

Until now the history of Cracow was written mostly as a history of the cultural capital city of Poland (*stolica duchowa*). Researchers were usually focusing on the non-economic resources of this city perceived as a “realm of memory” and were pointing on the role played by the intellectual elites and *inteligencja*. The development of the city was almost exclusively connected to the non-economic impulses. “Jewish district” was described as a place of trade and the crafts and its Jewish inhabitants as merchants or artisans. In this narrative Cracow and Kazimierz, created two separated worlds.

This conventional difference and gap between Christian and Jews and the districts they inhabited let to our project. We would like to ask again what role Jews played in the economic development of the city. Were the non-economic factors indeed predominant in the development of the city? Why are scholars not paying attention to the involvement of Jews in development of Cracovian municipality, to the taxes they paid, to their engagement in the city economics and to other initiatives which were started by them?

As an object for our analyses we chose the group of important Jewish industrialists, who founded big enterprises and businesses. Although the names of some of those Jewish industrialists appear in the books on the local history, they don't really belong to it. Not a lot is known about their biographies and their undertakings. By devoting our research to them to their professional achievements and to their businesses we hope to shed light on their role for development of the industrial districts (i.e. Podgórze, Płaszów and Borek Fałęcki) and the whole city.

Because of the favorable model of taxation enterprises and factories were situated in the vicinity of Krakow. The city and its vicinities were formally separate but in fact they economically depended on one another and therefore created one economic unit. We would like to gain a profound knowledge on these businesses, their owners and the workers they employed: we are interested in beginnings, developments, crisis and personal inter-connection. Did existence of industries and productions influence the economic situation in old Cracow and in which way?

The Jewish industrialists worked outside of Cracow but they engaged mostly in the professional and social life in the old city. We would like to find out more about their engagement and their favors for the municipality.