

ON THE BEGINNINGS OF THE TRAVEL MOVEMENT IN PODHALE (1251-1911)

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Abstract:

The main article purpose is to underline tourism beginnings in Podhale in years 1251 - 1911. This article is an analysis of available source materials (including the press showing up in the interwar period, and the information calendar by PZN), thank to which we managed to merge the data on the construction and operation of 15 shelters in the Highlands. The narration starts with the information about "Tatra Station" - the first hostel granting accommodation and meals, established in 1874 in Zakopane and ends with a description of the construction and operation of ski and tourist station of the Krakow Branch of Tatra Society of Skiers at Kobakowa in Bukowina Tatrzańska.

INTRODUCTION

The influx of settlers in the Podhale about the thirteenth century bears the marks of the necessity of migration linked to the exploration of suitable sites for construction of residential buildings, as well as cattle, sheep and agricultural production. The second phase of wandering around Podhale is associated with the exploration of minerals and ores (such as: silver, gold and iron), as well as reconnaissance. The basis for the development of the tourist movement on Polish soil in Podhale, in addition to the indisputable natural values, have had the shelters and hostels built and run by tourist organizations, including PTT, TTN, KTN, ZHP and PTK.

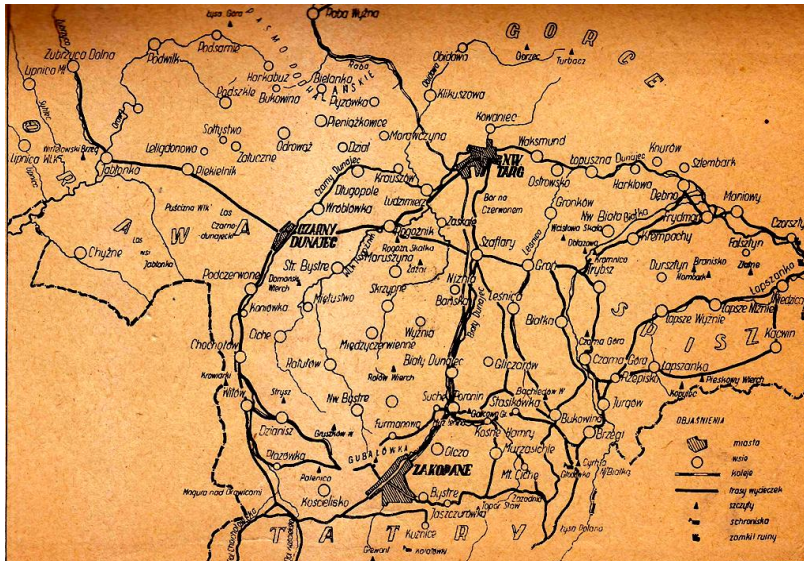
Records about the early settlements in Podhale date back to the first years of the thirteenth century. There are also known the privileges of Prince Henry the Bearded granted in 1234 and exercised from the transumpt in 1251 allowing Teodor Gryfic, palatine of Cracow, to settle German (ie. Teutonic Silesian) colonists in the said area... *...in silva circa fluvios Ostrowsko, Dunaiecz et Dunaiecz niger, Rogoźnik, Lipietnicza, Słona, Ratainicha, Nedelsc, Stradoma, quantum est de sylva ipsius, dantes eciam sil his pactis et his condicionibus uti, quibus Theutonici Sleser ses in sylvis locati utuntur...*¹.

The record shows that the prince allowed locating the German settlers in the forests along the rivers Ostrowsko, Dunajec and Czarny Dunajec, Rogoznik – right-hand tributary of the Black Dunajec, Lepietnica – left-hand tributary of the Czarny Dunajec, as well as Słona, Ratajnica, Niedzielsko and Stradomka in Beskid². Gorce is the northern border of Podhale.

¹ S. Radzikowski: *Tatry i Podhale na początku XIX in.* „Przegląd Zakopiański” 1907, Lud. T. III, p. 1897; W. Matlakowski: *Budownictwo ludowe na Podhalu*, Kraków 1898; *Kodeks Dyplomatyczny Małopolski*, I 21; K. Dobrowolski: *Migracje wołoskie na ziemiach polskich*, Lwów 1930; Z. Hołub-Pacewiczowa: *Osadnictwo pasterskie i wędrówki w Tatrach i na Podhalu*, Kraków 1931; K. Dobrowolski: *Najstarsze osadnictwo Podhala*, Lwów 1935; J. Rafacz: *Dzieje i ustrój Podhala Nowotarskiego*, Warszawa 1935; T. Zwoliński: *Zakopane i Podhale*, Warszawa 1935; K. Przerwa-Tetmajer: *Na Skalnym Podhalu*, Warszawa 1951; Z. W. Paryscy: *Bukowina Tatrzańska*, Warszawa 1952.

² *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*, Warszawa 1975–1977, vol. IX. p. 684; *Urkunden und erzählende Quellen zur deutschen Ostsiedlung im Mittelalter. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft*, 1970 part. 2. p. 316; K. R. Kötzschke: *Quellensammlung zur deutschen Geschichte*, 1902 vol.

The landscape of Podhale is vast peat bogs and alluvial fans. Geographically Podhale is divided into "Rocky Podhale", which extends from Brzegi and Bukovina as far as Zakopane, Kościelisko and Witów and "Low Podhale", which stretches to the northern borders of the region.



Map of tourist routes in Podhale, B. Brzezińska: Bukowina Tatrzańska, Warsaw 1954, p. 121.



Map of Zakopane and the surrounding area in 1937. Map from the collections of the WIG.

IX, p. 94; *Lud.* vol. 25–29, Nakładem Towarzystwa Ludoznawczego, 1926. p. 20; K. Tymieniecki, Z. Wojciechowski: *Roczniki historyczne* 1960, vol. 26–28.

Outstanding by their size villages in the Podhale before 1939 were the following: Białka Tatrzańska, Biały Dunajec, Bukowina Tatrzańska, Chochołów, Czarny Dunajec, Czorsztyn, Gronków, Kościelisko, Ludźmierz, Nowy Targ (the historical capital of Podhale), Poronin, Raba Wyżna, Spytkowice, Szaflary, Witów and Zakopane³.

The beginnings of tourist exploration in the Podhale were started at the beginning of the nineteenth century by Stanisław Staszic, followed almost simultaneously by the geologist Louis Zejszner⁴, poets, among others, Seweryn Goszczyński and Vincent Pol, physician Dr. Titus Chałubiński, painter Stanisław Witkiewicz, writer Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, musician Mieczysław Karłowicz and many others. Due to their visits villages in Podhale became popular in the Polish society.



Zakopane 1891, The first villa on Krupówki, built in 1877 by Walery Eljasz, acquired in 1881 by Balbina Zalewska from Warsaw, was burned in a fire in Zakopane on 21 January 1899, Fot. Walery Eljasz, illustration from the publication „O dawnym Zakopanem”.

Tourist movement started to develop actively since the beginning of the twentieth century. The spread of tourism in the Tatra Mountains was boosted after the formation in 1873 of the Tatra Society, whose activists engaged themselves in the infrastructure development, especially in mountainous areas.

³ K. Dobrowolski: *Z przeszłości Podhala*, Kraków 1929; *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*, 1975–1977, vol. IX. p. 684; *Urkunden und erzählende Quellen zur deutschen Ostsiedlung im Mittelalter. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft*, 1970 part. 2, p. 316.

⁴ Prof. Ludwik Zejszner, born in 1805 in Warsaw. Ludwik Zejszner graduated from high school named after Linde in Warsaw and then for two years studied at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw. During his studies at UW he became friends with Romuald Hube, later senator of the Polish Kingdom. In 1824, 19-year-old Ludwik began his peregrinations in Germany, with a view to greater familiarity with the scientific methods of studying the Earth - mineralogy, paleontology and geology. He studied in Berlin, where he got to know one of the greatest naturalists of the nineteenth century, Alexander Humboldt (whose part of the first volume of *Kosmos*, concerning geology, L. Zejszner many years later will translate into Polish). In 1825 L. Zejszner moved to Göttingen, where he obtained a doctoral degree. L. Zejszner combined his university studies with intensive practice of geology in the area - this way of doing scientific work will be peculiar for him till the end of his career. He died tragically in Krakow in 1871; A. Chałubińska: *Ludwik Zejszner jako geograf*, Kosmos 1928, R. 53 nr 2–3, p. 245–286.



Zakopane, hotel "Stamary" external view, stock NAC, Ref. 1-G-7000-9.

For the convenience of the increasing numbers of tourists arriving in Podhale there began to emerge inns, taverns, shelters and tourist hostels in Zakopane, such as „Kasyno Towarzystwa” in 1874 ; „Dworzec Tatrzański” in 1882, „Dom Wycieczkowy” named after Bp J. Stolarczyk, hotels such as „Morskie Oko”, „Stamary”, „Skoczyska” and „Turystyczny” of Józef Siczka.



Zakopane, years 1890-1899, the first hotel in Zakopane "Pod Giewontem" (1875)., Fot. Archive of the Tatra Museum.

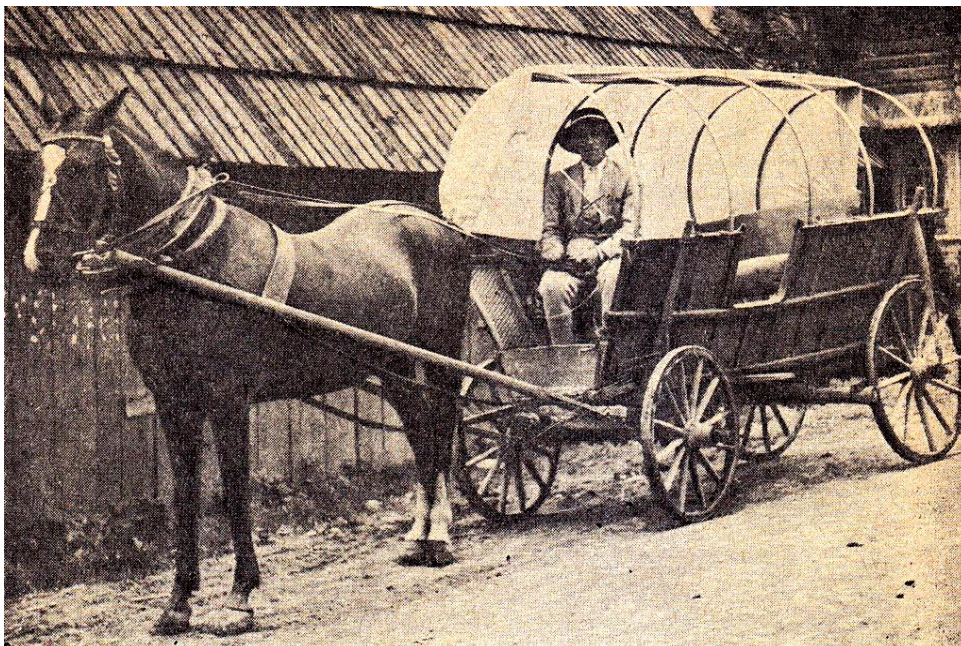
Ski and tourist stations, among others, PTT of Lviv ACT, “Dom Akamicki” SN AZS Krakow, as well as a shelter in the pension "Cieszynianka" belonging to Silesian Provincial Tourism Commission; night shelters: Związku Pracy Obywatelskiej Kobiet, Związku Polskich Nauczycieli Szkół Powszechnych in villa „Mołodów”, Towarzystwa Pomocy Naukowych in the dormitory on Krupówki.



Zakopane 1901. The first known view of Hotel "Staszczakówka", postcard sent on July 11, 1901.

Hostels, ski stations and tourist accommodations in other locations, such as:

- in Białka: Narciarsko-Turystyczna TKN belonging to R. Reptowska;
- in Bukowina: guesthouse „Łomnica” owned by Wiktoria i Józef Bigos; ski stadion of Zakopane PTT branch in „Dom Ludowy”; ski station of the Krakow Branch of Tatra Skiers Society at Kobakowa in Bukowina Tatrzańska.
- on Gubałówka: the first tavern and shelter by A. Stoch and Mary and John Piasecki; ski and tourist station TKN at the inn owned by J. Łasak and hostel-restaurant opened on December 20, 1938 on Gubałówka by the League for the Promotion of Tourism in the framework of the investment before the FIS championship in 1939. (without sleeping);
- on Głodówka: family shelter "Bigosówka" and scout hostel ZHP - "Głodówka";
- in Jurgów, shelter of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education, and inns in other places.



Highlander cart for passenger transport, so called *fasiaq*, popular in Podhale and Tatra, B. Brzezińska: *Bukowina Tatrzańska*, Warsaw 1954, p. 24.

Visitors arriving in Zakopane and other places also benefited from the opening hotels. The first was built in Zakopane in 1885 at Nowotarska Street for Romuald Kulig. It was the first in the city and by the end of the nineteenth century the largest hotel in Zakopane. The building had a few dozen of rooms and a restaurant. The first stop of a regular communication route was opened near the hotel⁵. Due to the excellent health conditions that prevailed in the area, Austrian authorities in 1886 granted this area the spa status.



PKP railway station in Chabówka, before 1914.

An important event, especially for the development of tourism in Zakopane and Podhale, was building the railway line, which considerably increased the number of travelers to the town. First, on 18 August 1899 a railway line from Chabówka to Nowy Targ⁶ was built. The next stage of the railway route to Zakopane was finished on October 25, 1899⁷.



1905. Giewont view from Skibówki in Zakopane, stock fotopolska.eu, <http://fotopolska.eu/321593,foto.html?o=u20160>.

⁵ L. Świerz: *Pamiętnik Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego*, 1885, p. 94; author of the "Diary ..." describes the development of Zakopane, starting from 1873. In the description, among others, he mentioned construction in 1882 of the telegraph station. The station was a result of the efforts by the Tatra Society.

⁶ „Przegląd Zakopiański” of 18 August 1899.

⁷ *Miedzy niebem i ziemią*, „Sportowiec”, 1952 nr 30, pp. 14–15.

A significant impact on the rise of tourism in Podhale was caused by the developing winter sports. The first skiing competition conducted in 1907 began the development of winter sports, and in the 20s of the twentieth century Zakopane hailed as the winter sports capital. One of the first luxury hotels in Zakopane was murowaniec (brick and stone made) "STAMAR" built according to the plans of the architect Eugeniusz Wesołowski in 1902-1904⁸.



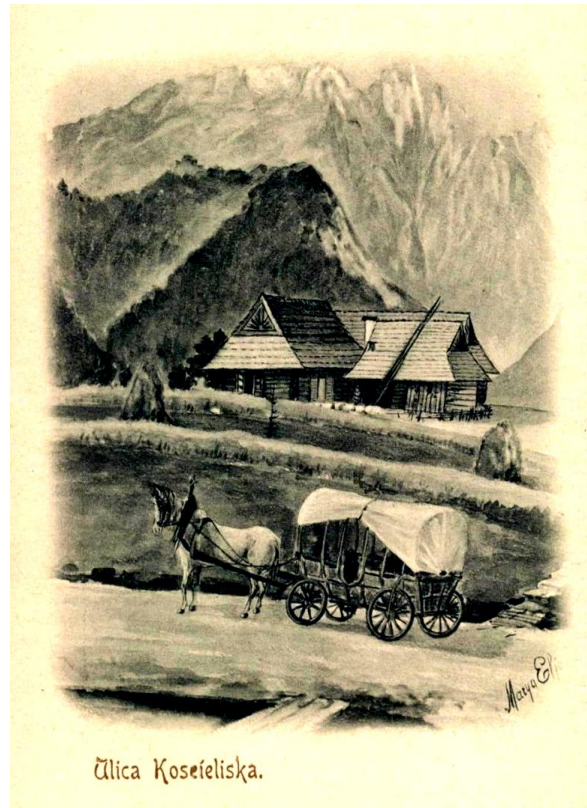
(C) - Górale i Tatry...
1895. Zakopane highlander furka / fasiaąg waiting for tourists / lowlanders,
<http://www.jacekptak.nazwa.pl/dawno.temu.w.zakopanem.html> (access, 18.09.2014).

The first means of transport adapted to carry "guests" on the route Krakow - Zakopane was unsprung highlander cart, called by tourists "furka" and the mountaineers called it "fasiąg". "Furka" had a chassis of the peasant cart with woven wicker sides, which in other parts of Poland were called "pułkoszki".

Inside the "furka" between the sides were fastened two horizontal seats, the front one without a back support for the carter and the other one, usually double, with backrest for tourists. Behind the seat for tourists was a space for horse fodder and food supplies that tourists had for the whole time of stay in Zakopane⁹.

⁸ J. Nyka: „Tatry Polskie”, Warszawa 1992, p. 41.

⁹ L. Długołęcka, M. Pinkwart: *Zakopane – Przewodnik Historyczny*, Warszawa 1988; J. Skowroński: *Dawno temu w Tatrach*, Łódź 2003; J. Skowroński: *Tatry międzywojenne*, Łódź 2003; M. Pinkwart: *Przedwojenne Tatry, Zakopane i Podhale. Najpiękniejsze fotografie*, Warszawa 2011; W. Mischke: *Księga gór i budowli Macieja Mischke, Polskie Towarzystwo Tatrzańskie*, Kraków 2009; R. Malczewski: *Pepek świata. Wspomnienia z Zakopanego*, Łomianki 2011; R. Dutkovej (ed.): *Zakopane. 400 lat dziejów*, Kraków 1991; W. Skupień: *Tatry i Podtatrze*, Zakopane 2004; W. Piksa: *Spojrzenie na Tatry poprzez wieki. Od pierwszych wzmianek do Oświecenia*, Kraków – Wrocław 1995; T. Zwijacz Kozica: *Krok w przeszłość, krok w przyszłość. Kuźnice wczoraj i dziś*, Zakopane 2010; A. Liberak: *Jak kupowano Zakopane*, [in] *Pamiętnik Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego*, t. 2, Kraków 1993; K. J. Szmidi: *Komu i czemu winny służyć góry?*, [in] *Pamiętnik Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego*, Kraków 1995; A. Rutkowski: *Zakopane. Historia miejscowości*, www.sztetl.org.pl; *Krótko o Zakopanem i historii*, www.kozica.pl (dostęp, 18.09.2014); *Pomnik „Prometeusz Rozstrzelany”*, www.z-ne.pl, (dostęp, 18.09.2014); Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe, www.nac.gov.pl; Polska na fotografiach, www.fotopolska.eu, (dostęp, 18.09.2014); *Pasja i zauroczenie. Oficjalna strona Jacka Ptaka*, <http://www.jacekptak.nazwa.pl/dawno.temu.w.zakopanem.html> (dostęp, 18.09.2014).



1895. On Koscieliska street a popular means of transport (fasiąg) in the sub-Tatra region, postcard from picture by M. Eljasz , (postcard).



1901. Zakopane, *fasiągi* on Sunday by the Holy Family church, residents on Krupówki street, postcard from 1901.

The academic societies organizing tourist expeditions were caring chiefly about securing their own shelter, which has always been a very important matter for academic tourists. This resulted, in part, from severe and permanent - as it is usual with students - lack of money on expensive hostels and pensions, and also from the desire to be in their own company, under the terms of their own. The ancestors of the student hostels were two rooms rented by the AKT in Zakopane. Since 1909 AKT for their members (and not only) ran their own tourist house in rented premises, first in Kiry, and later in Zakopane. In 1911 the academia appointed an official committee which was to raise funds to build their own shelters in Zakopane, but World War I thwarted those plans.