

THE ŁÓDŹ ATLAS

Sheet XXXVII: The development of metropolitan functions in Łódź

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The thematic scope of this Sheet XXXVII encompasses all institutions, organisations, and offices with metropolitan functions and headquartered within the administrative boundaries of Łódź. The pattern of metropolitan functions development was traced for six historical cross-sections covering 110 years. Such institutions and organisations have been classified into ten categories:

- Financial and insurance institutions (banks and insurance)
- Educational and research institutions (state and private higher education, academic and research institutions, research and development centres, university libraries)
- Specialised hospitals (clinics)
- Courts and other law administration institutions (courts, prosecution offices)
- Mass media (radio and television, weekly and daily press)
- Hotels, other accommodation and travel agencies
- Transport and communication (airports, railway and vehicle administration, and executive level telecommunication management)
- Cultural institutions (museums, theatres, concert halls, art agencies)
- Administration: state, military, police, fire service, political, social, religious, professional, scientific, and cultural organisations
- Other institutions of metropolitan quality

There categories of institutions perform higher order services, i.e. services that are exogenic in nature, and are only present in some cities, thus elevating them to the rank of metropolitan centres.

Table 1. Number of metropolitan institutions in Łódź: 1891–2000

Type of institution	Number of institutions					
	1891	1919	1939	1945	1975	2000
I Banking and insurance	10	36	64	18	17	171
II Education and research	1	10	11	37	32	70
III Specialised hospitals	1	8	5	9	8	19
IV Courts and other law administration institutions	9	11	7	17	3	12
V Mass media	3	14	41	25	11	29
VI Hotels, other accommodation and travel agencies	10	6	10	7	13	137
VII Transport and communication	3	5	7	10	10	12
VIII Cultural institutions ura	–	5	10	15	19	55
IX Administration	11	155	237	104	101	150
	9*	24*	12*	49*	25*	63*
X Other metropolitan institutions	–	3	16	60	38	31
TOTAL	48	253	408	302	252	686

*Number of administrative institutions excluding trade unions administration, professional societies and associations

1891

In 1891 Łódź had a population of 125 000, and there were 48 institutions with metropolitan functions. Most of these institutions fell in the categories of administration (22% of all institutions), banks and insurance (20%), and hotels (20%). The administration category included the county (powiat) council, police, military, and military police headquarters, and offices of four religious faiths. This is indicative of powerful and concentrated exercise of authority over a multicultural society. Two banks operated at that time (Bank Handlowy and a branch of the state bank - Bank Państwa) and five stockbrokers, Łódź Municipal Credit Society (Łódzkie Towarzystwo Kredytowe Miejskie), Łódź Industrialists’ Fund (Kasa Przemysłowców Łódzkich) and Łódź County Fund (Łódzka Kasa Powiatowa). In a city with more than 125 000 population there were ten hotels which had names probably matching their clientele (apart from the Grand and the Victoria – the Niemiecki (German), Manteuffel, Hamburski (Hamburg), Ruski (Russian), Petersburski (Petersburg), Warszawski (Warsaw), Wenecki (Venice)). Three newspapers were circulated, including two in the German language. A significant percentage of metropolitan institutions were those of justice administration (18% represented, among others, by the District Court (Sąd Okęgowy) and the court of peace (Sąd Pokoju). The value of textile industry production in Łódź amounted to nearly 46 million roubles, which accounted for 77% of the production of the entire Congress Kingdom. This enormous production power was only accompanied by 48 metropolitan institutions, ten of which represented the banking sector, and another ten the administration sector, of which four represented state administration and four religious administration, Education Board (Dyrekcja Naukowa), the Factory Railway Board (Dyrekcja Drogi Żelazno-Fabrycznej), and the Post and Telegraph Office and Board (Urząd i Zarząd Pocztowno-Telegraficzny). To sum up, apart from the production factories, the only other facilities present in Łódź were those linked to the provision of services to capitalists, visiting merchants and industrialists, and the mass media.

1919

In 1919 as many as 253 metropolitan institutions were recorded in Łódź, including 131 (i.e. 52%) professional associations and trade unions. Out of the remaining institutions, the highest proportion represented the financial and insurance sector (14.2%), and offices of the state administration (9%). Financial institutions included the banks: Handlowy, Kupiecki, Zachodni, Piotrogrodzki-Ryski Bank Handlowy, and a banking house, 29 credit societies, and two insurance institutions. The number of educational institutions represented by the education authority for Łódzkie Region had risen to nine, active was the Teachers’ University (Seminarium Nauczycielskie) and the State Research Institute (Badawczy Zakład Państwowy), which was linked to the general education promotion initiative undertaken in Łódź. The mass media were represented by 14 newspapers, including eight Polish and six German titles, reflecting the ethnic structure at the time. The number of hotels had dropped from ten in 1891 to six in 1919. Hotels servicing Russian clientele had disappeared and only those of the highest standard (Grand, Victoria, Manteuffel, Polski, Savoy and Palast) remained. Łódź became the seat of regional (województwo) authorities and the General Headquarters of the Łódź Military District, the 2nd Łódź Branch of the Warsaw Railway Board, and from 1920 the seat of the Łódź Roman Catholic Diocese. The establishment of these new high-ranking bodies of state administration, and military and church authorities entailed the rise of several other auxiliary institutions subordinate to them. The justice administration institu-

tions were represented by seven civil courts, including the Regional Court (Sąd Okęgowy), Court of Peace (Sąd Pokoju). Prosecution and Mortgage Office (Urząd Prokuratorski i Hipoteczny) and 4 military justice administration bodies linked to the Military District Headquarters. Administrative authorities were represented by 4 state institutions, 2 police administration bodies, 8 institutions representing religious administration of various faiths, 10 institutions of military administration and 131 professional societies, associations, and trade unions. Other metropolitan institutions that operated in Łódź at the time included the Customs Chamber (Komora Celna), Coal Consortium (Konsorcjum Węglowe), and the Łódź Stock Exchange Commission (Komitet Gieldowy Łódzki).

1939

1939 closes the period of the Second Republic and at the same time the period of prosperity of Łódź as far as metropolitan institutions are concerned. In the city now with 672000 population headquartered were 408 institutions classified as metropolitan. Most of them were professional associations and trade unions – 55% of the total number. The second most numerous were financial and insurance institutions represented by 30 banks, twelve banking houses, funds, and bureaux de change. In the interwar period Łódź was home to industrial cartels and associations, global agencies trading in textile raw materials, representatives of textile machinery manufacturers, and an important transregional communication node. It was a major centre of state, military, and justice administrations, and its population growth rate was higher than that in Warsaw or Kraków.

The city’s industrial function and international trade exchange caused that in 1939 Łódź was the seat of 16 foreign consulates (English, Austrian, Belgian, Danish, Finnish, French, Greek, Dutch, Latvian, German, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Swedish, Uruguayan and Italian), two travel agencies (including Orbis) and 8 hotels. In circulation were 31 newspapers and magazines, including nine German and one Jewish. There were four specialised hospitals, including one of Poland’s best equipped hospitals, Mościcki Hospital in Zagajnikowa St. (currently Barlickiego Hospital in Kopcińskiego St.), and the newly-built Military Hospital in Żeromskiego St. An efficient network of railway stations contributed to the strong position of Łódź as a transport node. Cultur-wise, Łódź boasted five theatres, one concert hall, three museums and two libraries. Academic and educational institutions of metropolitan quality included divisions of the Free Polish University (Wolna Wszechnica Polska), Diocese Catholic Action Institute (Diecezjalny Instytut Akeji Katolickiej), Doicese Seminary (Seminarium Diecezjalne), Teachers’ University (Seminarium Nauczycielskie), and the Jewish School (Szkoła Żydowska).

1945

Despite Łódź being less damaged than other Polish cities, the number of metropolitan institutions in the city dropped in comparison to 1939. This situation was caused by changes in the social and political system, the economic system, social and occupational structure of its inhabitants, as well as by gigantic losses in population. After the war the population dropped by over 50% from 672 000 in 1939 to 300 000 in 1945, and the number of metropolitan institutions was reduced by 106 (from 408 to 302). The serious war damage in Warsaw caused many national level institutions to be relocated to Łódź in 1945.

Łódź became the headquarters of eleven offices of state administration and 27 offices of regional-level administration, police, military, church, county (powiat) and the Military District Headquarters. Apart from the General Board of the Peasants’ Party, active in Łódź were 4 other political parties, 44 trade unions, and 22 industrial conglomerates.

Due to the liquidation of private property, the number of financial and insurance institutions dropped by nearly 30% in comparison to 1939. In 1945, operational were nine banks, six credit funds and societies, and three insurance institutions.

In the post-war period (1945) Łódź gained probably the most prestigious and most deserved status of an academic city and so filled in one of the essential segments of its metropolitan functions. In 1945 the institutions of higher education included: University of Łódź (Uniwersytet Łódzki), Technical University of Łódź (Politechnika Łódzka), Free University – People’s University (Uniwersytet Wolna Wszechnica – Uniwersytet Ludowy), State Conservatory of Music (Państwowe Konserwatorium Muzyczne), Medical Academy (Akademia Medyczna), University of Life Sciences (Wyższa Szkoła Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego, Central School of the Public Security Ministry (Centralną Szkoła Ministerstwa Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego), Central School of Line Police Officers (Centralną Szkoła Oficerów Liniowych Milicji Obywatelskiej), Central Political Education Officers and Political Education School (Centralna Szkoła Oficerów Politycznego Wychowania i Polityczno Wychowawcza) and the Polish Workers’ Party Central Political School (Centralna Szkoła Polityczna PPR), Military Paramedics School (Szkoła Felczerów Wojskowych), 2 officers’ schools, Ministry of Justice Law School (Szkoła Prawnicza Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości), and some other academic and research institutions whose overall number totalled 37.

The network of healthcare and justice facilities expanded. In 1945, the following courts were established: Supreme Court (Sąd Najwyższy), Court of Appeal (Sąd Apelacyjny), Regional Court (Sąd Okręgowy), Supreme Administrative Tribunal (Najwyższy Trybunał Administracyjny), Special Criminal Court for the Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in Warsaw (Sąd Specjalny Karny dla Okręgu Sądu Apelacyjnego w Warszawie). Apart from 4 hotels and the Board of Warsaw City Hotels (Dyrekcja Hoteli Miejskich m. st. Warszawy), two travel agencies were in operation - Orbis and PLL Lot. Other distinguishable institutions of metropolitan quality include the American consulate, 33 industrial head offices, Branch Office of the National and Regional Board of the Sea League (Delegatura Zarządu Głównego i Okręgowego Ligi Morskiej), and Russian Trade Agency (Przedstawicielstwo Handlu Rosyjskiego).

Łódź’s importance as a transport and communication centre increased [Polish State Railways District Directorate (Dyrekcja Okręgu Kolei Państwowych), Post and Telegraph District Directorate (Dyrekcja Poczti i Telegrafów), district depot of the Polish Vehicle Transport (PKS), the Airport - civilian and military, Bulk Freight Headquarters], and so did its role as a cultural centre. In 1945, Łódź was the venue of 6 theatres, a concert hall, Central Concert Agency (Centralne Biuro Koncertowe), Central Public Library (Centralna Biblioteka Publiczna), and 4 museums. Circulated were 24 newspapers and magazines, including two literary and political magazines Kuźnica and Szpilki.

1975

In 1975, following an administrative reform, Łódź became the regional capital (stolica województwa) and home to 252 metropolitan institutions. The highest share was held by administrative institutions – nearly 40%, of which nearly 30% were professional societies, associations, and trade unions. The 25 state, political, military, and religious institutions also included 4 ministerial branches, 8 state boards and inspectorates, and regional offices of 3 political parties.

The second most numerous group comprised other metropolitan institutions, primarily head offices of large organisations (15% of the total number), i.e. 38 design, art, and industrial organisations and industrial conglomerates. Łódź performed exogenic functions by servicing the textile industry on national scale. Over 7% of the city’s metropolitan institutions were cultural, including 9 theatres, 5 museums, 3 academic libraries, Short Films Studio, and Post-production Film Studio. Apart from its 7 institutions of higher education, Łódź was the venue of 5 centres

of the Polish Academy of Science, 9 research and development institutes, and 11 central scientific research laboratories working for the purposes of the industry. As compared to 1945, significantly reduced was the number of scientific research institutions linked to the mass media that had returned to Warsaw. In 1975, nine newspapers and magazines were in circulation, and regional radio and television broadcasting stations were in operation, too.

Sources

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