

*Czesław Domański**

FIRST STATISTICIANS OF ŁÓDŹ

Abstract

In the years 1912–1914, the Łódź Exchange Committee made first attempts to establish Łódź municipal statistics.

On September 19th 1917 the City Council decided to bring into being the Department of Statistics next to the municipal government of Łódź. In the period of Poland's twenty years of independence after World War I, the Department was supervised by statisticians Antoni Goerne, Edward Grabowski, Edward Rosset, who created the community of statisticians of Łódź.

Since the year 1924, the first private schools were being established. They included the Academy of Socio-Economic Sciences (1924–1928) and Łódź Department of the Polish Free University (1928–1939). These institutions developed issues of statistics, demography and trade arithmetic. The following names are particularly worth mentioning: Gabriel Tołwiński, Włodzimierz Wroński, Stefan Dziewulski, Edward Rosset, Edward Szturm de Sztrem and Jan Wiśniewski, who was not exactly associated with Łódź but his scientific activity affected statisticians working there.

Key words: statistical methods, development of statistics.

1. Beginnings of statistics of Łódź

Until the year 1914 Łódź had hardly any official statistics. However, in the years 1912–1914 some individual attempts to establish Łódź municipal statistics were undertaken by the Exchange Committee of Łódź and the Committee of Statistics. The first institution aimed exclusively at reflecting relations inside the local industry and trade while, the main objective of the second one, founded in February 1914 next to the Community Work Supporting Society, was to establish social and cultural statistics in Łódź.

Both the institutions were private in character yet, their financial means were limited which, forced them to reduce the range of scheduled work. For this

* Professor, Chair of Statistical Methods, University of Łódź.

reason, the Exchange Committee confined its activity to gathering necessary data concerning:

- 1) the number and condition of industrial plants, spindles, looms, steam boilers, motors, employed workers, pay, medical assistance, unfortunate accidents;
- 2) the number of trading companies and industrial plants in Łódź;
- 3) the number of main goods categories imported and exported in Łódź district by rail;
- 4) taxation of Łódź industry and trade.

The Committee of Statistics, which was strongly socially-oriented, divided its activity into three essential thematic blocks:

- 1) population statistics of the city,
- 2) educational and cultural statistics,
- 3) working class statistics.

Let us note here a very important historical fact, namely establishing the Money Exchange in Łódź. The ceremonious opening of the exchange took place on February 1st 1899 in the Grand Hotel, the first registered seat of the Exchange. The first president of the Exchange Committee became Karol Scheibler (1899–1903) and the successive presidents were: Emil Geyer (1903–1911) and Alfred Grohman (1911–1920). At the moment of opening, the Exchange Committee numbered over 150 members.

In the year 1911 the Exchange Committee started gathering statistical data concerning trading companies and industrial plants of Łódź. It resulted in publishing, in 1912, the first Yearbook of Statistical Work of the Exchange Committee prepared by the secretary of the Committee – J. Adamowicz. The Yearbook included statistical data for the years 1909 and 1910.

2. Activity of the department of statistics of municipality of the city of Łódź

Neither the Committee of Statistics, nor the Exchange Committee managed to realize all their plans before the outbreak of World War I. At the end of the war, a concept concerning establishing the Bureau of Statistics next to the City Board arose. The concept was introduced by a group of councillors: Eugeniusz Krasuski – a prominent social and political activist who created foundations of Polish statehood; Mieczysław Hertz – economist, deputy director of the Chamber of Commerce; Aleksy Rzewski – President of the city of Łódź and many more councillors and social activist. The main initiator of establishing this statistical institution in Łódź was Eugeniusz Krasuski who, putting forward his motion, acted as a member-secretary of the City Council.

The motion submitted on the September 19th 1917 by the councillor E. Krasuski was accepted by the City Council which decided to call into being the Department of Statistics next to the City Board since January 1st 1918. The delegation consisting of members of the City Council, the Town Hall of the city of Łódź and Łódź citizens was to supervise the activity of the Department. The delegation included: the head of the Department of Statistics, Dr Stefan Kopciński, originator of public education in Łódź, jurors: Dr Fr. Koziolkiewicz and W. Kaffanke, councillors: J. Wilczyński, M. Hellman, B. Fiehna, M. Jarblum and co-opted members: Mieczysław Hertz and Dr Stanisław Skalski. The first head of the Department of Statistics was Antoni Goerne, and afterwards Dr Edward Grabowski. During World War I, individual statistical studies occurred. Here, we can mention, among others, Prof. Edward Grabowski (1880–1961), the author of *Podręcznik statystyk (Statistics textbook)* (Warszawa 1917). In the years 1922–1939 as well as 1945–1949 Edward Rosset, the actual originator of the pre-war and post-war statistics of the city of Łódź, was the head of the Department.

Censuses, considered the most difficult but, at the same time, the most vital statistical enterprises, were basic activity of the Department of Statistics. They were also regarded as efficiency tests of the particular statistical institutions. In the period of Poland's twenty years of independence after World War I, three censuses (in the years 1918, 1921 and 1931) were conducted.

What is more, the Department conducted statistical surveys concerning:

– natural movement of population – on the basis of survey of the Civil Registry Office;

– meat consumption – on the basis of two-week reports of the city slaughterhouse;

– milk consumption – on the basis of milk records carried out in the years 1929 and 1933;

– bread consumption – on the basis of the poll on the city bakeries manufacture;

– building movement statistics – originated in the year 1923 on the initiative of the Central Statistical Office.

In the year 1922 the former Ministry of Public Health carried out three records of people suffering from venereal diseases in Łódź.

– alcohol consumption – on the basis of data of tax authorities. The Department took up survey concerning alcohol consumption in the year 1922 on the basis of arrested people records. The survey continued in the years 1923–1925. It is also worth noting that the Łódź Department of Statistics gained recognition for its work in that respect. It was expressed by a special resolution made during the Medical Congress in Vilnius;

– health statistics.

The Department conducted statistical survey concerning also:

- economic statistics,
- educational and cultural statistics,
- social statistics,
- administrative statistics,
- financial and credit statistics.

Moreover, on the orders of self-government administration, the Department carried out a statistical survey concerning, among others, the following issues:

- housing conditions of janitors in Łódź;
- personnel of the city;
- budgets of numerous workmen's households (on the basis of orders of the Social Household Institute);
- the number of children in Łódź families as parts of various social classes and professions.

The questionnaire was prepared in consultation with the Polish Institute of Research on Population Problems:

- the level of employment in Łódź industry;
- people suffering from tuberculosis (1924).

3. Statisticians of Łódź

In the year 1811 the first Polish Chair of Statistics in the Warsaw School of Law and Administration was founded. Professor Wawrzyniec Surowiecki (1769–1827) became its first head.

Dr Edward Grabowski, a future head of the Łódź Department of Statistics was an author of *Podręcznik statystyki (Statistics textbook)* published by Gebethner and Wolf, Warszawa, Lublin, Łódź, 1917.

In the Academy of Socio-Economic Sciences in Łódź (1924–1928), at the Faculty of Finance and Economics lectures on “statistics” were given by Julian Jarczyński, on “political arithmetic” by Prof. Gabriel Tołwiński and on “trade mathematics” by Włodzimierz Wroński. In Łódź Department of the Polish Free University (1928–1939) at the Faculty of Law and Socio-Economic Sciences, Prof. Adam Szturm de Sztrem (1885–1962) gave lectures on “general statistics and demography” and “economic statistics”. Both he and Edward Rosset, MSc tutored in all the subjects mentioned above.

Since the year 1929 Dr Edward Rosset became a senior assistant in the Chair of Economics Theory and Statistics of the Polish Free University.

After World War II, on February 10th 1945 Edward Rosset came back to Łódź and, authorised by Prof. Tadeusz Vieweger, who at that time was working on organizing the University of Łódź, established the Department and afterwards the Chair of Statistics. After abolishing the course of economics at the Univer-

sity of Łódź, Prof. Edward Rosset established the Chair of Statistics also in the Academy of Economics (1949–1961). In the year 1961, owing to the combination of the Academy of Economics and the University of Łódź, both the Chairs headed by Prof. Rosset became one institution, namely the Chair of Demography and Statistics located at the Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Łódź. Edward Rosset was the head of the Chair until the year 1968, that is his retirement.

Edward Grabowski (1880–1961)

He worked as a lecturer in the Academy of Trade. He was the author of the book entitled *Podręcznik statystyki (Statistics textbook)*, Warszawa 1917. Due to its unique approach to the subject of statistics, the content of the book is worth presenting:

Preface:

1. Definition of statistics.
2. History of statistics.
3. Statistics in Poland.
4. Probability theory in statistics.
5. Technique of statistics.
6. The so called “principles of statistics”.
7. Results of statistical investigations.
8. Censuses.
9. Registration of natural movement of population.
10. Mortality tables.
11. Cultural statistics.
12. Economic statistics.
13. Administrative statistics.
14. International statistical institutions.

His research interests were mainly oriented towards demographic issues with special reference to development of population’s clusters. Within that scope, we can mention the following papers:

- *Wpływ wędrówek na skupianie się ludności w Królestwie Kongresowym (1816–1913)*, E. Wende and Co., Warszawa 1916;
- *Skupienie miejskie w Królestwie Polskim*. The print from the „*Ekonomista*” (“The Economist”), E. Wende and Co., Warszawa 1914;
- *Rozwój skupień ludności na ziemiach polskich*, Institute of Economics Publishing House, vol. XV and XVI, Lvov 1917;

– *Rozwój zaludnienia w Polsce w zestawieniu z innymi krajami*, Teaching Aids Book Repository (Polska Składnica Pomocy Szkolnych), Warszawa 1921.

Edward Grabowski was the head of the Department of Statistics in Łódź in the years 1919–1922. His research and scientific achievements were strongly related to his activity in the Department. Over the first years of the Department of Statistics' existence, under the guidance of E. Grabowski, on the basis of gathered materials, „Miesięcznik Statystyczny” (“Statistical Monthly”) was published. Afterwards, it was transformed into „Kwartalnik Statystyczny” (“Statistical Quarterly”). At the same time, the Department published two „Informatory miasta Łodzi” (“Prospectus of the City of Łódź”) (for the years 1919 and 1920).

The first Statistical Yearbook of the city of Łódź entitled “Statistics of the City of Łódź (1918–1920)” was published in the year 1922. The Yearbook comprised a tabular part as well as 17 descriptive articles based on statistical investigations richly illustrated with numerical data. The subject matter of the Yearbook included a comprehensive part devoted to the population of the city of Łódź, housing matters and sanitary conditions, public education, provision for the city, transportation, social welfare and prices. The Yearbook, as well as the successive ones, comprised information about ethnic and religious structure of population of the city. The editor of the Yearbook was Dr Edward Grabowski while authors of the particular articles were: Edward Rosset, Jan Nazarewicz, Mieczysław Hertz, Dr Władysław Stanisławski, Dr Bronisław Frenkel, Witold Tomorowicz, Teodora Federówna, Czesława Fokczyńska.

Statistical Yearbooks of the city of Łódź edited since the year 1922 by Edward Rosset, appeared regularly until the year 1929 and were published in two languages, namely Polish and French.

Within the following years the Department of Statistics, for economical reasons, published “Concise Statistical Yearbooks” which appeared in 1935 for the years 1930–1934, in 1937 for the year 1935, in 1938 for the year 1936 – and were far smaller in comparison with Yearbooks published within the first decade.

Edward Szturm de Sztrem (1885–1962)

He started working as a statistician in Landed Self-government of Poltawska Province in Ukraine. After Poland had regained its independence, Edward Szturm de Sztrem moved to Warsaw. Initially, he worked in the Community Work Bureau, and then in the Department of Statistics in Ministry of Supply. In the year 1928 he became the head of the Central Statistical Office. In his work he put special emphasis on advancement of agricultural statistics. According to

him "Agricultural statistics, being of great importance for the government and population, would greatly profit if it was managed by skilled expert-statisticians". On his initiative, at the end of the year 1927 the investigation of farm workers' pay as well as the poll concerning earnings, pay and working conditions in agriculture were conducted. Since the year 1923 Edward Szturm de Sztrem researched prices in retail and wholesale trade as well as prices of services included in costs of living. In the year 1927, under his guidance, the Central Statistical Office started working on a new publication entitled *Rzeczpospolita Polska – Atlas statystyczny (The Republic of Poland – statistical atlas)* (published in 1930). This publication gained international recognition.

Relations between Edward Szturm de Sztrem and overseas statisticians were established in the year 1922 when he became a delegate for the general meeting of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome. At the same time, when the International Research Council of Agriculture was founded, he became a member of its standing committee. In the thirties, he was an activist of many organizations. He was a member of, among others, the Polish Economists and Statisticians Society, the International Statistical Institute, the Committee of Experts-Statisticians next to the International Employment Agency, in the year 1933 he was nominated as a member of the Mexican Statisticians and Geographers Society, and a year later a member of the Royal Economic Society in London and the Econometric Society in the USA. During the Second World War Edward Szturm de Sztrem found himself initially in the eastern lands and since May, 1941 in London. Then, he prepared, among others, *Statystyczny atlas Polski (Statistical atlas of Poland)* and gave lectures on statistics at Oxford University in the years 1944–1946. After World War II, at first he was a collaborator of the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic and afterwards, the government delegate for the European Committee UNRRA. He was also a member of the Polish delegation for the first General Meeting of the United Nations and took part in work of various commissions of the United Nations. In the years 1947–1951 he held the office of Vice-President of the International Statistical Institute. In the year 1946 he came back to Poland and in November took the position of Rector of the Academy of Political Sciences.

Edward Rosset (1897–1989)

The achievements of Professor Rosset in the literature of the subject are remarkable and almost entirely devoted to demography. They comprises 15 comprehensive theses and more than 100 papers published both in Polish and foreign magazines. They were mainly devoted to problems of modern demography considered from historical and spatial perspective. The crucial works of Edward Rosset include, among others, *Proces starzenia się ludności (The*

Process of population aging, 1959), *Ludzie starzy. Studium demograficzne* (1967), *Rozwój polskiej myśli statystycznej* (1968) and *Trwanie życia ludzkiego* (1979). His paper entitled *Proces starzenia się ludności* was translated into English and Russian and gained recognition and popularity of the international demographic environment.

In the year 1965 two books by Professor Rosset were published, namely: *Oblicze demograficzne Polski Ludowej* and *Polska 1985. Wizja demograficzna*. In the year 1975, two-volume work entitled *Demografia Polski*, being a detailed synthesis of research on demographic development of Poland, came out. Within the scope of regional statistics, Edward Rosset prepared and published two books: *Bilans reprodukcji ludności na Ziemiach Zachodnich i Północnych* (1970) and *Obraz demograficzny Ziemi Kieleckiej* (1970).

Tadeusz Miller (1921–1980)

Scientific and political achievements of Tadeusz Miller are impressive: *O warunkach mieszkaniowych robotników łódzkich* („Łódzkie Czasopismo Gospodarcze” 1958, no. 1); *Z badań nad strukturą załogi łódzkiej fabryki włókienniczej*, „*Studia nad rozwojem klasy robotniczej*” (Part I, PAN 1961), co-author; *Badania nad strukturą i ruchliwością klasy robotniczej Jugosławii* („*Studia Socjologiczne*” 1961, vol. III) and *Z pracy ośrodków socjologicznych Jugosławii* (ibidem, 1961, vol. XVI 2); *Zmiany w poziomie aktywności zawodowej ludności w Łodzi w okresie 1931–1950* (ZN UŁ, Nauki Ekonomiczne, 1962, vol. 1); *Gospodarstwa domowe Łodzi w świetle spisów ludności z lat 1921, 1931, 1950, 1960. Problemy demografii i zatrudnienia na terenie m. Łodzi* (1967), co-author; *Materiały do ćwiczeń z medycyny społecznej* (1972, second edition 1974, third edition, 1976).

Egon Vielrose (1907–1984)

His scientific achievements comprise over 200 works on mathematical statistics, econometrics, and socio-economic statistics.

The most crucial works of Egon Vielrose on demography are: *Elementy ruchu naturalnego* (1961), *Zarys demografii potencjalnej* (1958) and *Ludność Polski od X do XVIII wieku* (1957); on mathematical statistics: *Rozkład dochodów według wielkości* (1960) and *Tablice liczb losowych* (1951); on econometrics: *Próba wyznaczenia elastyczności popytu na przewozy pasażerskie koleją żelazną*. Socio-economic statistics is the main subject of works devoted to households' budgets and time.

Being the head of Econometrics Section of Polish Academy of Science, he propagated the application of mathematical methods in demography. Since the year 1966, he was also a member of the Historical Demography Section. He was also interested in didactics. Therefore, he wrote the first Polish textbook on mathematical statistics entitled *Zadania statystyki matematycznej* (1956). What is more, in collaboration with B. Szulc he wrote *Metody statystyczne* and *Działania na liczbach przybliżonych*.

Zbigniew Michalkiewicz (1927–1986)

His scientific achievements were concentrated mainly on demographic issues, with special reference to social gerontology and socio-economic statistics. He was a continuator of demographical thought of Professor Edward Rosset concerning social gerontology and demography of aged people.

The most significant works on demography: *Przydatność zawodowa robotników w starszym wieku oraz problem ich racjonalnego zatrudnienia*, PWE, 1962; *Proces starzenia się ludności i jego ekonomiczno-społeczne skutki*, „Zdrowie Psychiczne” 1971, no. 1–2; *Położenie robotników po przejściu na emeryturę*, Prace Instytutu Ekonometrii i Statystyki UŁ, 1, 1972; *Robotnicy w wieku emerytalnym w łódzkich zakładach przemysłu lekkiego*, [in:] *Problemy demograficzne i zatrudnienia na terenie miasta Łodzi*, ŁTN, Łódź 1967; *Rozkład dochodów gospodarstw domowych emerytów*, Prace Instytutu Ekonometrii i Statystyki Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 10, 1974 (co-author – Cz. Domański).

Andrzej Tomaszewicz (1938–1991)

He was the author of over 1200 programmes and procedures for computers of various types.

He prepared the micro-computer system optimising timetable of classes at the Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Łódź. He was an initiator and the head of Department of Operation Research at the University of Łódź.

He was the author of over 150 scientific works and studies mainly on econometric inference on the basis of operation research. He published a series of papers devoted to linear models of trend with autocorrelation and of random component and heteroscedacity.

A part of the results of his work was published in two-volume monograph entitled *Ekonometryczne modele rynku. Estymacja Prognozy – Symulacje* (ed. W. Welfe), PWE 1977 (vol. I), 1978 (vol. II)

Moreover, in his books *Jednorównaniowe modele ekonometryczne przy nieklasycznych założeniach*, „Acta Universitatis Lodziensis” 1985 and *Testy*

ekonometryczne, UŁ 1993, he conducted also research on the demand model. The monograph entitled *Ekonometryczne metody szacowania elastyczności popytu względem dochodu na podstawie badań budżetów gospodarstw domowych*, the Central Statistical Office, 1972 is a result of the research.

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Czesław Domański

Pierwsi statystycy łódzcy

W latach 1912–1914 podejmowane były pierwsze próby organizacji łódzkiej statystyki miejskiej przez Komitet Giełdowy Łódzki oraz przez Komisję Statystyczną funkcjonującą przy Towarzystwie Popierania Pracy Społecznej.

19 września 1977 r. została przyjęta przez Radę Miejską uchwała powołująca z dniem 1 stycznia 1918 r. Wydział Statystyczny przy Zarządzie Miejskim w Łodzi. W okresie międzywojennym kierowali tym wydziałem: Antoni Goerne, Edward Grabowski, Edward Rosset, którzy tworzyli środowisko statystyków łódzkich.

Począwszy od 1924 r. zaczęły powstawać pierwsze uczelnie prywatne – Wyższa Szkoła Nauk Społecznych i Ekonomicznych (1924–1928) oraz Oddział Łódzki Wolnej Wszechnicy Polskiej (1928–1939). Uczelnie te rozwijały również zagadnienia statystyki, demografii i arytmetyki handlowej. Na szczególne podkreślenie zasługują następujące osoby Gabriel Tołwiński, Włodzimierz Wroński, Stefan Dziewulski, Edward Rosset, Edward Szturm de Sztrem oraz Jan Wiśniewski, który nie był związany z Łodzią, ale jego twórczość naukowa oddziaływała na statystyków tworzących w Łodzi.