. It includes works which limit themselves to presenting the spatial layout of the most important urban qualities (degree of authority, wealth, profession), but also contains research applying methods of geography and sociology, presenting the dynamics of phenomena over a longer period of time. The plans of the chartered towns are still a subject of scholarly debate amongst historians and historians of art.⁵⁵ Recently, the question regarding the perception of the city space has been

⁵³ ANNA ADAMSKA: Średniowiecze na nowo odczytane. O badaniach nad kulturą pisma [The Middle Ages Newly-Revisted. About Research on Culture of Writing], in: *Roczniki Historyczne* 65 (1999), pp. 129-154; JANUSZ TANDECKI: Die Verwaltungsschriftlichkeit als kultureller Faktor in den Städten des südlichen Hanseraums im späteren Mittelalter, in: JÜRGEN SARNOWSKY (ed.): *Verwaltung und Schriftlichkeit in den Hansestädten*, Trier 2006, pp. 1-16; AGNIESZKA BARTOSZEWICZ: *Piśmienność mieszczańska w późnośredniowiecznej Polsce* [Burgher Writing in Late Medieval Poland], Warszawa 2012.

⁵⁴ TADEUSZ ROSLANOWSKI: La topographie sociale e l'urbanisme en Pologne et en Ukraine du XIV^e aux XIX^e/XX^e siècles: questions comparées, in: *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* 43 (1995), 1, pp. 9-14; ROMAN CZAJA: Die Gestaltung des Stadtraumes und das Sozialgefüge mittelalterlicher Städte am Beispiel Polens, in: FERDINAND OPLL, CHRISTOPH SONNLECHNER (eds.): *Europäische Städte im Mittelalter*, Wien – Bozen 2010, pp. 203-216; JACEK WIESIOŁOWSKI: *Socjotopografia średniowiecznego Poznania* [Sociotopography of Medieval Poznań], Warszawa – Poznań 1982; MATEUSZ GOLIŃSKI: *Socjotopografia późnośredniowiecznego Wrocławia (przestrzeń – podatnicy – rzemiosło)* [Sociotopography of Late Medieval Wrocław. Spatial – Taxpayers – Craft], Wrocław 1997; IDEM: *Wokół socjotopografii późnośredniowiecznej Świdnicy* [Sociotopography of Late Medieval Świdnica], part.1-2, Wrocław 2000-2003; JERZY GORDZIEJEW: *Socjotopografia Grodna w XVIII wieku* [Sociotopography of Grodno in the 18th c.], Toruń 2009; TOMASZ JASIŃSKI: *Przedmieścia średniowiecznego Torunia i Chełmna* [The Suburbs of Medieval Toruń and Chełmno], Poznań 1982; FRANCISZEK LEŚNIAK: *Socjotopografia Krosna (1512-1630). Studia i materiały* [Sociotopography of Krosno 1512-1630. Studies and Sources], Kraków 2005; KRZYSZTOF MIKULSKI: *Przestrzeń i społeczeństwo Torunia od końca XIV do początku XVIII wieku* [The Spatial and Society of Toruń from the End of the 14th to the Beginning of the 18th c.], Toruń 1999; URSZULA SOWINA: *Sieradz. Układ przestrzenny i społeczeństwo miasta w XV-XVI w.* [Sieradz. Spatial Layout and Society of the Town in the 15th and 16th c.], Warszawa – Sieradz 1991.

⁵⁵ BOGUSŁAW KRASNOWOLSKI: *Lokacyjne układy przestrzenne na obszarze ziemi krakowskiej w XIII i XIV wieku* [Location Town Planning in the Cracovia Region in the 13th and 14th c.], vol. 1-2, Kraków 2004; IDEM: *Muster urbanistischer Anlagen von Lokationsstädten in Kleinpolen. Forschungsstand, Methoden und Versuch einer Synthese*, in: MÜHLE (as in footnote 25), pp. 275-322; RAFAŁ EYSYMONTT: *Kod genetyczny miasta. Średniowieczne miasta lokacyjne Dolnego Śląska na tle urbanistyki europejskiej* [The Genetic Code of the Town. Medieval Chartered Towns of Lower Silesia against the Background of European Town Planning], Wrocław 2009; ZOFIA MACIAKOWSKA: *Kształtowanie przestrzeni miejskiej*

added to the scope of research.⁵⁶ Research into urban society also involves different methodological concepts. On the one hand, research is based on structural analysis; on the other hand, in recent years it has also drawn on the experiences of historical anthropology and historical-cultural methodology.⁵⁷ The latter includes, for instance, research into the perception of the world and individual social groups, as well as the creation of the image of a group. Since the 1990s, interest has grown in the issue of the history of women and family in early modern towns.⁵⁸ Research into neighbourhoods and professional communities also shows the rejection of traditional methods of structural history.⁵⁹ Among new research questions there have appeared issues concerning the functioning of urban infrastructure, namely the management of water, the construction of streets, the disposal of waste and the protection of hygienic conditions.⁶⁰

Głównego Miasta w Gdańsku do początku XV w. [The Formation of the Town Space in the Old Town of Danzig at the Beginning of the 15th c.], Gdańsk 2006.

⁵⁶ PRZEMYSŁAW TYSZKA: *Obraz przestrzeni miejskiej Krakowa XIV-XV wieku w świadomości jego mieszkańców* [The Image of the Town Spatial of Cracow in the 14th and 15th c. at the Consciousness], Lublin 2001; ANDRZEJ KAPIŃSKI: *The Image of the Town in the Culture of the Sixteenth-Eighteenth Centuries*, in: *Acta Poloniae Historica* 67 (1993), pp. 219-221.

⁵⁷ AGNIESZKA BARTOSZEWICZ: *Warka. Społeczeństwo miasta w II połowie XV i na początku XVI wieku* [Warka. The Society of Town from the Second Half of the 15th and to the Beginning of the 16th c.], Warszawa 1997; EDMUND KIZIK: *Die reglementierte Feier: Hochzeiten, Taufen und Begräbnisse in der frühneuzeitlichen Hansestadt, Osnabrück 2008*; ZDZISŁAW NOGA: *Krakowska rada miejska w XVI wieku. Studium o elicie władzy* [The Town Council of Cracow in the 16th c. A Study of the Ruling Elite], Kraków 2003; LESZEK BELZYT: *Sprachlich-kulturelle Pluralität in Krakau um 1600: Versuch einer topographischen Beschreibung*, in: *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung* 47 (1998), 1, pp. 49-69; JACEK STASZEWSKI (ed.): *Elity mieszczańskie i szlacheckie Prus Królewskich i Kujaw w XIV-XVII wieku* [The Burgher and Gentry Elites in Royal Prussia and Kujavia in the 14th-17th c.], Toruń 1995.

⁵⁸ CEZARY KUKLO: *Małżeństwo, dzieci i rodzina w miastach i miasteczkach Korony w XVI-XVIII w.* [Marriage, Children and Family in Larger and Smaller Towns in Poland 16th-18th c.], *Przegląd Historyczny* 103 (2012), pp. 697-731; IDEM: *Rodzina w osiemnastowiecznej Warszawie* [The Family in Warsaw in the 18th c.], Białystok 1991; ANDRZEJ KAPIŃSKI: *Kobieta w mieście polskim w drugiej połowie XVI i w XVII wieku* [Women in Polish Towns in the Second Half of the 16th and in the 17th c.], Warszawa 1995; ANETA GŁOWACKA-PENCZYŃSKA: *Kobieta w małych miastach Wielkopolski w drugiej połowie XVI i w XVII wieku* [Women in the Smaller Towns in Greater Poland], Warszawa 2010.

⁵⁹ MATEUSZ GOLIŃSKI: *Cechy a wspólnoty sąsiedzkie w średniowiecznych miastach śląskich* [Guilds and Neighbours' Communities in the Medieval Silesian Towns], in: CZACHAROWSKI (as in footnote 50), pp. 93-102; ZBIGNIEW MORAWSKI: *Wspólnoty parafialne późnośredniowiecznego Sandomierza* [Parish Communities of Sandomierz], *ibidem*, pp. 155-170; ANDRZEJ JANECZEK: *Towns on the Frontier – the Frontier in Towns. Multiethnic Urban Communities in Red Ruthenia in the Late Middle Ages*, in: *Quaestiones Mediae Aevi Novae* 16 (2011), pp. 235-264; JANUSZ TANDECKI: *Genossenschaftliche Strukturen in preussischen Hansestädten*, in: NILS JÖRN, DETLEF KATTINGER et al. (eds.): *Genossenschaftliche Strukturen in der Hanse, Köln – Wien 1999*, pp. 223-237.

⁶⁰ URSZULA SOWINA: *Woda i ludzie w mieście średniowiecznym i wczesnonowożytnym. Ziemie polskie z Europą w tle* [Water and People in a Late-Medieval and Early-Modern Town.

Summary

The analysis of Polish research into urban history reveals the dynamics of changes in both the research and social conditions determining the development of historical science. Until the mid-twentieth century, urban history played a relatively minor role in Polish historiography. It should be emphasized that the reconstruction of the Polish state in 1918 did not entail any significant increase in the interest in the history of towns. Both during the period of the partitions of Poland and in the years 1918-1939, this area of historical research was mainly associated with local history, with only selected problems attracting the interest of university academia.

In the interwar period, more importance was given to urban history as part of the history of the state and nation, which resulted in the fact that the problem arose in polemics against German historiography. It was not until after the Second World War that research into urban history started to develop dynamically. The process was determined by both sociopolitical factors (the reconstruction of towns after the war and the incorporation of urbanized areas in the west and the north) and new methodological trends. Modernist historiography changed not only research paradigms, but also required mass sources which were kept mainly in city archives.

Polish Lands with Europe in the Background], Warszawa 2009; GRAŻYNA NAWROLSKA: Remarks on the Infrastructure of the Old Town in Elbląg, in: MANFRED GLÄSER (ed.): Lübecker Kolloquium zur Stadtarchäologie im Hanseraum IV. Die Infrastruktur, Lübeck 2004, pp. 303-322; PAWEŁ CEMBRZYŃSKI: Zaopatrzenie w wodę i usuwanie nieczystości w miastach stref bałtyckiej i sudecko-karpackiej w XIII-XVI wieku [Water Supply and Waste Disposal in the Cities of the Baltic and Sudeten-Carpathians Zones in the 13th-16th Centuries], Wrocław 2011; JERZY PIEKALSKI, KRZYSZTOF WACHOWSKI (eds.): Ulice średniowiecznego Wrocławia [Streets in Medieval Wrocław], Wrocław 2010; PAWEŁ KONCZEWSKI, JERZY PIEKALSKI: The Streets of Medieval Wrocław – Methods of Construction and Functions, in: JERZY PIEKALSKI, KRZYSZTOF WACHOWSKI (eds.): Ulica, plac i cmentarz w publicznej przestrzeni średniowiecznego i nowożytnego miasta Europy Środkowej, Wrocław 2011, pp. 155-162; IDEM: Entwicklung der urbanen Struktur Breslaus im Mittelalter, in: JERZY HARASIMOWICZ (ed.): Das Bild von Wrocław/Breslau im Laufe der Geschichte, Wien 2008, pp. 15-28; see the papers from the conference: Ścieki, kloaki i sekretnicy. Problemy oczyszczania miast środkowoeuropejskich w średniowieczu i czasach nowożytnych od XV do drugiej połowy XIX wieku [Gutters, Latrines and Closets. Sanitation Problems in Central-European Towns in Medieval and Early Modern Times from the 15th – second half of the 19th c.], in: *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* 53 (2005), 3-4, pp. 265-422.