

In Memoriam

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EDMUND CIEŚLAK (1922–2007)

Edmund Cieślak, an eminent historian, expert in the history of Gdańsk and the Baltic region, has died after a long and grave illness; just a few weeks before his 85th birthday. He was born in Toruń on November 7, 1922 and it was in Toruń that he attended the Copernicus Secondary School, completing the first four years of learning (of the total six) by the outbreak of the Second World War. During the occupation he was a common worker. In 1944 Cieślak was arrested and sent to Germany for forced labour. After the liberation he reached France where in 1946–1948 he studied law and history at Lille University. After his return to Poland he continued law studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, where he took his Master's degree in 1949 and obtained a doctorate in 1950 on the basis of the treatise *Legal Questions of Hanseatic Trade and Maritime Transport against the Background of Socio-Economic Relations up to the 15th Century*. Karol Koranyi promoted the treatise. As early as 1949 Edmund Cieślak began to work as assistant and soon afterwards as lecturer at Toruń University. In 1953 he associated himself with the newly set up Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences and was appointed assistant professor there in 1954, extraordinary professor in 1963, and full professor in 1974. In addition to his scientific work, he performed important organisational functions. In 1955 he was transferred from Toruń to Gdańsk and organised there a History of Gdańsk and the Maritime Past of Poland Department attached to the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He ran this Department until his retirement at the age of 70 (31.12.1992). He was also a very active pedagogue, holding another regular post in the Pedagogical School of Gdańsk (1957–1967) and later at Gdańsk University (1976–1985), giving lectures and supervising numerous M.A. and doctoral treatises.

He performed various important organisational scientific functions. He was assistant secretary general (1957–1959) and later (1965–1971) vice-chairman of the Gdańsk Scientific Society. For many years he was a member of the Central Board of the Polish Historical Society, and from 1966 he was for several terms a member of the Committee for Historical Sciences. Edmund Cieślak sat on the scientific boards of many institutions: the Supreme Archival Council (from 1961), the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences (from 1961), the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences (from 1969) and the Baltic Institute (from 1966). He took an active part in the work of many scientific societies and institutions, such as the Toruń Scientific Society, the Institute for Western Affairs, the Baltic Institute. He edited many periodicals as well as collective works. Together with Stanisław Hożowski he was editor of "Zapiski Historyczne" (volumes 21–21 in 1956–1958). In the years 1985–1990 he edited volumes IV–VIII of "Studia Maritima". As chairman of the Book Publication Committee of the First Section of the Gdańsk Scientific Society, he edited 17 monographs and 8 volumes of source publications. For many years

he was editor of the series "Studies and Materials for the History of Gdańsk" (9 volumes) and supervised the preparation and publication of an important collective synthesis entitled *The History of Shipbuilding on the Gdańsk Coast* (Gdańsk 1972). His main title to fame in the publishing field is that he inspired and, as scientific editor, directed the preparation of a great collective work, *A History of Gdańsk* reaching from the oldest times to the 20th century (vols. I-V printed in 1970–1999).

Well known on the international scene, Cieślak was highly thought of by historians in Germany, Great Britain, France and Scandinavian countries. He delivered lectures at international meetings and conferences, for instance at the Hansische Arbeitsgemeinschaft in the German Democratic Republic, at the congresses of Societé Jean Bodin (he was a member of this Society of lawyers), at the meetings of the Commission Internationale d'Histoire Maritime, and at international conferences, for instance in Stockholm and Göteborg. He lectured at the University of Caen and at Ecole Pratique de Hautes Etudes in Paris (for six months in 1972).

He received many prizes and awards for his works and his activities. Let us mention only the most important distinctions. In 1961 he was awarded the Prize of the City of Gdańsk for the whole of his scientific output concerning the history of Gdańsk, and the Prize of Gdańsk voivodship in 1971 for his scientific work and the popularisation of science. In 1984 he again received the Prize of the City of Gdańsk for his work in the field of culture. In 1964 he was awarded the Knight's Cross and in 1973 the Officer's Cross of the Polonia Restituta Order. In 1990 he was elected corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Learned Sciences and Arts and one year later became an ordinary member of the Academy. In 1995 he became Doctor Honoris Causa of Gdańsk University, the crowning point of his career and his scientific work. The doctorate was given for the best work in Polish historiography on the history of Gdańsk and Gdańsk Pomerania, particularly in early modern times, and also for his outstanding contribution to the development of the academic staff of historians dealing with the past of Pomerania.

Edmund Cieślak's contribution to knowledge is very vast (several hundred publications — books, articles, reviews) and most valuable, frequently of an innovative character. He was interested mainly in the history of Gdańsk and the Baltic region in a broad chronological perspective, from the Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century, and within that framework in questions concerning legal matters, political structure, economic and social problems as well as the history of political and diplomatic relations. His first articles published at the beginning of the 1950s in such periodicals as "Zapiski", "Przegląd Zachodni", "Czasopismo–Prawno–Historyczne" concerned medieval and early modern maritime law regulating navigation, transport as well as the life and work of sailors. Later he began to study also the situation of journeymen and domestic servants, and finally turned his attention to the general situation of common people in Hanseatic towns. He was specially interested in social revolutions which broke out in the 15th century in Lübeck and Gdańsk as well as in the activities and attitudes of Pomeranian townspeople during the Thirteen Years' War. It is worth recalling his still irreplaceable, frequently quoted article comparing Gdańsk's privileges received during the Thirteen Years' War with the privileges enjoyed by other Hanseatic towns ("Czasopismo Prawno–Historyczne", vol. 6, 1954, No.1). Next he published an important historical legal study entitled *Political Struggles in Gdańsk, Toruń and Some Other Hanseatic Towns in the 15th Century* (Gdańsk 1960) which summed up the vast research he had conducted on this question. Later Cieślak turned his attention to another period

and postponing the Middle Ages, started a wide-ranging study on the political structures, changes in social relations as well as tensions between the city of Gdańsk and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 17th and 18th centuries. His extensive book: *Socio-Political Struggles in Gdańsk in the Second Half of the 17th Century. John III Sobieski's Intervention* (Gdańsk 1962) was based on a large detailed search in archives and resulted in presentation of an innovative view of the changes which were taking place in Gdańsk at that time. This book had a continuation. After another ten years of intensive research, Cieślak published *Political and Social Conflicts in Gdańsk in the Middle of the 18th Century. The Common People's Alliance with the Royal Court* (Wrocław 1972). The book includes important observations on the development of the character and way of life of the Gdańsk urban élites in the 17th and 18th centuries, when previously active merchants and businessmen turned into intellectuals—"scholars" who lived on the capital which they had amassed in the past.

Cieślak presented the social problems of Gdańsk against the large background of his extensive, detailed examination of the development of Gdańsk handicrafts and trade. He studied the structure and balance of Gdańsk and Baltic trade, especially in the 18th century and the role played by this trade in European economy as well as the development of Gdańsk credit and banking system in the 18th century. The last-named studies inspired him to organise the publication of a pioneering collective work *The Bankers and Banks in the History of Gdańsk* (*sine loco* 1999), an English version of which appeared in "Studia Maritima" (vol. XVI, 2003).

Edmund Cieślak was particularly interested in Polish-French relations (though he also studied Polish-Swedish relations). He published many articles on Polish-French trade, political and diplomatic relations, e.g. on the activity of French residents in Gdańsk. Together with Józef Rumiński he prepared a valuable publication of sources *Reports of French 18th Century Residents in Gdańsk* (vol. I, Gdańsk 1964, vol. II Gdańsk 1968, vol. III, Gdańsk 1976). A result of these studies was also his monograph *The French Consulate in 18th Century Gdańsk. Its Legal Status -Tasks - Activity* (Kraków 1999).

Interest in Franco-Polish relations turned Cieślak's attention towards Polish King Stanislaus Leszczyński; he began to examine Gdańsk's role in the commotion which occurred when Leszczyński was twice elected King of Poland at the beginning of the 18th century. Cieślak presented these events in a series of articles and then in two popular books: *In Defence of King Stanislaus Leszczyński's Throne* (Gdańsk 1986) and in a biography *Stanislaus Leszczyński* (Wrocław 1994).

Pomerania and Gdańsk, their internal development and links with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and their relations with the world were always at the core of Edmund Cieślak's research. It was thanks to his research, efforts and energy that the first modern scientific *History of Gdańsk*, based on an impressive amount of sources, had been worked out. He was not only its scientific editor. Volume III (the years 1655-1793), based on the results of many years of his scrupulous research, was written mostly by him. Cieślak also participated in the preparation of *A History of Pomerania*, edited by G. L a b u d a, as author of large sections in Part II of Volume II concerning the years 1657-1815 (Poznań 1983). He popularised the results of his research by making them accessible, in an easier form, to large circles of readers. In 1959 the Wiedza Powszechna publishing house brought out his monograph *Gdańsk, a City Faithful to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Essays on Gdańsk in the 17th and 18th Centuries*. He also prepared (together with C. Biernat) a one-volume *History of Gdańsk* (1st ed. Gdańsk 1969, 2nd ed. Gdańsk 1975, 3rd ed. Gdańsk 1994). The

two English editions of this book brought out in 1985 and 1995 have popularised the results of Polish research on Gdańsk among scholars who do not know the Polish language.

Edmund Cieślak was not only an eminent, creative historian, a productive researcher of archives, who knew how to transform sources into pictures of the past according to scientific rules. He was also an extremely warm-hearted, benevolent man, devoted to his family and his disciples whom he always helped in their work. The tragic, premature death (1997) of his only daughter, Katarzyna, an eminent expert in the art and culture of Gdańsk and Northern Europe in the 16th–18th centuries, cast a shadow over Edmund Cieślak's last years. He became silent long before it could have been expected. Gdańsk and the whole of Polish science have suffered an irreparable loss. But the result of his work will serve researchers for many years to come.

Maria Bogucka

ANNA ŻARNOWSKA (1931–2007)

Professor Anna Żarnowska was not one of those researchers who concentrate all their attention on their scientific writings. Though that was the field which she regarded as the most important, she devoted a great deal of time and energy to academic teaching and — what is rather rare in the humanities — to the organisation of team research work. She frequently acted outside her study, her seminar and the Historical Institute of Warsaw University with which she had been linked from the beginning of her studies until the last years of her life. She had an exceptional talent for rallying cooperators from many Polish and foreign centres who, unable to resist her subtle persuasion, willingly participated in discussions and conferences initiated by her, thus contributing to the publication of volumes of carefully edited studies. In addition to historians, she drew sociologists, historians of literature, ethnologists and representatives of other fields of science into cooperation. During a span of a few decades she became an unquestionable, outstanding expert on the process of social modernisation in the 19th and 20th centuries, especially on the transformation which brought post-feudal societies from small towns into the great urban world of the industrialisation epoch. She was fascinated by changes in the family, the cultural identity of the genders, the results of the introduction of technological inventions in everyday life, and the beginning of mass culture. It was these questions which she discussed in her studies on the difficult birth of modern society in East-Central Europe, in particular in her research works on the history of women and the female question which became the most important issue in her own historical writings, and in the collective initiatives which were developed under her direction on an exceptionally large scale.

She began to study at the Faculty of History of Warsaw University in 1949 and completed her studies in 1954. Her Master's thesis on the stance of Warsaw workers during the 1905–1907 revolution indicated that already at that time she was interested in social history. Her Doctor's dissertation *The Genesis of the Split in the Polish Socialist Party in 1904–1906*, presented in 1962 and published three years later, only partly departed from social history in favour of political history, for it contained reflections on the social background of the members and sympathisers of the Polish Socialist Party and on the general reception of the party's programme and activity.

In the 1960s, Anna Żarnowska, like many other Warsaw historians of her generation, felt the impact of Marxist methodology as well as the growing influence of the "Annales" school. For over twenty years she dealt mainly with the history of workers in the Polish territories, devoting to this question many articles and two books¹. She presented the working class history in a way which was very modern for those times, not confining herself to changes in social structures and to illustrating these processes by carefully gathered and skillfully processed statistical data. She was interested in the sources and ways of recruitment, the national structure of the working class, and the scale of its social mobility. She was one of the first historians to discuss such questions as the patterns of working class family and the shape of culture of industrial workers in large towns. She did not forget groups ignored by other historians, such as domestic servants, a very large group in urban agglomerations at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. She took up the question of everyday life very early. It was the change in the living conditions of ordinary people which she regarded as a very important factor of social modernisation, a factor which had been underestimated for years because of fascination with macroeconomic processes and with technological progress in production, transport and communications.

The next publications, highly appraised by reviewers and competent readers, marked the successive stages in Żarnowska's university career. From 1959 she worked at the Historical Institute of Warsaw University first as assistant lecturer and then as lecturer. In 1973 she presented a thesis qualifying for assistant professorship and received the title two years later. She was nominated extraordinary professor in 1985, and ordinary professor in 1995. For many years she ran the Extramural History Study and from 1996 to 2001 headed the Centre for 19th Century History at Warsaw University's Historical Institute. She took an active part in international scientific contacts, conducting research in many countries (e.g. in Berlin, Bielefeld, Göttingen, Vienna and Zurich) and delivering lectures at conferences attended by social historians from Europe and other continents. In 1975 Professor Żarnowska joined the International Society of Historians of Working Class Movement (Internationale Tagung der Historiker der Arbeiterbewegung) and for some time held the post of member and deputy head of its Scientific Council. From the 1970s her articles and papers began to appear in congress languages in collective volumes and such periodicals as "Social History", "Journal of Family History" and "Women's History Review". Her most valuable studies have been reprinted in a book which reflects the scope of her interests and her scholarly achievements².

Attaching great importance to didactic work, Anna Żarnowska did not abandon it when she retired. Contacts with her disciples gave her great satisfaction and she always had time for them; even less capable and not very industrious students could always count on her help and goodwill. She started her seminar for graduate students in 1974, soon after her promotion for assistant professorship. Social history during the industrial epoch, the subject

¹ A. Żarnowska, *Klasa robotnicza Królestwa Polskiego 1870–1914 (The Working Class in the Polish Kingdom 1870–1914)*, Warszawa 1974; eadem, *Robotnicy Warszawy na przełomie XIX i XX wieku (Warsaw Workers at the Turn of the 19th Century)*, Warszawa 1985.

² A. Żarnowska, *Workers, Women and Social Change in Poland, 1870–1939*, Ashgate Publishing Company, Burlington 2004. A full bibliography of Żarnowska's works up to 2002 was published in *Spoleczeństwo w dobie przemian. Wiek XIX i XX. Księga jubileuszowa Profesor Anny Żarnowskiej (Society during a Period of Change. 19th and 20th Centuries. Professor Anna Żarnowska's Jubilee Book)*, Warszawa 2003, pp. 17–30.

of her seminars, soon attracted the interest of students who in their papers concentrated on social and cultural changes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, dealing with changes in the lifestyle of urban societies, the circulation of information in various social groups and the formation of modern political culture. In the 1980s attention was focused on family history and then mainly on women's history which was examined through the prism of West European and American achievements in gender studies, submitted to a critical evaluation. At that time it was a pioneering subject in Poland, not only on the scale of historical studies at Warsaw university. Attempts were made to get access to new sources, rarely used in classic historiography, and employ new research methods.

During thirty-three years Anna Żarnowska promoted six doctors and several score masters of art, some of whom are continuing their scientific career in the Polish Academy of Sciences, at universities and other scientific centres. For many researchers, both young and old, she was an unquestioned authority and an invaluable interlocutor. She inspired, mobilised, stimulated and encouraged them to take up new challenges. She was always open to a free scientific discussion and was sincerely interested in any research idea from the field of broadly conceived social history; it can therefore be said that hardly anybody was more predestined to lead effective and fruitful team research work.

As head of the Research Team for Social History in the 19th and 20th Centuries, a position she held from 1987 until the end of her life, she directed studies on the history of women, especially on changes in their social position and role in the family, and on feminist organisations and movements. She organised over a dozen conferences and symposia and set up a Commission for Women's History at the Historical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, as a permanent forum for scientific discussions. The meetings held there were devoted mainly to the history of Polish women in the 19th and 20th centuries, but they were also attended by researchers from Germany, Russia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and other countries, which promoted comparative studies. Anna Żarnowska inspired and edited over a dozen volumes of studies which have gained a permanent place in historiography. Some of them discuss inadequately researched questions, such as the leisure time of men and women or the socio-cultural aspects of sexuality from women's point of view. Each of these volumes contains an important article by Żarnowska, frequently on theoretical and methodological questions. Most of contemporary Polish publications devoted to gender studies show that their authors are well acquainted with the volumes edited by Żarnowska.

After the sudden death of Professor Żarnowska her collaborators and disciples from the Research Team for Social History in the 19th and 20th Centuries and from the Commission for Women's History at the Historical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences are continuing the research work initiated by her, following the road she had laid out. Though the results of their work are not yet certain, their efforts show that her influence is still alive.

Andrzej Szwarc, Agnieszka Janiak-Jasińska