

Introduction

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The history of mountain tourism and mountaineering is part of history in general, particularly the history of culture, civilisation and technological progress. Its beginnings are closely linked on the one hand to the exploration of the mountains of scientific nature and on the other — to economic as well as religious-spiritual motivations. The history and development of mountain tourism are also associated with changes in individual and collective attitudes to nature as well as lifestyles of various groups in society. In turn, given the aesthetic, environmental and structural specificity of the mountains, we can speak of a certain uniqueness and distinct nature of this type of tourism. Significantly, already at the starting point it is separated into a conquering-sporting (extreme) variant and a softer, exploratory-recreational variant.

In recent decades we have seen a considerable rise in the popularity of mountain tourism and, at the same time, mountain sports in all their varieties. This has been accompanied by an intense growth of mountain literature and broadly defined mountain writing. Thus there is a clear need for integrated research into social, cultural and literary phenomena associated with the mountains, both in the contemporary and historical contexts, research aimed at giving an appropriate status to the discussion about the history and contemporary phenomena in mountain tourism.

Bearing in mind the history of mountain tourism, it is also worth mentioning Jerzy Hajdukiewicz's observation that "the history of mountaineering should be marked by different dates and divided into different periods than the general history of humanity. This is influenced by a lack of parallelism in cultural and historical development as well as the evolution of the attitude of humans to the world of the mountains."¹ In order to define the patterns on which could be based the history of mountain tourism and mountaineering, it is not enough to use simply the criteria of various periods in the history of culture — an important role in this is also played by the degree of the exploration of the mountains. In turn, the history of mountain exploration is inextricably linked to the history of mountaineering and tourism; viewing the matter from this perspective, we can distinguish in it several main stages which do not coincide with successive stages in the history of culture and literature or even history in general. That is why recalling certain anniversaries of events from the history of mountain tourism and mountaineering opens up perspectives including various aspects of the subject, which is an important factor inspiring new research in this respect.

Although the ascent of Haemus Mons in 217 BC by Philip V of Macedon is regarded as the first documented (recorded by Livy) touristic-sporting ascent of

¹ J. Hajdukiewicz, *Dzieje alpinizmu — część pierwsza*, <https://drytooling.com.pl/serwis/info/art/artykuly/1248-dzieje-alpinizmu-cz1-jerzy-hajdukiewicz> (accessed: 28.12.2018).

a mountain peak, the most important event in the modern history of mountain tourism and mountaineering is the ascent of Mont Blanc on 8 August 1786 by Jacques Balmat and doctor Michel-Gabriel Paccard. Thirty-two years later, in 1818, the first Slav to ascend the highest mountain in Europe was the Polish Romantic poet Antoni Malczewski. It should be stressed at this point that the entire 19th century was marked by the spirit of sporting rivalry in the ascent of the highest peaks and, at the same time, development and popularisation of mountain tourism. As early as in 1817 an association of guides and sedan chair carriers (*Gebirgs-Führer und Stuhlträger*) was established in Jelenia Góra, in 1857 the first British Alpine Club was formed and sixteen years later — in 1873 — the Galician Tatra Society was launched in Nowy Targ.

The history of mountain tourism and mountaineering, while being part of broadly defined historical research, stands out to some degree by virtue of its pragmatic nature. It encompasses a vast group of cultural phenomena the history of which — although sometimes running along similar lines as general history of social life — in some aspects displays clear differences, being, as it is, the history of specific, variously motivated individual and collective human behaviours. The multiplicity of their forms means that they appear in the context of diverse ideological motivations (the so-called ideology of mountaineering) and they are often based on consciously chosen philosophical grounds. Thus the history of mountain tourism and mountaineering concerns both individual feats of explores and the history of organisational forms — clubs and associations of people interested in the mountains. Throughout their evolution mountain tourism and mountaineering have revealed their considerable culture-creating capabilities manifested in literary and artistic oeuvres as well as emergence of unique subcultures (folklore and “professional” languages of mountaineers).

The articles included in the present, twelfth volume of the annual publication *Góry – Literatura – Kultura* (Mountains – Literature – Culture) thus focus on cultural, social, political and artistic phenomena associated with the development of mountain tourism and mountaineering, particularly between the second half of the 18th and first decade of the 21st centuries. The volume features papers by scholars representing Polish and foreign research centres. German-language articles have been published in their original version and in translation into Polish.

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