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Economic History in German Speaking States at the End of the 20th Century

1. Institutional Development¹

Since the 19th century economic history had a long-standing tradition in Germany. However, it lost its international attraction during the 1930s, and had to reconstruct since the 1950s. In the following we therefore concentrate on the German speaking part of the world, which includes Austria and two thirds of Switzerland. Reasons for doing so are first of all the common language plus the existence of a couple of common institutions. A third important factor is a fairly frequent exchange of personnel, which in any case is more intense than with other states. Generally the situation is open, persons from all other states can apply for announced jobs; and John Komlos and Richard Tilly are examples for those who did so successfully. Vice versa, Germans such as Rainer Fremdling or myself were welcomed at the universities of Groningen (The Netherlands) and Bergen (Norway).

However the exchange between Austria, Germany and Switzerland is more frequent and thus of another quality: The last five years include exchanges such as the Swiss Ulrich Pfister, who became professor in Münster, Germany, or the Germans Renate Pieper, Reinhold Reith and Albrecht Ritschl, who got chairs in Graz and Salzburg (both Austria) and Zurich (Switzerland). Furthermore, persons of all states take part in the *Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss* (Committee on Economic History) which is part of the *Verein für Socialpolitik*, founded by Gustav Schmoller in 1872; all institutes, organisations and persons of the German speaking region are included in one single *vademekum*, a central reference book for historical research, institutions, personnel, etc. The most important institutions touched upon in this text are presented in greater detail there. The quality of relationship is highlighted by a sentence of the doyen of the Austrian society for economic history, Alois Brusatti: "*Naturally* the most intense connections *remained* the relationship with the German sister organisation..."² In spite of a fairly regular exchange of representatives, distinctions remain between the historical communities and their institutions of the three states.

Additionally we take into account contributions written on German economic history but published abroad, e.g. books such as *Patrons d'Allemagne, Sociologie d'une élite industrielle 1933-1989* by Hervé Joly from Lyon, or Sheilagh Ogilvie's *State Corporation and Proto-Industry*.

The Württemberg Black Forrest, 1580-1797, as well as members of the German speaking community who published on economic history of other states, such as Hartmut Berghoff's volume on British Entrepreneurs, or Rolf Walter's contribution *Europäische Unternehmen auf südamerikanischen Märkten: das Beispiel Venezuela vor 1914*.³ In fact many so called pupils of three schools founded by Wolfram Fischer, Hermann Kellenbenz and Hans Pohl published on foreign topics as well as scholars independent from these schools such as Peter Hertner. It is not possible to mention all the names. Though unprecise we will subsume all this under "*German*", in order to circumvent expressions such as *in the German speaking world*. (Hopefully the Austrians and German-speaking Swiss will forgive this *faux-pas*!)

In nearly all cases, the chairs for economic history are combined with social history. Even the Economic University of Vienna keeps an institute for economic and social history (since 1961). At some large universities in Germany, such as Humboldt Universität Berlin, Bielefeld or Münster, economic history is singled out in an own institute or similar institution (*Seminar*), e.g. in Munich. In a few cases economic history is combined with history of technology (e.g. Bochum, Zürich), but in more than 40 cases we find the combination of social and economic history. Though this combination is still at hand, it is becoming outdated - so my thesis! Once definitely a single entity, social- and economic history have separated like grow-up twins. This separation became apparent since the 1980s, and today, because of the lively development in both fields, there is only a handful of persons which have a full command on both. Consequently, if a chair has to be refilled, the commission has to decide to look for a full-blood social- or a fully grown economic historian, however, in any case a person who is able to teach in the other field. This split is not to be deplored, since it is simply a matter of natural development. Like history of technology has separated because of special studies and methods developed there, social history has attracted enough attention to establish itself separately - in spite of many common issues.

According to John Komlos, both, foreigner and insider in this question, "it is a deeply rooted tradition in the area of German language to combine macroeconomic theory and considerations of historical development."⁴ Because of this tradition, the chairs for economic (and social) history used to be associated either with the departments of history or economics. There are no own departments or own course of studies for economic history (or in combination with social history).

A certain peculiarity of Central European universities has to be mentioned here: Like in other places there is more than one type of professor, but those who keep a chair receive not only life-long guarantee

of occupation (and compulsory retirement pension after passing a definite age, usually 65), but at the same time - compared to international standards - an outstanding endowment of personnel. At least one secretary and one *Assistent* used to be connected to a chair. Such an *Assistent* usually has already passed his/her PhD and is on par with an assistant professor in the Anglo-Saxon world. Jobs for *Assistenten* are terminated. Usually they receive a contract for 3 years plus a 3 years prolongation; and some even can stay some more 4 years (adding up to 10). Some important professors were able to negotiate an endowment of several secretaries and *Assistenten* or scientific employees (*wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter* - usually without PhD), all working in connection or even for the keeper of the chair.⁵ Such an endowment multiply the research-, teaching and organisational possibilities of a chair. In the GDR, which in 1990 merged with West-Germany, economic history played an important role. This is explained by the fact that the state was ideologically based on Marxism, and economic history is a key part of Marxist's philosophy (*Historischer Materialismus*). The Academy of Sciences kept a large institute for economic history headed by the famous Jürgen Kuczynski.⁶ Many valuable studies were produced in the GDR. But for ideological reasons there was little exchange between East- and West Germany. Often it was easier for scholars from the GDR to cooperate with non-German or even with non-German speaking scholars than with their West-German colleagues and vice-versa. The famous editions on multinational enterprise in connection to the International Economic History Congress in Bern in 1986 by Alice Teichova - from the UK - and Maurice Lévy-Leboyer - from France - and Helga Nussbaum - from the GDR - can be taken as an illustration. However, since the Berlin wall always was more or less penetrable, a minimum of exchange between the institutions for economic history from both sides was kept up in that town. After unification the Academy was dissolved and the personnel dismissed. Most personnel, in fact except two, found other jobs at universities or research institutions, though usually inferior and less prestigious to their previous ones. Generally at the territory of the former GDR economic history was reduced institutionally and in personnel. How economic history fared after the unification is documented in all details in co-operation by Wolfram Fischer and Frank Zschaler, one scholar from former West- and one from East Berlin.⁷

Recruitment and the Balance of Gender

Recruitment for chairs is built up from *Assistenten* and *wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter* after they have passed a second test, which is considered to be superior to PhD, the *Habilitation*. It is possible, but not likely, to

receive a call for a professorship or even a chair without *Habilitation*. Assistenten, after being employed for six, some for up to ten years, are supposed to have received a call for a professorship. Tenure does not exist. Those whose time has elapsed, are totally free in every respect, their jobs are taken up by followers. Since there are more posts for *Assistenten* than for professors with chairs, and since the time-span of being an *Assistant* is much shorter than for professors, the whole idea of the system is expansionist. Since reality did not meet these expectations, there is an overhang of applicants. For several reasons this development was met with other and alternative possibilities, but since the 1990s extremely well-educated personnel, sometime really brilliant persons, is piling up, without a statistical hope of employment in "Germany". In the Federal Republic of Germany the system is suggested to be reformed by the government, a new law is under way. It is intended to phase out the second big test (*Habilitation*) and shorten the period before a person can become professor. At the same time it will not remove the two principle flaws, the lack of tenure and that the amount of recruitment is by far larger than the number of professorships. In contrast to now, the new law excludes all possibilities to go on for a while with high-profile research-projects. It is likely that the law will pass as it stands at the moment, which means a sizable amount of distinguished scholars will simply be phased out. The situation in Austria is not very different. The traditional structure was fairly the same in all the three states. Now in Austria, too, a law has been passed which limits the time for (paid) qualification .

The gender balance is extremely positive to the male side. It starts with the fact that the amount of females writing exams in economic history is smaller than the male counterpart. But this percentage is not kept, with each step of the ladder fewer females are at hand. In contrast to promotion-plans for females their number in solid position has not improved to a significant degree. For years the (male) chairman of a certain exclusive society (see below) used to open the sessions by: "gentlemen and Lady Schinzinger", since only she represented the female sex. Today the female part has expanded a little but still there are very, very few female scholars engaged in economic history. The percentage of females in the German Economic History Association (GSWG) adds up only to 9.3.

Organisations for Economic History

The structure of academic organisations for economic history is a bit complicated. There is one organisation, the above mentioned *Wirtschaftshistorische Ausschuss*,⁸ which is active in all states, Austria, Germany and Switzerland, a bi-national one for Austria and Germany,

and a third one exclusively for Switzerland. All organisations meet annually or biennial in different places for exchange, lectures and debates on an well in advance decided topic. The *Wirtschaftshistorische Ausschuss* is a bit elitist, since membership cannot be obtained by application but only after a certain process.⁹ Therefore membership in the *Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss* is much smaller than in the other organisations. The *Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss* keeps no rule concerning the nationality of the chairman. There have been chairpersons from, as well as regular meetings, in all the three states.

The primarily Austro-German *Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* (GSWG - society for social- and economic history) was founded in 1961 by Austrian and German scholars. From the beginning onwards, GSWG was intended to be internationally, in order to include foreign scholars, above all from Austria and Switzerland. In the beginning colleagues from East-Germany took part in its proceedings but did not become members.¹⁰ Up to today there is indeed a substantial part of foreign membership, which recently went up to 18 per cent. These members are seated to a large extent in other European states and the USA, but above all in Japan. Though in its name GSWG social history figured before economic history the stress always was on economic history. While in the beginning, especially under its chairman Hermann Kellenbenz, GSWG "clearly put economic history into the centre of its scholarly efforts"¹¹, the organisation later waved the flag of a more balanced approach. However, only one or two out of 20 of its meetings were clearly focussed on social history. This outcome was not based on bad will but consequence of a natural development. Both sectors started to grow and to specialise and thus began to separate through a process of growth since the 1970s. Consequently social historians very early understood GSWG rather a bridge to economic history than an organisation for both fields of research. Especially the approach of the Bielefeld school, to interpret social history in a wide context, to understand it as the history of society in general, paved the way for separation and development on different paths. Since then scholars are defined rather as social or economic historians, and no more both social- and economic ones. This separation is reflected by the fact that the largest electronic list for history in Germany (H-Soz-u-Kult), which emerged from social history, from its beginning never reflected economic history. During the first decade membership of GSWG was built up reluctantly. Several applicants were turned down, since board-members such as Wilhelm Abel supposed these applicants would change and water down the character of the GSWG as a small and active working group. Later the board became more open and during the 1970s membership grew up to

about 200. Hardly any of these were corporate members. Since the 1970s, and even during the 1990s the numbers stagnated around 200. This is a bit strange, because with the unification of East and West Germany the field of recruitment was enlarged, many East German scholars could have entered, but there definitely was a certain reluctance in doing so. A couple of them formed an own organisation (Vereinigung der Wirtschafts- und Sozialhistoriker der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik), which, however, enjoyed only a very short span of life.

In Switzerland organised economic history takes place primarily within the *Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte* SGWSG (Swiss Society for Economic and Social History), which was founded in 1974.¹² Similar to GSWG the purpose was to provide a forum for discussion and information for scholars interested in economic and social history. But in contrast to GSWG not only researchers are welcome but teachers, archivists, journalists, etc. as well. This policy caused a substantial membership of about 300 (today). In SGWSG all Swiss economic historians take part in, not only the German speaking ones. During their annual meetings participants just speak their mother-tongue. The international openness of GSWG applies to the Swiss society as well, it is not meant to be an exclusive national club, however, in contrast to *Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss* it was not headed by foreigners up to now.

In 1971 the first organisation for microeconomic history in the German-speaking context was founded in Austria, the *Österreichische Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte* (ÖGU - Austrian Society for Business History).¹³ According to its inaugurator, Alois Brusatti, the foundation was to be understood not only in a scholarly context but in a political one as well. ÖGU tried to promote issues in three main fields: 1. writing business history on a scholarly basis, 2. help to correct the distorted picture of entrepreneurs, and 3. to offer case studies for the training of students of business administration.¹⁴ Especially in the last point American influence can be seen, since this point was stressed in US-business history since the Interwar Period.¹⁵

In West-Germany it took until 1976 to establish the *Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte* (GUG - society for business history). The purpose of GUG was - and is - to promote the exchange between history and business life. Hans Pohl became its chairman, and instantly for about two decades the personification of business history in West Germany. GUG, together with the later founded Society for European Business History and the European Association for Banking History form the Centre for European Business History in Frankfurt. GUG boosted its membership to more than 200, thus accumulating a membership about as

large as GSWG. Very untypical of Germany, a second and somehow competing society for enterprise history emerged in 1989. Its basic idea was to explore a stricter theoretical approach as well as opposition against any glossing over business history. Consequently as name was chosen: *Arbeitskreis für kritische Unternehmens- und Industriegeschichte* (AKKU - Circle for Critical Business and Industrial History). AKKU was founded at the University of Bochum, and it is still situated there. It commands a membership of about 70. Initial animosities between the two organisations for microeconomic history petered out over time. Today they co-operate, and one of the initiators of AKKU even became chairman of the historic advisory board of GUG. (The entailing question of an eventual merger has not been raised yet.)

In all of the three states there are a number of additional but less spectacular organisations. They have not been named because they are not as active as the mentioned ones. E.g. in 1969 the *Institut für bankhistorische Forschung* (Institute for Banking History) was founded, GUG has organised several subdivisions, e.g. on banking- or transport history; etc. Other initiatives still wait of being taken up: while in the English-speaking world own organisations emerged for historical evaluation of financial systems, such as book-keeping, this issue was nearly totally neglected in "Germany".¹⁶

Up to today Swiss business historians did not follow the Austrian and German patterns of founding an own society. In 1996 a circle for business history (*Arbeitsgruppe für Unternehmensgeschichte*) was founded at the University of Zurich, which is intended to act as a nucleus for a larger organisation to be found. At the same time there is an intimate and institutionalises exchange with the German GUG and its journal, especially via the chair of Jakob Tanner. Since decades the *Verein für wirtschaftshistorische Studien* (study group for business history) has focused on publishing biographies of Swiss entrepreneurs (*Schweizerische Pioniere der Wirtschaft und Technik*), while the *Verein für Bankengeschichte* covered the banking history.¹⁷

A certain feature, to be found in all of the German speaking countries, is a strong commitment to federalism. Policy focussed on teaching and learning used to be decided on a federal level, which generates a certain variety as well as competition. There are several *Wissenschaftliche Akademien* (academies of science), which partly engage in economic history among others. At several universities centres for excellence have been established such as *Kontaktzone Mare Baltikum: Fremdheit und Integration im Ostseeraum* (contact zone Baltic Sea: foreignness and integration in the Baltic), which, of course, include economic history (in this particular case, the important economic history of the German *Hanse*,

a late-medieval organisation of traders and their towns characterised by a particular strength). Contrasting this highest level of scholarship, we find thousands initiatives for local and regional history, which, too, are interested in economic history. There is an organisation for social and economic history of *Schleswig-Holstein* and another one for the town of Hamburg only - to mention only two. Often not only professionally educated persons take part in such organisations but grass-root historians as well. E.g. the *Gesellschaft für Bayerische Sparkassengeschichte* (society for the history of Bavarian savings-banks) was organised and financed by the Bavarian savings-banks. Still such regional initiatives can cross borders as well, in the last case, the professional adviser used to be the late from Salzburg in Austria. The product-quality of the various regional and local organisations vary to a great extent. There are, however, some with a very good professional profile, such as the *Gesellschaft für Westfälische Wirtschaftsgeschichte* (society for Westphalian economic history) and others.

Recent Development

It was not by chance that GSWG was founded in the early 1960s. This decade represented a boom-time for economic history: New chairs were opened at many universities, a fact which sometimes exhausted the available amount of high-quality personnel. Economic history developed on the traditional German pattern, that is based on a broad understanding of the subject and its embeddedness into general history. Two new elements were added: Cliometrics were taken over from the Anglo-Saxon world - though not to the same extent as in the US - and business history was started. However, during the second half of the 1980s, economic history seems to have run into troubles (which are explained in detail in the contribution of Rainer Metz in this volume. Consequently we will keep this paragraph extremely short). In 1995 the problems of the situation were discussed openly in a journal, and two years later made the main topic of the biennial conference of GSWG.¹⁸ However, it is not entirely clear whether and to what extent economic history is in decline since the beginning of 1990s. Signs for such a downswing are declining numbers of students and of professorships, both of which indicate a relative slump of demand by the society. A few chairs were lost indeed, but the demand of students stood up at other universities, which might balance the whole picture. In any case, without a solid survey, founded on figures, we cannot yet speak of a general downswing of (macro-) economic history.¹⁹ Such an impression might have been provoked less by an actual declining demand in it, but by the definite upswing for business history. In this sense we can surely talk about a *relative* decline

of economic history.²⁰ New topics caused a shift, and many economic historians got more interested in business history. In any case, both economic and business history became more and better reflected than before.²¹

For decades business history in the German speaking context took place not only in the shadow of economic history, but its value and its methods were sometimes questioned by economic and other historians. However, during the 1990s there has been a remarkable change. It is illustrated by the fact that outstanding and highly respected general historians, such as Lothar Gall, ex-president of the *Historiker-Verband* (Germany's History Association), which for decades rarely took interest in economic history, suddenly detected their commitment to it. Doing business history became not only respected, but, in response to the starting search of new paths of how to approach it, plus in reaction of political pressure on firms, which were questioned on their behaviour during the Nazi-period, writing business history became a challenge. This is a major issue in all states. Austria and Switzerland have founded official research- groups on the economic relations between Nazi-politics and economic actions. Germany did not do so until today. Instead enterprises have paid the research of their past. In the special case of the Dresdner Bank, the firm is financing a small institute, which is, however, not under direction of the Bank but of an research institute. Only the future can tell us whether and to what extent this upswing in economic and business history will last. But since it is directly connected to some political consideration, probably the level of investigation and of finances will be reduced after a couple of years.

Up to today there are no chairs for business history, except for the fact that business history was included into one chair (social, economic and business history). It is still a dream of some colleagues to establish business history parallel to economic history.²² Though, with the upswing of business history the chances are better than ever before, there is no sign that those dreams will come true during the coming years.

Communication and the impact of Economic History on its Environment

Seen on formal terms, GSWG owns no journal, but via overlapping management-personnel there is a very close relationship to the quarterly *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* (VSWG). Therefore, less well informed persons may perceive VSWG to be the instrument of GSWG. Not with the same network of distribution as VSWG, but with a long tradition, since 1967, stands *Scripta mercaturae*, which is especially known for distinguished contributions in early

modern times. During the existence of the GDR the quarterly *Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte* was edited four times annually. After the unification it was possible to keep it alive, so that today there are three journals for economic history in general, plus one for business history generally and one for banking history, the *Zeitschrift für Unternehmensgeschichte* and *Bankhistorisches Archiv, Zeitschrift für Bankengeschichte*. Additionally, all organisations edit series of books, which in most cases are published irregularly. These books represent PhD- or other studies on a given subject. In other cases they provide a forum for chosen contributions to workshops etc. Today such VSWG-Beihefte number around 200. However, in contrast, some appear regularly. Since 1981, in typically Swiss understatement, *SGWSG* annually edits so called booklets (*Hefte*) - of sometimes more than 500 pages. AKKU publishes annually at least one leaflet, ZUG one volume on chosen contributions of proceedings of GUG, etc.

While there is a substantial, frequent and even growing amount of publications by these organisations and the related journals, the reflection of such activities from outside developed differently. In the beginning, during the 1960s and 1970s, gatherings of GSWG were reported not only by core-journals but by general and foreign journals of history. However, this attention was reduced over time. In 1995 and 1997 there was not a single review on the contributions to the proceedings in any journal any more.²³ These facts reveal a declining influence over time - an impression which is underlined when the reflection in newspapers is taken into account. While both, *Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss* and GUG managed to get recognition in newspapers up to today, articles reflecting GSWG's biennial meetings usually were restricted to local press.

¹ I want to thank Rolf Walter for comments and corrections. All errors remain with the author, of course.

² Brusatti, Alois, *Zur Geschichte der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte (ÖGU) (21 Jahre: 1971-1992)*, in: Matis, Herbert (ed.), *Historische Betriebsanalyse und Unternehmer*. Festschrift für Alois Mosser, Wien 1997, pp. 21-32, p. 31.

³ Joly, Hervé, *Patrons d'Allemagne, Sociologie d'une élite industrielle 1933-1989*, Presses de Sciences Po, Paris 1996; Ogilvie, Sheilagh, *State Corporation and Proto-Industry. The Württemberg Black Forest, 1580-1797*, Cambridge 1997; Berghoff, Hartmut, *Englische Unternehmer 1870-1914*, Göttingen, 1991; Walter, Rolf, *Europäische Unternehmen auf südamerikanischen Märkten: das Beispiel Venezuela vor 1914*, in: Pohl, Hans (ed.), *Competition and Cooperation of Enterprises on National and International Markets (19th - 20th century)*, Stuttgart, 1997, pp. 141-146.

⁴ Komlos, John, *Die Zukunft der Wirtschaftsgeschichte in Europa*, in: *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, Vol 82, No3, 1995, pp. 404-410, p. 404.

⁵ The most impressive accumulation of personnel was acquired by Wolfram Fischer during the 1980s with 3 secretaries, 3 *Assistenten* and 3 Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter, an amount which provoked that the institute he was working in informally was called even internationally after his name: "Fischer-Institut" instead of the official name "Institut für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte".

⁶ Jürgen Kuczyski was the second one in a line of three internationally known researchers; his father having been René and his son Thomas Kuczynski.

⁷ Fischer, Wolfram and Zschaler, Frank, *Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte*, in: Kocka, Jürgen/ Mayntz, Renate (Hg.), Wissenschaft und Wiedervereinigung. Disziplinen im Umbruch, Akademie Verlag, Berlin 1998, pp. 361-434.

⁸ It is part of the famous, more than 100 years old *Verein für Socialpolitik*.

⁹ There is a two-step procedure: 1. not application but suggestion by one member, backed by at least another one, 2. a lecture of the candidate on which the members vote for approval or disapproval. Up to the 1980s suggested persons have been disapproved, however since the 1990s the quality of the lecture seems to play no role any more, and all candidates have been accepted.

¹⁰ Rode, Jörg, Die Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte (1961-1998), Stuttgart, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1998, p. 12.

¹¹ Kellenbenz cited after Rode, p. 30.

¹² There is a Verein wirtschaftshistorischer Studien as well.

¹³ See in detail for Germany and Switzerland as well: Schröter, Harm G., *Business History in German Speaking States at the End of the Century, Achievements and Gaps*, in: Amatori, Franco and Alfred D. Chandler (eds.), "Business History Around the World at the End of the Twentieth Century", Cambridge, CUP, (forthcoming) 2002.

¹⁴ Brusatti, Alois, Ein neuer Verein für Unternehmerbiographie und Firmengeschichte, in: Tradition, Vol. 19 (1971), pp. 105-108.

¹⁵ Gras, Norman B., *Unternehmertum und Unternehmensgeschichte*, in: Zeitschrift für die gesamte Staatswirtschaft, No. 85 (1928), pp. 544-563, p. 546f; Larson, Henrietta, *Economic History: Retrospect and Prospect*, in: Bulletin of the Economic Historical Society, Vol. 21 (1947), No. 6, pp. 173-199, p. 173; Williamson, Harold, *Economic History and Economic History*, in: The Journal of Economic History, Vol. 26, (1966), No. 4, pp. 407-417, p. 407.

¹⁶ An exception is Heintges, Sebastian, Bilanzkultur und Bilanzpolitik in den USA und in Deutschland. Einflüsse auf die Bilanzpolitik börsennotierter Unternehmen, Verlag Wissenschaft und Praxis, Sternenfels and Berlin, 1997.

¹⁷ A recent book was edited by Cassis, Youssef and Tanner, Jakob (eds), Banken und Kredit in der Schweiz (1850-1930), Chronos, Zurich, 1993.

¹⁸ *Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte - Neue Wege? Zum wissenschaftlichen Standort des Faches*, Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte Vol. 82 (1995) pp. 387-422. The topic of the 17th meeting of GSWG was: *Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte. Gegenstand und Methode* (economic and social history. Agenda and methodology).

¹⁹ Currently such a survey is drawn up by Günther Schulz, our colleague at the University of Bonn.

²⁰ The application for a large project on economic history in Germany has been turned down by the DFG (German state sponsored research organisation) in 1998, while in Austria Franz Mathis chairs a project on *Zur Geschichte der österreichischen Unternehmer im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert* since a couple of years.

²¹Several scholars have reflected the state of the respective arts. Therefore here only recent ones are mentioned. A) Economic history: Kocka, Jürgen, Bodenverluste und Chancen der Wirtschaftsgeschichte, in: Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte, Vol. 82 (1995) pp. 502ff; Schulz Günther, Die neuere deutsche Wirtschaftsgeschichte: Themen - Kontroversen - Erträge der Forschung, in: Feldenkirchen, Wilfried et. al. (eds.), Wirtschaft, Gesellschaft, Unternehmen, Festschrift für Hans Pohl, Vol. 1., Stuttgart, 1995, pp. 400-425; Tilly, Richard, Wirtschaftsgeschichte als Disziplin, in: Ambrosius and Petzina and Plumpe, Moderne Wirtschaftsgeschichte, pp. 11-28; - B) Business history: Erker, Paul, Aufbruch zu neuen Paradigmen. Unternehmensgeschichte zwischen sozialgeschichtlicher und betriebswirtschaftlicher Erweiterung, in: Archiv für Sozialgeschichte, Vol. 37 (1997), pp. 321-365; Freudenberger Herman, Economic History in Austria, in: Bischof, Günter, and Pelinka, Anton, and Thurner, Erika (eds.), Women in Austria (Contemporary Austrian Studies, Vol. 6), Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick and London, 1998, pp. 221-241; Jäger, Hans, Unternehmensgeschichte in Deutschland seit 1945. Schwerpunkte - Tendenzen - Ergebnisse, in: Geschichte und Gesellschaft (GG), Vol. 18 (1992), pp. 107-132; Nieberding, Anne and Wischermann, Clemens, Unternehmensgeschichte im institutionellen Paradigma, in: Zeitschrift für Unternehmensgeschichte, Vol. 43 (1998), No.1, pp. 35-48; Plumpe, Werner, Unternehmen, in: Ambrosius and Petzina and Plumpe, pp. 47-68; Pohl, Hans, Die unternehmensgeschichtliche Forschung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland seit 1945, in: Klep, Paul and Cauwenberghe, Eddy van (eds.), Entrepreneurship and the Transformation of the Economy (10th-20th Centuries). Essays in the Honor of Herman van der Wee, Leuven, 1994, pp. 113-132.

²² See Mosser, Alois, Business History in Österreich, in: Alice Teichova, Herbert Matis, Andreas Resch (eds.), Business History. Wissenschaftliche Entwicklungstrends und Studien aus Zentraleuropa, (Veröffentlichungen der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte vol. 21) Wien, Manz Verlag, 1999, S. 53-65; Schröter, Harm G., Die Unternehmensgeschichtsschreibung und ihre institutionelle Entwicklung im deutschsprachigen Raum, in: Middell, Michael (ed.), Die Institutionalisierung der historischen Forschung in Deutschland (preliminary title), Leipzig (forthcoming) 2002

²³ Rode, Table 2-18, p. 89.