

Introduction to Special Issue “The *Jahrbuch*: The First 150 Years”

By Lachezar Grudev* and Stefan Kolev**

I. *Schmollers Jahrbuch* in the Context of German-Language Journals of Political Economy (1871–1944)***

1. On the Necessity of Scientific Journals in the Social Sciences

The origins of scientific journals can be traced back at least to the Enlightenment. In contrast to newspapers whose purpose was to inform about events and social problems, scientific journals expected their readers to possess the necessary knowledge about these events and social problems. Journal contributions commented and discussed these events in a broader political, politico-economic, and scientific context with the aim of elevating their significance for the development of science in general. In this context, the emergence of the scientific journals reflected the result of two tendencies in the late 18th century. The rise of a more educated audience interested in deepening one’s knowledge on topical problems, as well as the formation of scientific communities, fostered journals as an important medium of communication. The members of a scientific community were now able to popularize their achievements to the broader audience and to discuss with their colleagues the results of their research efforts. At the same time, journals were considered as a further source of funding that financed the administrative costs related to the organization of a scientific community (Raabe 1974; Martens 1980; Dann 1999).

The first academic journal, *Journal des sçavans*, was founded in 1664. Its purpose was to announce new publications, whereby its slogan was a journal from scientists for

* Chair for Contextual Economics and Economic Education, University of Siegen. Kohl-bettstr. 17, 57068 Siegen, Germany. The author can be reached at lachezar.grudev@uni-siegen.de.

** Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Applied Sciences Zwickau. Kornmarkt 1, 08056 Zwickau, Germany. The author can be reached at stefan.kolev@fh-zwickau.de.

*** The book of our former co-editor Erik Grimmer-Solem *The Rise of Historical Economics and Social Reform in Germany 1864–1894* (2003) was foundational for this part of the introduction.