

5.2. Intensification of animal husbandry in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Part II

Panel organiser: Jonasson, Maren, University of Abo Akademi, Finland

In this panel the innovations and new scientific methods concerning horse- and stockbreeding, dairy farming and milk trade c. 1830 to c. 1920 will be discussed. Special attention is given to case studies and local applications of these innovations and methods, but contributors will discuss the themes in broader perspectives as well, e.g. Nordic, European or global. The central aim of the panel is to link national and local case studies on breeding of domestic animals and on intensification of animal husbandry to more general trends of rationalization, professionalization and the development of science. The decline in the profitability of grain-growing and years of bad crop in the latter half of the 1800s forced many farmers to change their line of production and direct their energies towards a more intensified form of animal husbandry. In Finland, for instance, the so-called 'hunger years' in the late 1860s have been seen as a turning-point in this process, and parallel cases can be found in other European countries. The change of line in production, the rapid technical development and the commercialization of agriculture accentuated the position of cows and horses as the most significant domestic animals. The period c. 1830 to c. 1920 can in many respects be seen as the formative years of organized food and milk control, veterinary medicine and of studbook and herdbook systems, but many of the initiatives and measures taken needed adjustment and re-evaluation later on. This nuanced process of selecting the 'right path' within the different areas of breeding and animal production will be of interest in this panel. Part II of the panel will explore cattle husbandry in Northern Italy, the rise and decline of large-scale animal husbandry in Hungary, Friesian cattle in Barcelona and regulations on milk trade in Finland, whereas Part I focuses on livestock expositions in the United States, horse-breeding in Finland and a revolutionary French invention that spread across the world.

Chair: Martiin, Carin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden

Tuesday, 20 August 2013 // 1300 – 1500 // Session 5 – Room A-119

5.2.1. Cattle husbandry and breeding in Northern Italy (19th-early 20th century): the search for improvement

Fumi, Gianpiero, Catholic University of Milan, Italy

In the 19th century animal husbandry in Italy suffered some common problems: confusion of races, lack of specialization, scarce feeding and low productivity, recurrent animal diseases and epizootics. The foundation of the earlier schools of veterinary medicine at the beginning of the century was a push for change. They encouraged the development of scientific methods within animal husbandry and the spread of veterinarians, a new kind of practitioner, scientifically educated, vested with public duties and clearly distinct from farriers and other practical men. From the middle of the 19th until the early 20th century, Italy experienced a continuing expansion of cattle husbandry. In this period the scientific and technical acquisitions of hygiene and human nutrition science overlapped with the stricter requirements dictated by the food industry. Especially in the Po Valley a new point of view on animal husbandry came from pioneers and specialized institutions (deposits of breeding animals, national and international zootechnical exhibitions, herdbooks, experimental stations for animal diseases). A big step forward was the attempt to improve the cattle genetically by means of imported bulls (from Switzerland, the Low Countries, Denmark, Great Britain, France, etc.) and their cross with local races. The paper aims at re-evaluating the seemingly "exogenous" nature of innovation in agriculture and animal husbandry. Although elaborated outside the farm, it strongly depended on farmers' interests, capabilities and expectations interpreted by technicians, scientists and practitioners operating inside the private and public institutions.

5.2.2. Agromania and Animal husbandry: The rise and decline of large-scale animal husbandry in Hungary in the 18-19th centuries

Kürti, László, University of Miskolc, Hungary

In this presentation I discuss the changing nature of animal husbandry in the Hungarian Great Plain during the nineteenth century. I focus on the territory known as Little Cumania (Kiskunság) and the Jászság and argue that after 1745 a brand new form of animal husbandry developed resulting from the Habsburg policy of land leasing. Depopulated during the Ottoman rule, a large part of central Hungary was turned into royal property. Following the expulsion of the Turkish forces, repossessed land automatically became royal property of the Habsburg state. The state allowed several towns to lease land and begin animal husbandry. Herding mostly cattle, horses and sheep, towns developed a unique form of economy and life on these frontier territories. My aim is to show how

this large-scale animal breeding developed and subsequently how it facilitated the formation of new settlements. Finally, I argue that by the mid-19th century international political economy created a new situation forcing the abandonment of herding and the development of intensive grain production.

5.2.3. Dutch Cows under the Mediterranean Sun: Friesian Cattle and the Formation of a Dairy Herd in Barcelona, 1865-1936

Hernández Adell, Ismael, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Unlike other European countries, Spanish agricultural and economic historiography has paid little attention to the behaviour of dairy cattle between 1850s and 1930s, a situation that does not correspond to the high economic impact that this sector has had in Spain throughout the twentieth century. Sources indicate that by 1936 some parts of the country had established an exclusively dairy cattle herd, formed mainly by Dutch cattle. This feature of the sector, the existence of a specialized dairy herd, was the result of a long process of transformation in farming that began in the last decades of the nineteenth century. In this process, major cities played a central role in the introduction of Dutch cows for milk production. The paper studies the case of Barcelona for two reasons. First, Barcelona was an important urban and industrial centre in the late nineteenth century and secondly, during the first third of the twentieth century staged a steady increase in the consumption of cow's milk. This was possible because the introduction of Dutch cows in the territory of the city and nearby districts. The analysis is divided into three sections: (1) number, geographical distribution and yielding characteristics of Spanish cattle; (2) innovation process in Spanish cattle through the importation of Dutch Friesian cattle and acclimatization problems that faced Dutch cattle breeders in the Mediterranean context; (3) results of the introduction of Dutch Friesian cattle in the location of livestock, milk yield and consumption of fluid milk.

5.2.4. Manors and the regulations on milk trade in Tampere

Mäntylä, Mirja, University of Tampere, Finland

At the turn of the twentieth century there were still several manors in the immediate surroundings of Tampere, the largest industrial town in Finland at the time (about 30,000 inhabitants). These manors were specialized in milk production and in their modern brick cowsheds there were 100–300 cows, the milk of which was sold to Tampere. I study the role and the significance of manors concerning the milk trade and food control in Tampere in the late 1800s and early 1900s. I will ask how the owners of manor houses influenced the food control and dairy trade rules of the town and how they reacted to bovine tuberculosis, which was believed to be passed on to humans by milk. In the 1890s many significant changes concerning the milk trade in Tampere took place. The Food Control Station began to operate and the municipal regulations concerning the trade of groceries came into force. It is also evident that concerning the bovine tuberculosis municipal authorities were trying to extend their control to the cowsheds of large dairy farms, far beyond the administrative borders of the town. However, the interests of big producers and town authorities were much the same when it came to adulteration and the quality of milk. The large farms also co-operated with the authorities of the town. Norms and rules on quality, classification and trade of milk were created largely as a result of negotiation between the different parties.

Participants

Fumi, Gianpiero

Gianpiero Fumi is Professor of Economic History at the Catholic University of Milan, Faculty of Economic. His research in agricultural history deals with various topics, such as the diffusion of agronomic knowledge and publishing in modern Italy, education, cattle breeding and markets, as well as agrarian policy in modern Italy.

Hernández Adell, Ismael

Ismael Hernández Adell obtained his Ph.D. in Economic History at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) in 2012 with a dissertation on the production and consumption of milk in Spain between 1865 and 1936. His research focuses on how environmental, agrarian and livestock conditions of Spain determined the supply of milk and provides new data on milk consumption among different population groups. He is assistant researcher at the Economic History Unit of the UAB and his research interests are: food history; farming and agricultural innovations; spread of new patterns of food consumption; technological innovation and agri-food industry.

Jonasson, Maren

Maren Jonasson is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Nordic history, at the University of Abo Akademi in Finland. Her main fields of scholarly interest include agricultural meetings and expositions in the Nordic countries in the 19th century and modern textual scholarship. She is currently working as editor-in-chief of the trilingual editing and publishing project, *The Collected Works of Anders Chydenius, 1729–1803*.

Kürti, László

László Kürti is a social anthropologist (PhD, University of Massachusetts, 1989). He has taught anthropology at The American University in Washington DC, and the

Eötvös University in Budapest, and presently teaches at the University of Miskolc, Hungary. He has conducted fieldwork in North America, Romania and Hungary. His English-language books include: *The Remote Borderland* (2001), *Youth and the state in Hungary* (2002), and he has served as co-editor for *Beyond Borders* (1996), *Working Images* (2004) and *Every Day's a Festival: Diversity on Show* (2011). From 2001 to 2006 he was secretary of the European Association of Social Anthropologists.

Mäntylä, Mirja

Mirja Mäntylä is a doctoral student in history at the University of Tampere, Finland. Her research interests are the history of dwelling, constructed and lived spaces, country houses and the connections between urban and rural. Her current research project is a Ph.D. dissertation on the country houses or manors in the surroundings of Tampere and their contacts with the economical, social and political life of the town at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century.

Martiin, Carin

Carin Martiin is Associate Professor in Agrarian History in the Department of Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden. She is an agronomist, PhD in Agrarian History and docent in Economic History. Among the publications are the textbook *'The World of Agricultural Economics: An introduction'* (Routledge, April 2013) and articles in Brassley, Segers, Van Molle 'War, Agriculture, and Food' (Routledge 2012), *Rural History* (2010) and *Agricultural History Review* (2008). Her research interests include cattle husbandry and dairy production, and 20th century agricultural politics in Sweden and internationally.