

Róziiewicz, Jerzy

The 25th Anniversary of the "Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology" (1956-1980)

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Jerzy Rózewicz
(Warsaw)

THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" (1956—1980)

In May of 1956 the first number of a new journal came from the press: "Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology" ("Kwartalnik Historii Nauki i Techniki"). Initially it was the organ of the Committee for the History of Science at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and from 1963 of the Institute of the History of Science and Technology, transformed subsequently, in 1977, into The Institute of the History of Science, Education and Technology at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The appearance of a new journal on the history of science and technology proved soon a significant event in the development of this branch in Poland. True, the first Polish journal devoted entirely to the history of science was the "Archives of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and of the History of Natural Sciences" ("Archiwum Historii i Filozofii Medycyny oraz Historii Nauk Przyrodniczych"),¹ issued in the years 1924—1948 (with a break during the war), then, in 1953, the "Studies and Materials on the History of Polish Science" (*Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki Polskiej*)² began to be issued, still the newly established quarterly was superior to those two journals not only in its volume and frequency of appearance but also and above all in the range of problems discussed in it.

From the very beginning the "Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology", being related in its origin to the "Studies and Materials on the History of Polish Science", did assume, in accordance with the long-standing tradition in Poland, a very wide-ranging approach to the history of science as a scientific discipline. It made available its columns not only to papers on the history of mathematical, natural and technical sciences, but also, with the same liberality, to those dealing with various problems in the humanities and social sciences. Apart from being concerned with the history of science in Poland it was also giving much attention to the general history of science and its methodology; many articles were devoted

¹ The tradition of this journal has been continued since 1957 by the "Archives of the History of Medicine" ("Archiwum Historii Medycyny").

² From 1957 this yearly has become a non-periodical continuous publication appearing in five series: A. History of Social Sciences; B. History of Biological and Medical Sciences; C. History of Mathematical Sciences, Physical-Chemical and Geological-Geographical ones; D. History of technology and Technological Sciences; E. General Problems.

in it, during the 25 years of its existence, to the achievements of science abroad and the connections between science in this country and that in other countries.

The formal arrangement of the "Quarterly" includes — as it does in other journals — several sections. Most of the journal is filled with articles and communiques, to which polemics and reflections are added, similar in a way to articles (making up 70% of the volume). The remainder of the journal consists of reminiscences on historians of science and technology, of reviews of Polish and foreign publications, and of a chronicle in which major events in the scientific life of the Institute for the History of Science, Education and Technology at the Polish Academy of Sciences are reported, as are also congresses, conferences, symposia, exhibitions and other occasions, in this country and abroad. Apart from that each number of the "Quarterly" is supplied with a booklet, the "Current Bibliography of the History of Science and Technology".

The size of the "Quarterly" had amounted during the initial eleven years to around 60 printed sheets yearly, from 1967 this size has been augmented by 20 printed sheets. All in all during the 25 years in question there have been printed nearly 1800 sheets, that is over 20 thousand pages of text. The circulation of the journal has been subject to only small fluctuations. The Number 1/1956 was issued in 722 copies; the greatest number of copies having been reached by Number 4/1980, namely 1000 of them. The average circulation has been, since 1963, 850 copies. The "Quarterly" has been issued since its foundation by the Polish Scientific Publishers (Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe) in Warsaw.

During its existence the "Quarterly" has initiated many undertakings, of which only some can be mentioned here. At its initial stage the journal came out to win not only the Polish reader, but also the foreign one not knowing our language (a considerable part of each issue is intended for foreign readers). All the major articles and communiques are therefore given with summaries in foreign languages, usually in Russian and in one of the Western languages: English, French or German. Moreover, during the years 1958, 1960 and 1962 three special numbers in foreign languages were issued as well (outside the regular numerations) which included tens of articles, discussing mainly general problems of the history of science and technology and contributed by Polish and foreign writers. To the No. 3—4/1964 of the "Quarterly" was also added the first number of the "Organon", issued in foreign languages, and transformed on the strength of a resolution taken by the Scientific Secretariat of the Polish Academy of Sciences in January of 1965 into a separate yearly, edited by an international editorial board and publishing in the congress languages major papers by science historians from many countries. All the successive editorial committees have been trying to popularize outside Poland the "Quarterly's" contents, an evidence of which are among other things extensive monographic studies in foreign languages devoted to the life and work of the distinguished Polish neurophysiologist, Jerzy Konorski (No. 1/1979 — articles in English), or to Voltaire and Rousseau and Polish-French cultural links (No. 3/1979 — articles in French).

The successive editorial committees have also been paying special attention to the popularization of Polish and foreign publications by including in the journal reviews and brief bibliographical notes, as well as bibliographical indexes. From 1971, each number has been supplied with an insertion "The Current Bibliography of the History of Science and Technology" which gives an almost complete list of Polish literature in this field. Up to 1980, 38 booklets of this bibliography have appeared, covering the years 1971—1980 and containing over 13 thousand bibliographical items.

In 1976, also the printing of autobiographies of eminent Polish scientists was initiated. During the last four years have been published the biographies of Władysław Tatarkiewicz (historian of philosophy), Jerzy Konorski (neurophysiology), Tadeusz Czeżowski (logic), Tadeusz Bilikiewicz (psychiatrist, historian and philosopher of medicine), Tadeusz Kielanowski (phtysiatriist and philosopher of medicine), Ksawery Rowiński (radiologist), Kazimierz Kuratowski (mathematician), Stanisław Lorentz (art historian), Antoni Żabko-Potopowicz (economist and forestry historian), Stefan Kieniewicz (historian). The autobiographies have aroused keen interest with men of science anxious to learn about the attitude of the writers to their lives and works, and they also wone readership beyond the circle of scientific workers.

Among the "Quarterly's" initiatives we must also mention a cycle, initiated a few years ago in which foreign and Polish writers present European museums devoted to the history of science and technology.

Table I

AVERAGE CIRCULATION AND VOLUME OF 25 YEARLIES OF THE "QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY"

Yearly	Average circulation	Vol. in print sheets	Yearly	Average circulation	Vol. in print sheets
1: 1956	785	63,00	14: 1969	850	80,00
2: 1957	725	58,05	15: 1970	840	81,25
3: 1958	732	61,38	16: 1971	840	81,25
4: 1959	757	54,00	17: 1972	848	82,25
5: 1960	673	61,75	18: 1973	888	85,00
6: 1961	768	59,50	19: 1974	878	80,75
7: 1962	783	62,25	20: 1975	887	71,25
8: 1963	858	53,75	21: 1976	848	79,75
9: 1964	840	66,75	22: 1977	875	86,10
10: 1965	827	67,00	23: 1978	860	77,50
11: 1966	820	51,50	24: 1979	875	85,25
12: 1967	848	83,50	25: 1980	902	
13: 1968	838	82,75			

And as for those who have been contributing their articles to the "Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology" there have been among them distinguished historians of science and technology from Poland and from abroad as well as lovers of this discipline cultivating it simultaneously with their main sphere of study, and also young students of the history of science and technology, just beginning their scientific work. During

those 25 years 807 writers have published their articles of various sizes in the "Quarterly", of which 145 came from abroad, representing 15 states (from the Soviet Union 80 writers, from Czechoslovakia — 13, France — 11, the GDR — 9, G. Britain — 7, the United States — 7, Italy — 6, Hungary — 3, Denmark — 2, Austria — 1, China — 1,⁷ Yugoslavia — 1, Mongolia — 1, Rumania — 1.

Soviet writers are the most numerous foreign contributors to the "Quarterly". Many of those articles have come through the Moscow editorial board of the "Voprosy Istorii Yestestvoznania i Techniki", with which the "Quarterly" has been for years maintaining very close scientific contacts. As a result of these relations exchanged numbers have been published on both sides: a complete number of the "Quarterly" made up of articles by Soviet writers (No. 2/1971) and a number of the "Voprosy" whose columns have been filled with the papers by Polish writers (No. 2/1972). Recently the "Quarterly's" editorial board have established closer relations with the Czechoslovak historians of science and technology.

One can hardly attempt in a brief note like this an analysis of the content of the "Quarterly's" 100 numbers, issued so far. However one can get some idea in this respect from two separate bibliographical booklets dealing with the content of the journal, issued in 1966 and 1975, which give in a systematical arrangement 3386 bibliographical descriptions³. Apart from that, 681 works have been published in the last five years, so all in all over 4 thousand various works have so far appeared in the "Quarterly". This number includes, beside reviews, reports and chronical materials, major articles, communiqués, polemics and reminiscences. As it appears from the enclosed Table II, most articles published in the "Quarterly" have been

Table II

AN ARRANGEMENT OF 25 YEARLIES OF THE "QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" ACCORDING TO THE CHARACTER OF THEIR ITEMS AND SECTIONS*

Thematical section	Articles			Totals
	Communiqués Reminiscences Reflections	Reviews and notes	Other items	
General Problems	245	372+ 140	514	1271
History of social sciences	98	125+ 111	111	445
History of biological sciences	43	35+ 29	38	145
History of medical sciences	59	72+ 42	100	273
History of agricultural and forestry sciences	19	22+ 5	33	79
History of mathematical, physical and chemical sciences	159	132+ 79	114	484
History of Earth sciences	54	84+ 91	146	375
History of technology and technical sciences	186	228+ 228	325	967
Totals	863	1070+ 725	1381	4039

* In that table have not been taken into consideration such divisions as "Periodical review" and "Letters from readers." Two and more critiques in the publication are considered as one.

³ Of *Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology. Bibliography of volumes I—X. 1956—1965.* Warsaw 1966, 104 p.; *Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology, Bibliography of volumes XI—XX. 1966—1975.* Warsaw 1975, 112 p. Both bibliographies have been arranged by Jerzy Rózewicz.

concerned with general problems (evolution of the history of science and technology, philosophy, sociology and psychology of science, general history of the organization of science, international scientific contacts, etc). Then come those relating to the history of technological sciences and technology, history of mathematical-physical-chemical sciences, and finally history of social sciences. The smallest number of articles has been on the history of agricultural and forestry sciences.

The enclosed tables and totals testify to the immense work that has been put into the publication of 100 numbers of the "Quarterly". The main task of editing and directing the journal has fallen to its chief editors (Bogdan Suchodolski, Eugeniusz Olszewski, Kazimierz Opalek, Irena Stasiwicz-Jasiukowa), their deputies (Eugeniusz Olszewski, Waldemar Voisé, Waldemar Rolbiecki, Eugeniusz Tomaszewski) and scientific secretaries (Waldemar Voisé, Barbara Olszewska, Jerzy Róziewicz, Wanda Grębecka). The remaining members of the editorial committee, representing a wide range of various scientific disciplines and historical studies, have been playing in the formation of the journal an auxiliary and mostly consultative role. Some of them have left as for ever but their contribution to the development of the "Quarterly" and the memories of their colleagues do remain with us.

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEES OF THE "QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" DURING THE YEARS 1956—1980

- Józef Babicz (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970 to No. 1/1972)
Andrzej Biernacki (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970 to No. 2/1978)
Aleksander Birkenmajer (m.ed.com. from No. 3/1956 to No. 4/1967)
Stanisław Brzozowski (m.ed.com. from No. 2/1972 to No. 2/1978)
Maria Burdowicz-Nowicka (*technical secretary* from 3—4/1960 to No. 2/1964)
Jerzy Dobrzycki (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975, until now)
Wanda Grębecka (*scientific secretary* from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
Henryka Hołda-Róziewicz (dep. *scientific secretary* from No. 4/1966 to No. 4/1967;
technical secretary from No. 1/1968 to No. 4/1969)
Józef Hurwic (m.ed.com. from No. 3/1956 to No. 2/1969)
Krzysztof Jakubowski (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
Jerzy Jasiuk (m.ed. com. from No. 2/1972 to No. 2/1975)
Joanna Jarzęcka (*technical secretary* from No. 1/1956 to No. 2/1960)
Zdzisław Kowalewski (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970 to No. 1/1972)
Tadeusz Kowalik (m.ed.com. from No. 4/1966 to No. 4/1969)
Barbara Kuźnicka (m.ed.com. from No. 3/1970 until now)
Leszek Kuźnicki (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
Czesław Majorek (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1978 until now)
Józef Miąso (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
Jerzy Michalski (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
Roman Mierzecki (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1978 until now)
Tadeusz Nowak (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
Barbara Olszewska (*technical secretary* from No. 2/1964; *scientific secretary* from No. 3—
4/1964 to No. 2/1970)
Eugeniusz Olszewski (dep. *chief editor* from No. 1/1956 to No. 2/1964; m.ed.com. from
No. 4/1966 to No. 4/1969; *acting chief editor* from No. 1/1970 to No. 2/1970)

- Kazimierz Opalek (*chief editor* from No. 3/1970 to No. 3—4/1975; m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 to No. 2/1978)
- Jerzy Piaskowski (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1978 to No. 4/1979)
- Waldemar Rolbiecki (*dep. chief editor* from No. 1/1970 to No. 2/1975; m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 to No. 2/1978)
- Ksawery Rowiński (m.ed.com. from No. 1—2/1966 until now)
- Jerzy Rózewicz (*scientific secretary* from No. 3/1970 to No. 2/1975; m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
- Marian Serejski (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970 to No. 3—4/1975)
- Bolesław Skarżyński (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1956 to No. 2/1963)
- Alicja Sobków (*technical secretary* from No. 1/1969 to No. 2/1971)
- Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa (*chief editor* from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
- Zbigniew Strugalski (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1978 until now)
- Bogdan Suchodolski (*chief editor* from No. 1/1956 to No. 4/1969; m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970 until now)
- Stanisław Szpikowski (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970 to No. 1/1972)
- Karolina Targosz (m.ed.com. from No. 1/1970; *scientific secretary* from No. 2/1970; m.ed.com. from No. 3/1970 to No. 1/1972)
- Janusz Tazbir (m.ed.com. from No. 1—2/1978 until now)
- Armin Teske (m.ed.com. from No. 1—2/1966 to No. 4/1967)
- Eugeniusz Tomaszewski (*dep. chief editor* from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
- Ryszard Torchalski (m.ed.com. from No. 3/1970 to No. 2/1975)
- Marek Troszyński (*technical secretary* from No. 3/1979 until now)
- Jadwiga Tymińska (*technical secretary* from No. 3/1971 to No. 3/1977)
- Waldemar Voisé (*scientific secretary* from No. 1/1956 to No. 2/1964; *dep. chief editor* from No. 3—4/1964 to No. 4/1969)
- Alfred Wiślicki (m.ed.com. from No. 4/1971 to No. 1/1972)
- Ryszard Wołoszyński (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
- Zbigniew Wójcik (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1975 until now)
- Antoni Zabko-Potopowicz (m.ed.com. from No. 3—4/1978 to No. 1/1980)



CHIEF EDITORS, THEIR DEPUTIES AND SCIENTIFIC
SECRETAIRES IN YEARS 1956—1980

From left to right: *first row*: Bogdan Suchodolski, Kazimierz Opalek, Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa; *second row*: Eugeniusz Olszewski, Waldemar Voisé; *third row*: Waldemar Rolbiecki, Eugeniusz Tomaszewski; *fourth row*: Barbara Olszewska, Jerzy Rózewicz, Wanda Grębecka.