

*Czesław Domański**

**KAZIMIERZ WŁADYSŁAW KUMANIECKI
– A STATISTICIAN THE FOUNDER OF THE POLISH
STATISTICAL SOCIETY**

Kazimierz Kumaniecki was born on 26 June 1880 in Radziechow – a village in Kamionka Strumiłowa district in the former Tarnopole province, in Galicia. After completing grammar school in Złoczów he began studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Initially he studied philosophy and then took up law in which he earned the doctor's degree in 1904. He continued his studies in the field of administration science and administrative law at the universities in Munich and Leipzig.

Once he returned and passed in the Lvov Governship a proficiency exam in Parliamentary acts and administrative procedures, he was appointed in 1908 the director of the Municipal Statistical Office in Cracow. In his capacity as the director he conducted the general population census in 1910 – the first-ever census carried out for the area of Greater Cracow. In 1912 he published a paper entitled “Preliminary Results of Population Census in Cracow of 31 December 1910”. His activity and experience gained in the Municipal Statistical Office resulted in his writing a dissertation on “Probability in Statistics” (1910). On the basis of the dissertation he qualified himself as assistant professor in general statistics at the Jagiellonian University a year later and obtained *veniam legendi* i.e. the right to lecture.

In 1913 Kumaniecki extended his qualification and became the assistant professor of the Jagiellonian University in the field of administration and administrative law, by presenting a thesis entitled “Administrative Act. Studies on the Essence of Administrative Act with Regard to Basic Jurisdiction of Administrative Tribunal of Austria”.

Kazimierz Kumaniecki not only gave lectures at the university but he also lectured at the Polish School of Political Sciences, founded by professor Michał Roztworowski in Cracow in 1911 after the example of the renowned School of

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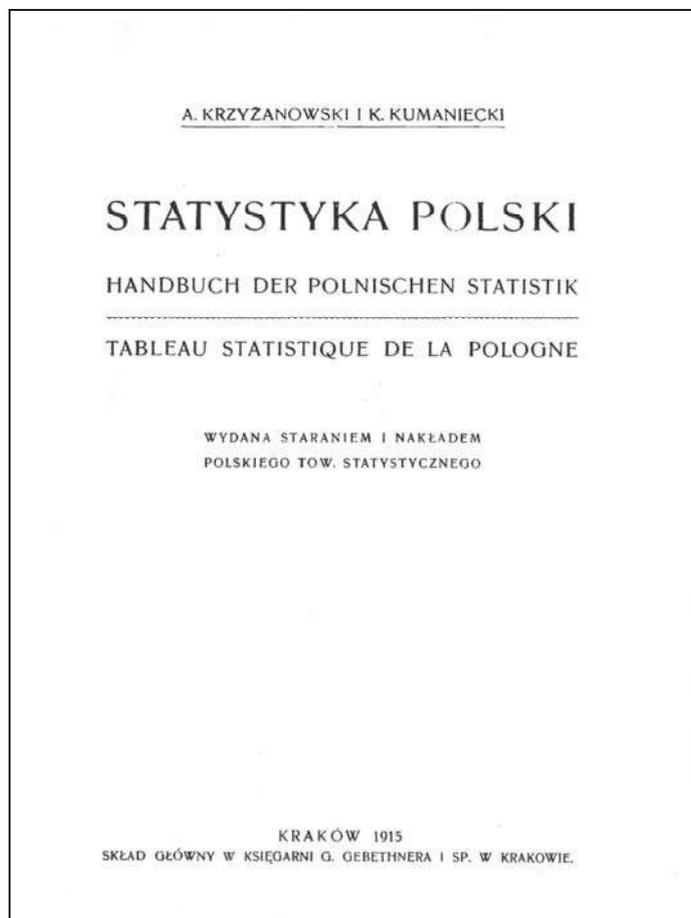
Political Sciences in Paris. Since 1914 Kumaniecki was a corresponding member of the Central Commission of Statistics in Vienna and a member of the Legal Commission of the Cracow Academy of Science, and since 1912 – a member of the state commission for examinations in political sciences.

In March 1912 he submitted to the Imperial Governship in Lvov an application which was accompanied by the statutes drawn up by Kumaniecki himself. In the submitted document he applied for the permission to form an association called “Polish Statistical Association” (PTS) with a seat in Cracow. After he had been granted the permit and the board of the Society had been elected, Kumaniecki became the Society Secretary. The Society was housed in the same building which was the seat of the Cracow Municipal Statistical Office.

Having founded the Polish Statistical Society professor Kazimierz Kumaniecki and professor Adam Krzyżanowski, together with a group of their co-workers, started collecting materials for a statistical study which would encompass the whole of the annexed territories of the partitioned Poland. The work was carried out for several years, and finally “The Statistics of Poland” was published in Cracow in September 1915. It was the first-ever yearbook of historical and statistical nature which presented the socio-economic development of the territories of Poland since the beginning of the 19-th century until the outbreak of the World War I. Today, due to the disappearance of numerous statistical studies at war times, “The Statistics of Poland” has become an invaluable and irreplaceable source of statistical data on the past of the territories of Poland (cf. the publication cover).

When the World War I broke out Kazimierz Kumaniecki was mobilised and joined the Austrian Army, where he was assigned to the Military Occupancy Administration in Lublin. While working for this administrative unit he built from scratch a new department of employment and statistics, and then supervised the work of the department. His experiences of the period were reflected in a book entitled “The Lublin Years . Memories and Documents (18.04.1916–2.11.1918)”, which came out in print in 1927.

In 1917 Kazimierz Władysław Kumaniecki became the associate professor, and then in 1919 the full professor of statistics, administration science and administrative law at the Jagiellonian University. He was also giving lectures in statistics and law at the College of Trade in Cracow since the academic year 1925/1926. In the period of 21 August –14 December 1922 he was the Member of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister Julian Nowak, and was appointed the Minister of Religion and Public Education. On behalf of the Polish government he became the member of the Arbitration Court, which dealt with disputable cases between Poland and Czechoslovakia. In recognition of his effort he was given an honorary doctorate of the Komenski University in Bratislava.



In the period between the two World Wars all the statistic and didactic activities of Kazimierz Kumaniecki were focused on devising the fundamentals a modern state administration which would function uniformly for the whole country. Kumaniecki's studies written and published in the interwar period included: "Strategy of the Great War 1914–1918", Cracow 1921; "System of Self-governance on Polish Territories – an Outline", Warsaw, 1921; „Reconstruction of Polish Statehood. Fundamental Documents of Administrative Law.”(co-author with Panejka and Wasiutyński), Cracow, 1929; "Political System of Poland", Cracow, 1937.

After Poland had been defeated in September 1939 Kumaniecki started to collect materials for the work on the causes of the defeat.

He died suddenly on 1 July, 1941 and was buried in Rakowicki Cemetery in Cracow.