

MY MEETINGS AND FRIENDSHIPS IN SZCZECIN

Summary

For economists of transport in Szczecin, year 2010 means sixty fifth anniversary of their scientific activity in this town. In parallel, for me, it is sixty fifth anniversary of my life in Gdańsk, where I arrived in September 1945. From beginning it is "my" town, my lovely place of my existence. Seeking its similar twin-town, I found it in Szczecin. I read a lot about it in books and newspapers, but for the first time I came there in 1957, when I met my future wife, who was studying then at the Faculty of Transport Economics in Szczecin. From her I have learned a lot about the staff of this school, but personally I met it for the first time in 1961, when I was invited to Szczecin for a methodological dispute on questions of transport economics. Those questions were connected with my doctoral dissertation, finished in 1963. Next five years I was preparing my postdoctoral thesis. It was strictly connected with historical geography, therefore my scientific meetings in this time in Szczecin, were with historians, not economists. Many talks with Bogdan Dopierała inspired me during writing my book *Polska morska*; from contacts with Alfred Wielopolski inspired another of my book *Zarys najnowszych dziejów transportu*. During the 70s, I returned to my contacts with the Szczecin transport economists. The most fruitful of them, creating lasting connections and friendships, came into being during frequent symposiums and conferences organized by them outside Szczecin, mainly in Kołobrzeg. From 1974 to 1994, I participated in almost all of them. In the 80s, a new field of contacts opened, in the economic faculty in Szczecin, where I was the reviewer of seven postdoctoral thesis of local transport economists. Year by year I was appointed as reviewer of consecutive volumes of the book series *zeszyty naukowe* edited by this faculty. The apogee of my scientific contacts with Szczecin followed in 1999, when University at Szczecin, at the request of WZiEU faculty, conferred me the dignity of doctor honoris causa. I am lifelong grateful to all my friends from Szczecin for this splendid honour, most of all personally to Hubert Bronk, the university chancellor, and Adam Szewczuk, the dean of WZiEU.

Translated by Andrzej Piskozub