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PROFESSOR BOLESŁAW HAJDUK. A SCHOLAR, TEACHER, ORGANISER

Professor Bolesław Hajduk was born on 23 February 1944 in Słomów near Września. He attended elementary school in Mosty, and secondary school in Puck. After passing



the final secondary school exams, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk studied history at the Gdańsk College of Education (1963–1968). He completed his university education with his master's thesis entitled *Limes saxoniae – territorial Obotritic-Danish-Saxon relations from the ninth to the thirteenth century*, written under the supervision of Prof. Edwin Rozenkranz, and he defended it in 1968. In the same year he started his professional career in the Baltic Institute in Gdańsk, at the beginning as a research and teaching assistant, subsequently as a senior research and teaching assistant, and finally an assistant professor. Employment in the Baltic Institute resulted in Prof. Bolesław Hajduk's departure from an

interest in the Middle Ages. At that time, he began work on the economic issues of the Free City of Gdańsk as well as Gdańsk-Polish, Gdańsk-German and Danish-Polish relations. From 1969, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk attended the doctoral seminar conducted at the University of Gdańsk by Prof. Roman Wapiński. He defended his doctoral

dissertation entitled *The Free City of Gdańsk in Polish customs policy in 1922–1934* in 1978. It then became the basis for a separate monograph published in 1981 by the Gdańsk Scientific Society. In June 1986, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk, as an assistant professor, was appointed as the deputy director of the Baltic Institute. Shortly afterwards, in December 1987, he left the Baltic Institute to work at the Department of History of Gdańsk and the Maritime History of Poland at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he continued his former interests, studying both Gdańsk's economic history and Polish-Scandinavian contacts, especially between Poland and Denmark, in the interwar period. In the new workplace, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk joined the narrow group of people who were working on a synthesis of the history of Gdańsk under the supervision of Prof. Edmund Cieślak, in this case analysing the economic problems of the Free City of Gdańsk in 1920–1945. The study on this pioneering problem in Polish historiography was preceded by thorough research in Polish (Gdańsk, Cracow, Łódź, Poznań, Warsaw) and German (Berlin) archives. This finally allowed the Professor to prepare a postdoctoral dissertation entitled *Economy of Gdańsk in 1920–1945*, published by the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and defended at the postdoctoral examination conducted on 7 December 1998 at the University of Gdańsk. The materials collected at that time also allowed for compiling a synthetic study of many issues included in the fourth volume of *Historia Gdańska* (*The history of Gdańsk*). In October 2000, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk began work at the University of Szczecin, joining the then Institute of History (since 2004, the Institute of History and International Relations). At the Institute, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk was given the position of the head of the Department of the World History of the 20th Century (2000–2006) and the Department of International Relations in the 20th Century (2003–2005). Working in Szczecin, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk did not break contact with the Gdańsk academic community. As part of the commissioned tasks, he collaborated with the Chair of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Gdańsk, and in the years 2008–2010 he conducted classes at the Faculty of European Studies at the Gdańsk College of Humanities. In addition to organisational and didactic work, Professor conducted intensive research work, which resulted in him obtaining in April 2014 the title of professor of humanities. In September 2018, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk retired from the Institute of History and International Relations of the University of Szczecin, although he did not discontinue his research work.

Prof. Bolesław Hajduk's research interests can be divided into three basic thematic groups. The first of these is the economic history of Gdańsk during the period of the Free City of Gdańsk and during the Second World War. Gdańsk-Polish, Gdańsk-German, Gdańsk-British and Gdańsk-Soviet relations in the interwar period could also be added to this issue, especially in the areas of customs, finance, banking, trade, shipping and fishing. This current of research also includes works discussing the history

of towns near Gdańsk during the interwar period and during the Second World War. The Professor devoted a total of 54 works to the problems outlined above, including separate monographs and scientific articles. The Professor's doctoral dissertation, published in 1981 as a separate monograph,¹ can be included in this group of publications, as well as the postdoctoral monograph.² Both of these publications belong to pioneering works in Polish historiography, and they contain many important findings which are in force in Polish historical science to this day. Analysing further the aforementioned current of research of Prof. Bolesław Hajduk, one should pay attention to his many innovative articles on, among others, complicated Polish-Gdańsk³, Russian-Gdańsk,⁴ German-Gdańsk⁵ or English-Gdańsk⁶ relations. It is also worth mentioning the cross-sectional and very valuable works presenting the history of the Gdańsk port during the Second World War,⁷ discussing the history of the Gdańsk merchant fleet in the interwar period,⁸ the problems of the Gdańsk fishery,⁹ or describing the economy and society of the Free City of Gdańsk.¹⁰

The second group of issues addressed by Prof. Bolesław Hajduk concerns, in particular, economic relations between Poland and Denmark, and Poland and other Scandinavian countries in the 20th century. This current of research also includes articles on intra-Scandinavian relations. So far, Professor has dedicated 20 academic publications to the above-mentioned issues. Among them, the works on Polish-Danish contacts should be mentioned: these concerned contacts in the area of shipping and

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- 1 *Wolne Miasto Gdańsk w polityce celnej Polski 1922–1934* (Wrocław–Warsaw–Cracow–Gdańsk–Łódź: GTN, 1981), 284.
 - 2 *Gospodarka Gdańska w latach 1920–1945* (Gdańsk: IH PAN, 1998), 288.
 - 3 “Stosunki celne pomiędzy Polską a Wolnym Miastem Gdańsk w latach 1920–1939”, in: *Gdańsk–Gdynia–Europa–Stany Zjednoczone w XIX i XX wieku. Księga pamiątkowa dedykowana prof. Annie Cieniale*, ed. Marek Andrzejewski (Gdańsk, 2000), 97–118.
 - 4 “Stosunki gospodarcze Wolnego Miasta Gdańska z Rosją Radziecką i ZSRR”, in: *Sąsiedztwo nadbałtyckie w XV–XX wieku (Bałtyk – Elbląg – Gdańsk – Rosja)*, ed. Andrzej Romanow (Płock–Hawa–Elbląg, 2004), 71–99.
 - 5 “Wolne Miasto Gdańsk w handlu z Niemcami w latach 1920–1933”, in: *Tempus nostrum est. Księga pamiątkowa ofiarowana prof. Edwardowi Włodarczykowi w 60 rocznicę urodzin*, eds. Włodzimierz Stepiński, Dariusz Szudra, Ryszard Techman (Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 2006), 323–338.
 - 6 “Anglia i Anglicy w gospodarce Gdańska ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem okresu międzywojennego XX wieku”, *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 47–49 (2012), 49: 5–28.
 - 7 “Port gdański w latach II wojny światowej 1939–1945”, *Zapiski Historyczne* 1 (1991): 47–76.
 - 8 “Gdańska morska flota handlowa w latach 1920–1939”, in: *Na rozstajach dróg. Gdańsk między Niemcami a Polską (1920–1939). Zbiór studiów*, ed. Marian Mroczo (Gdańsk 1998), pp. 103–118.
 - 9 “Rybołówstwo gdańskie w latach 1919–1939”, *Nautologia* 2 (2002): 2–9.
 - 10 Chapter X: “Gospodarka i Społeczeństwo (Wolne Miasto Gdańsk), Historia Pomorza”, in: vol. 5: *Województwo Pomorskie i Wolne Miasto Gdańsk*, part 1: *Ustrój, społeczeństwo i gospodarka*, eds. Szczepan Wierzchosławski, Przemysław Olstowski (Toruń, 2015), 378–414.

ports,¹¹ trade,¹² shipbuilding and fishing,¹³ and mutual agreements on trade.¹⁴ Publications which are also very important for Polish historiography are those discussing the role of Scandinavians in the economy of pre-war Gdynia,¹⁵ addressing the problems of economic relations between Poland and Norway¹⁶ and between Poland and Iceland,¹⁷ and finally those outlining the elements of cooperation and competition in Polish-Scandinavian economic relations.¹⁸ Professor devoted separate works to the extensive cooperation between the Scandinavian countries¹⁹ and to the role played in Denmark and Iceland by Polish diplomatic and consular posts in the years of the Second Polish Republic.²⁰

In this group of issues, a separate current of research presenting the history of Polish economic and pro-independence emigration to Scandinavia, especially to Denmark, is important and deserves a special emphasis. Professor devoted 13 academic publications to these issues. In the case of economic emigration to Scandinavia, the works which should be mentioned in the first place are those discussing the entire area of the

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- 11 "Polsko duńskie kontakty portowe i żeglugowe w latach 1919–1939", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 30 (1979): 25–45.
- 12 "Stosunki handlowe między Polską a Danią w latach 1919–1933", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 34 (1982), 65–91.
- 13 "Kontakty polsko-duńskie w dziedzinie okrętownictwa i rybołówstwa w latach 1919–1939", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 31/32 (1980), 35–54.
- 14 "Z problematyki porozumień handlowych pomiędzy Polską a Danią w latach 1934–1939", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 33 (1981), 63–79.
- 15 "Z działalności Skandynawów w międzywojennej Gdyni 1922–1939", in: *Miscellanea pomorskie. Studia z dziejów Pomorza Zachodniego i Nadwiślańskiego*, ed. Wojciech Skóra (Słupsk: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pomorskiej, 2008), 108–126.
- 16 "Z problematyki stosunków gospodarczych pomiędzy Polską a Norwegią w latach 1945–1970, Polska a sąsiedzi", in: *Studia z dziejów kultury, gospodarki i myśli politycznej. Księga ofiarowana prof. Marianowi Mrocze w 70 rocznicę urodzin*, eds. Maciej Heiger, Wojciech Skóra (Pruszcz Gdański–Słupsk, 2010), 197–214.
- 17 "Z problematyki stosunków handlowych między Polską a Islandią w latach 1919–1939. Tantum possumus quantum scimu", in: *Księga pamiątkowa dedykowana prof. Zdzisławowi Chmielewskiemu w siedemdziesiątą rocznicę urodzin*, eds. Radosław Gaziński, Adam Makowski (Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 2012), 414–428.
- 18 "Z problematyki współpracy i konkurencji w polsko-skandynawskich relacjach gospodarczych w okresie międzywojennym XX wieku", *Studia Maritima* 28 (2015), 89–124.
- 19 "Problemy współpracy państw skandynawskich w okresie międzywojennym 1818–1940", in: *Historia Lux veritatis. Księga pamiątkowa dedykowana prof. Zdzisławowi Chmielewskiemu z okazji 60 urodzin*, eds. Radosław Gaziński, Agnieszka Gut (Szczecin, 2002), 201–220.
- 20 Placówki dyplomatyczno-konsularne Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Danii i Islandii w latach 1919–1940", in: *Z dziejów Polski i emigracji (1939–1989). Księga dedykowana byłemu Prezydentowi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Ryszardowi Kaczorowskiemu*, eds. Marek Szczerbiński, Tadeusz Wolsza (Gorzów Wielkopolski, 2003), 29–43.

Scandinavian countries,²¹ as well as those which focus on the case of Denmark.²² Articles by Prof. Bolesław Hajduk which refer to the pro-independence emigration of Poles to the Scandinavian countries are also precursory.²³ Moreover, it is worth drawing attention to the issues of the activity of Polish organisations in Denmark,²⁴ including the Polish Socialist Party.²⁵ Thus, both trends of Scandinavian research combined (i.e. concerning economy and emigration) include 43 academic works by Prof. Bolesław Hajduk, mostly of pioneering nature in Polish historiography.

I would consider biographical writing to be Prof. Bolesław Hajduk's third current of research. He is the author of 49 biographical notes and articles, devoted especially to Polish economic activists in Gdynia and the Free City of Gdańsk, and representatives of the Republic of Poland working in the Free City of Gdańsk. These biographies were published primarily in *Słownik Biograficzny Pomorza Nadwiślańskiego*, initially edited by Prof. Stanisław Gierszewski and subsequently by Prof. Zbigniew Nowak. Some of them were published in *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* or in *Encyklopedia Gdyni*. Separate articles were devoted to more important persons, and these were published in *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego*, *Rocznik Gdański* or *Przegląd Morski*. It is also worth emphasising Prof. Bolesław Hajduk's great activity in writing reviews. To date, 39 reviews written by him have appeared in Polish historical periodicals, especially of books on the history of the Free City of Gdańsk and its economic relations with its neighbours, as well as broadly understood Polish-Scandinavian relations in the 20th century. Up to 2019, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk has published a total of 185 monographs, academic and popular science articles, as well as biographies and reviews. Noteworthy is the pioneering nature of most of them, as they introduce new findings to Polish historiography. These monographs and articles were created on the basis of extensive literature and, above all, archive research carried out by Professor in numerous archives in Poland, Germany and Denmark. Extensive research conducted during study visits, especially

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- 21 "Z problemów polskich sezonowych migracji zarobkowych do Skandynawii w latach 1892–1940", in: *Relacje polityczno-gospodarcze w regionie Bałtyku XVII–XX wiek. Materiały z konferencji naukowej z 5 grudnia 1995 roku*, ed. Czesław Ciesielski (Gdańsk, 1996), 79–88.
- 22 "Polskie wychodźstwo sezonowe do Danii i jego reemigracja w latach 1918–1939", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 35 (1983), 117–143.
- 23 "Polskie wychodźstwo niepodległościowe w Skandynawii w latach 1945–1989", in: *Zakończenie II wojny światowej. Polityka i dyplomacja międzynarodowa w latach 1945–2005*, ed. Mieczysław Nurek (Gdańsk, 2006), 33–44 and "Polskie wychodźstwo niepodległościowe w Norwegii i jego wsparcie dla opozycji demokratycznej w PRL w latach 1945–1989", *Slavica Lundensia* 26 (2011), 177–202, and finally "Polskie wychodźstwo niepodległościowe w Królestwie Danii wobec opozycji demokratycznej i NSZZ «Solidarność» w PRL", in: *Za naszą i waszą „Solidarność”. Inicjatywy solidarnościowe z udziałem Polonii podejmowane na Świecia (1980–1989)*, ed. Patryk Pleskot (Warszawa, 2018), 627–652.
- 24 "Działalność polskich organizacji wśród emigracji zarobkowej w Danii w latach 1909–1919", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 36/37 (1984/1985), 77–109 and "Związek Robotników Polskich i Związek Polaków w Danii w latach 1925–1939", *Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego* 38/39 (1986/1987), 71–106.
- 25 "Organizacje zagraniczne PPS-u w Danii w latach 1909–1924", *Przegląd Polonijny* 8 (1990), 155–177.

in archives, was facilitated for Professor because of numerous scholarships he obtained from German and Danish academic institutions.

Professor Bolesław Hajduk was very involved in social and organisational work, performing many important functions in various social organisations. He has been a member of the Gdańsk Scientific Society since 1991. In the Kashubian Institute, he was the vice-chairman of the Audit Committee (in 2000–2003) and then a member of the board (in 2003–2008). He has been a member of the board of the Polish Nautological Society since 1999. In 2004, the Society entrusted him, as a scientific editor, with the periodical *Nautologia*, which he has been running successfully to this day. In recognition of his contributions to the Polish Nautological Society, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk was appointed its honorary member in 2006. Since 1995, he has been actively working at the Polish-Scandinavian Institute in Copenhagen, being its member and then (since 2006) a regular member. He has been a member of the World Research Council on Poles Abroad since 1997, and since 2009 – a member of Historische Kommission für Ost – und Westpreussische Landesforschung in Berlin. Finally, apart from his work in *Nautologia*, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk was the secretary of *Rocznik Gdański* in the years 1988–1991. He also cooperated with *Acta Casubiana* as a member of their editorial team (2003–2008) and is a member of the Editorial Committee of *Studia Maritima*.

Considering Prof. Bolesław Hajduk's entire academic life of, the year 2000 can be considered an important internal caesura. Until then, Professor was basically an academic focused on research work, implementation of far-reaching research goals as well as on library and archive research visits in Poland, Germany and Denmark. After 2000 (when he was employed at the University of Szczecin), Prof. Bolesław Hajduk was also given didactic duties, which, as it has to be strongly emphasised here, he fulfilled excellently. In Szczecin, he gave lectures, among others, in world history in the years 1918–1945, and in the history of international relations in the years 1815–1945. On the “Nordic Europe” specialisation, Professor gave lectures on Scandinavian countries in politics, economy and culture until 1945, and lectures devoted to Polish-Scandinavian relations: Scandinavia and Poland – mutual political, economic and cultural relations in the years 1918–1945. He also conducted BA and MA seminars and was the supervisor of over 120 bachelor's and master's students in Szczecin in history and international relations. Working with the Chair of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Gdańsk, he was also the supervisor of 8 master's students, while at the Gdańsk College of Humanities, Professor gave lectures in contemporary international relations and was the supervisor of 19 bachelor's students. In total, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk was the supervisor (in Szczecin and Gdańsk) of about 150 bachelor's and master's theses.

It should be emphasised that despite his retirement, Prof. Bolesław Hajduk is still active in the field of academic research. Presently, his three academic articles are in print; these are devoted to Polish-Gdańsk economic relations, the activity of Poles in

the Free City of Gdańsk and Polish emigration to Denmark. Additionally, one review written by the Professor is awaiting publication. To conclude, on my own behalf and above all on the behalf of the community of Szczecin historians, I wish Professor further academic and organisational activity, a lot of health and many years of life.

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