Assume that someone would try to predict
the development of mathematical logic circa
1900. Probably, he would point out
Germany, England, and perhaps France as
the central countries. Certainly, this person
would not mention Poland, and not only
because there was no such country at that
time. Thirty year later, Heinrich Scholz, the
first modern historian of logic, called
Warsaw one of the capitals of mathematical
logic. How did a country without special
traditions in logic so quickly arrive at the top
of this field? What happened that permitted
Fraenkel and Bar-Hillel to write: “There is
probably no country which has contributed,
relative to the size of its population, so
much to mathematical logic and set theory
as Poland”? This paper tries to explain the
phenomenon called “Polish logic” by
pointing out the wider context in which logic
in Poland was done.
‘Mathematical Logic in Poland 1900–1939: People, Circles, Institutions.’ 1. Keywords. Semantic Category Aristotelian Conception Foundational Study Polish Logic Cardinal Arithmetic. These keywords were added by machine and not by the authors. This process is experimental and the keywords may be updated as the learning algorithm improves. I am indebted to dottoressa Arianna Betti, of Genoa University, and presently EU Huygens Fellow at Leyden, for help with Polish source material, as well as to Dr. M. van Arten, Utrecht University, who came to my aid in tracking the original German text of Tarski.