

# Dickstein Forum 2026

## *Preliminary Announcement*

The Inter-Division 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 2026, which will take place on September 28–30, 2026, at the PAU headquarters in Kraków, at 17 Sławkowska Street.

The Chair of the Dickstein Forum Scientific Council is Prof. Dr. Hab. Michał Kokowski, Chair of the PAU Commission on the History of Science; among the members of the Council are also Prof. Dr. Hab. Roman Duda and Prof. Dr. Hab. Lech Maligranda (Poznań University of Technology). The work of the Dickstein Forum Scientific and Organizing Committee is directed by the Deputy Chair of the PAU Commission on the History of Science, Dr. Hab. Stanisław Domoradzki, Prof. University of Rzeszów ([stanislawdomoradzki@gmail.com](mailto:stanislawdomoradzki@gmail.com)). Other members of this Committee include Dr. Małgorzata Stawiska (AMS, USA); Dr. Marek Skarupski (Wrocław University of Science and Technology and Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands); Dr. Małgorzata Terepeta, Prof. at the Łódź University of Technology and Editor of “*Antiquitates Mathematicae*”; and Dr. Hab. Wiesław Wójcik, Prof. at the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa.

We anticipate to set the registration fee at 200 PLN for domestic participants and 50 EUR for international participants.

The scope of the conference is quite broad and centers on the work of Samuel Dickstein (1851–1939; a brief biographical note appears below).

On the first day of the Forum, presentations will focus on the history of mathematics and the exact sciences, as well as the methodology of teaching these disciplines.

On the second day, we will focus on the theme of mentor-student relationships within the Lwów School of Mathematics, led by Stefan Banach; this session is organized by Dr. Hab. Wiesław Wójcik, Prof. UJD.

On the third day, we will address events and locations related to the history of mathematics and the exact sciences (commemorative sites, symposia, conferences, etc.—brief reports are welcome), as well as publications – specifically books and journals—pertaining to the history of these fields. A panel discussion is also planned, titled: “How to Distinguish a Scholarly Article in the History of Mathematics and the Exact Sciences from a Popular Science Article (Terminology, Linguistic Style, Emotions, Evaluations, Commentary, etc.)?”

By June 30, 2026, please submit your proposed topic for a talk or poster to the email address of the Chair of the Scientific and Organizing Committee: [stanislawdomoradzki@gmail.com](mailto:stanislawdomoradzki@gmail.com)

It is possible to reserve affordable accommodation in one of the student dormitories in Kraków. Please also send any inquiries regarding this matter to the email address provided above.

Presentations may be delivered in either English or Polish. If a talk is presented in Polish, we kindly request that an abridged version of its content be provided in English.

## Samuel Dickstein's Biography<sup>1</sup>

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 journals, 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 Managing 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 journal "Bibliotheca Mathematica", where he published information about Polish mathematical life, and with the review journal "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 gave 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.

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<sup>1</sup> See: Roman Duda, in: *Słownik biograficzny matematyków polskich*, (Kraków, PAU, 2024, pp. 74–75).