

Dickstein Forum 2024

Announcement preliminary

Inter-Class Commissions for the Commission on the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences invites you to participate in the next edition of the Dickstein Forum, which will be held on September 11-12-13, 2024 at the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences headquarters in Krakow at Sławkowska str. 17.

The chairman of the Scientific Committee is Prof. Michał Kokowski, chairman of the Commission for the History of Science.

The organizational work of the Dickstein Forum will be managed by the deputy chairman of the Commission for the History of Science, Prof. Stanisław Domoradzki, (University of Rzeszów, e-mail: stanislawdomoradzki@gmail.com) and Dr Małgorzata Stawiska AMS (USA) and Dr. Marek Skarupski from Wrocław University of Science and Technology / Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands), collaborating with previous editions of DF.

The entry fee of 50 Euro.

By June 30, 2024, please submit the topic of your paper or poster to the e-mail address: stanislawdomoradzki@gmail.com.

It is possible to book cheaper accommodation in one dormitory in Krakow. Please also provide information on this matter to the e-mail address provided above.

The conference's language is English. It is also possible to present a paper in another language, in which case we kindly ask for the slides/poster in English.

The topic of the conference is quite broad and is related to the activities of Samuel Dickstein (1851–1939), whose profile is presented below (excerpts from the biography written by Prof. Roman Duda were used, from Biographies of mathematicians (in preparation))

After graduating from junior high school, Dickstein was a student of the Warsaw Main School (1866-1869), but in 1870 he completed his studies at a Russian university, and in 1876 he obtained a master's degree in mathematics there, entitling him to teach at higher schools. From 1870 he taught mathematics at Warsaw junior high schools and the Kronenberg Trade School, and from 1878 to 1888 he ran his own, well-regarded real school. Then he devoted himself entirely to scientific, editorial, and organizational work. He was a co-founder of the 1882 Mianowski Fund and its outstanding activist. In 1888, he joined Aleksander Czajewicz in publishing "Biblioteka Matematyczno-Fizyczna", founded, together with Edward and Władysław Natanson and Władysław Gosiewski, "Prace Matematyczno-Fizyczne", and from 1897 he published "Wiadomości Matematyczne". Both magazines, which he partially financed from his funds, published articles, translations, chronicles, and reviews. He became involved in bibliographic activities in the field of Polish mathematics, thus continuing the work of Teofil Żebrawski. This activity lasted half a century, however, the *Polish Mathematical Bibliography of the 19th century* prepared by him (in cooperation with Edward Wawrykiewicz), almost

entirely ready on the eve of World War II, burned down in wartime Warsaw. Only a fragment of it remains in the form of a trial notebook (1904) and partial publications. Dickstein's activity was not limited to mathematics and physics, as he also supported the organization of a network of meteorological stations and from 1903 he was the chairman of the Management Board of the Meteorological Office, he founded the magazine "Ruch Pedagogiczny" in 1881, and co-organized the first insurance company in Poland "Przezorność". He established cooperation with the magazine "Bibliotheca Mathematica", where he published information about Polish mathematical life, and with the review magazine "Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik", for which he wrote reviews of the works of Polish mathematicians. He went to the International Congresses of Mathematicians (he had a lecture on Wroński at ICM'04 in Heidelberg), giving testimony to the existence of mathematics in partitioned Poland. He was very absorbed in his editorial and organizational activities, but he also distinguished himself in the field of scientific research. Initially, he was interested in algebra, number theory (10 works), and the methodology of mathematics, publishing several works and textbooks in this field, including concepts and methods of mathematics (1891), however, as the years passed, his interests turned more and more towards the history of Polish mathematics. His most important work in this area was the monograph *Hoene-Wroński, his life and works* (Kraków, 1896), which is still valuable today.

He published the correspondence between Leibniz and Kochański and wrote notes about l'Huillier, Jan Śniadecki, Adam Kochański, and others. After 1905, Dickstein's activity took on a new dimension, as he initiated and co-founded Polish scientific institutions: a substitute for a Polish university in the form of the Scientific Courses Society, the Warsaw Scientific Society, of which he was the first vice-president, and in 1914 he gave him his mathematical library, then numbering over 10,000 volumes (this book collection survived and today it is part of the library collections of the Institute of Mathematics and Physics. The textbook *Principles of Political Arithmetic* (written in 1910 together with Adam Danielewicz) retained great value. When the University of Warsaw resumed its activities in 1915, Dickstein became its lecturer and in 1919 an honorary professor of mathematics and the history of science. At that time, together with Aleksander Birkenmajer, he published the monographic outline of *Histoire sommaire des sciences en Pologne, Cracovie* 1933. The bibliography of his works includes over 300 items. Dickstein lectured at the University of Warsaw until 1937, when he was prevented from further lecturing by National Democratic militias.

Dickstein's achievements were already appreciated by his contemporaries. In 1890 he became a member of the Society of Friends of Sciences in Poznań and in 1893 an adopted member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts in Kraków, and in 1921 he became an honorary doctor University of Warsaw. He was also a member of several scientific societies abroad, including vice president of the International Academy of the History of Sciences. President of Polish Mathematical Society in 1923–1926. The PMS organized the 65th anniversary of his scientific activities in 1937, combined with the 3rd Congress of Polish Mathematicians, and in 1978 established the Main Prize in his name.