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Education for nature conservation in the year's issue "Wierchy"

The Polish Tatra Society was founded in 1873 as the first Polish tourist association in Kuźnice near Zakopane. At the beginning it functioned under the name: the "Galician" Tatra Society, later (1874 – 1920) as Tatra Society. In this period, under the Society's operation, the Nature Section was formed in 1910, and the Tatra Conservation Section in 1912. In 1920 the name of the association was changed into: the Polish Tatra Society. It should be noted that the Society was granted a number of awards with regard to popularising natural history and developing the regional culture of Zakopane and Szczawnica. Moreover, it supported the nature preservation of Tatra and pursued publishing activity.

The Polish Tatra Society has been issuing "Wierchy" every year since 1923. It contained articles about mountain tourism and the value of the beautiful and healthy life environment. Justification was provided for the educational process that stresses the importance of nature conservation and appreciation of the priceless value of nature. The year's issue "Wierchy" replaces the magazine "Pamiętnik", which was being issued by the Polish Tatra Society until 1920 (cf. "Wierchy", 1926, p. 229). It should be stressed that in the third publishing year, "Wierchy" was considered a body of the Tatra Society of the Lviv branch. In the fourth publishing year, the Main Management Board of the Society joined the publishing house of the magazine. In 1927 the Main Management Board assumed its edition. Since 1929 (that is in the seventh publishing year), based on the resolution of the Meeting of Delegates of 27 March 1928, all members of the Polish Tatra Society have been receiving "Wierchy" free of charge together with the report of the Main Management Board (published also by the Polish Tatra Society). The task of editing the magazine was entrusted to Prof Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski (who was the editor-in-chief and at the same time the representative of the Lviv branch) and Prof. Walery Goetel (vice-president of the Polish Tatra Society and representative of the Main Management Board of the Society) (cf. "Wierchy", 1932, p. 125).

The editor-in-chief, Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski has explained the great importance of conservation of the Tatra nature (Pawlikowski, 1923a, pp. 12-25), as well as the protection of chamois (Pawlikowski, 1923b, pp. 185-191) already in the first issue of "Wierchy". In particular parts of the magazine, the readers were informed about the activity of branches of the Polish Tatra Society and organised trips, lectures about Tatra flora and fauna ("Wierchy", 1924, p. 248), as well as about the activity in the area of nature conservation.

It was explained to the readers that in 1923 the Tatra Conservation Section of the Polish Tatra Society¹ addressed the issue of "protecting Tatra plants – in particular the leontopodium and the Pinus cembra. As a result, the Society issued relevant announcements which were printed at the expense of the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation and distributed in mountain huts, hotels and boarding houses. The police intervened in this matter more fiercely than before, forbidding trade in leontopodium" ("Wierchy", 1924, p. 249). The Tatra Conservation Section intervened also in the case of building a brickyard in Zakopane in order to reduce the negative impact of this investment, it also opined the project of a bobsleigh track and ski jump on the Krokiew hill. The Section addressed a memorial to the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment on devastation of nature during school trips to the Tatra mountains. In the memorial it was written that due to insufficiently thought-through, poorly-planned and -organised trips, many accidents take place in the mountains. But that is not all: "pupils walk in the mountains next to a forest tree nursery (...) the young trip participants pull out the small trees, so does even the teacher. When one of the nursery workers, an intelligent man, delicately admonished this person², what he received as an answer is that the teacher does not care about it (...) the view on the other side includes littered up, polluted, destroyed paths, ponds with beds covered by broken bottle glass and cans, burned fields of dwarf mountain pines. If we add to this the uncultured public giving, in this respect, a bad example to the young (it makes a lot of noise, shoots the

¹ *The presidium of the Tatra Conservation Section of the Polish Tatra Society was composed of: J. G. Pawlikowski (president), S. Sokołowski and senator K. Prauss (vice-president), K. Stryjeński and H. Romaniszynowa (secretaries). The delegate to the Main Management Board of the Polish Tatra Society was S. Sokołowski, and to the Tatra Works Committee – M. Sokołowski. Address of the Section: The Tatra Museum in Zakopane. cf. "Wierchy". A year's issue devoted to mountains and the highland culture. Published thanks to the efforts of the Lviv branch of the Polish Tatra Society under the editorship of Prof Dr Jan G. Pawlikowski (editor-in-chief), Prof Dr Adolf Chybiński, Dr Roman Kordys, curator of the Tatra Museum Juliusz Zborowski, publishing house Księgarnia Wydawnicza H. Altenberga, Lviv 1924 (year's issue 2), p. 250.*

² *Admonition (latin admonitio) in: W. Kopaliński, Słownik wyrazów obcych i zwrotów obcojęzycznych z almanachem [The Dictionary of words and phrases of foreign origin], publishing house Oficyna Wydawnicza RYTM, Warsaw 2007, p. 14.*

revolvers etc.), what we see is an appalling image of the mountains and relations prevalent therein" (Sokołowski, 1924, p. 251).

In the aforementioned memorial, the Tourist Section and the Tatra Conservation Section of the Polish Tatra Society asked the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment to prepare a circular letter to regional education offices and to scouts, in order to oblige them to comply with the rules of nature conservation. It was proposed that only final grade pupils of junior high schools participate in Tatra trips, while younger pupils participate only in hikes in the area of Zakopane³. The memorial contained also the statement that it should be presented to school trip participants (on lectures, discussions and slides) what are the rules of proper behaviour in Tatra and nature sightseeing. They should be told about the "cultured behaviour in the Tatra mountains (protection of Tatra animals and plants)" (Sokołowski, 1924, p. 251).

The issues concerning cultural background of the educational process for nature conservation were also addressed in the third issue of "Wierchy" of 1925. In the article entitled "Beskid w poezji Emila Zegadłowicza", Edward Kozikowski presented poems related to the Polish highland culture (Kozikowski, 1925, pp. 160-167), while Tadeusz Mischke in his article entitled "O Góralach i ich stosunku do ludności napływowej" [On Highlanders and their attitude towards immigrants] focused on the educational process. He provided justification for the statement that education is "an activity of injecting culture" (Mischke, 1925, p. 222). Mischke identified the educational process with protection and care (cf. "O Góralach i ich stosunku do ludności napływowej", p. 218).

Nature conservation in the Tatras, Pieniny and Beskids was described in the chapter entitled "Sprawa rezerwatów" [The issue of nature reserves]. As already mentioned before, great regret was expressed in the magazine at the badly organised school trips. It was written that "a similar epidemic for the Tatras (...) are the scout camps, especially when their managers do not take the interest of mountain conservation into consideration! It would seem that ideas such as nature conservation should be a part of the scout education, rather than lead to a conflict with scouting, though it is a nice idea (...) Neither is it part of a scout concept to destroy the dwarf pine zone, set fire in the forest and constantly disturb the mountain silence by blowing the trumpet" ("Wierchy", 1925, p. 267).

When sharing the knowledge about Polish mountains and promoting the passion for the native nature and its conservation, the authors of the articles referred to the sources of Polish culture of particular historic eras. The article of Mieczysław Świerz entitled "Stanisław Staszic w Tatrach" [Stanisław Staszic in the Tatra

³ *Hala Gąsienicowa, Western Tatras – Bobrowiec, Wołowiec, Rakoń, Morskie Oko.*

mountains] can serve as an example here. The author reminded the culture ethos of the Age of Enlightenment in the works of Stanisław Staszic, who "considered nature to be not a habitat of secret powers, but an area governed by permanent and unfaltering rules" (Świercz, 1926, p. 17).

In the issue of "Wierchy" of 1926, information was provided on a conference devoted to nature conservation that took place on 4 January 1925 during the 12th Congress of Polish Physicians and Naturalists, and in July 1925 there was an exhibition devoted to this matter ("Wierchy", 1926, p. 161). In the next number of 1927 there was only a mention of nature conservation ("Wierchy", 1927, p. 169), and in the sixth number there was a new section devoted to descriptions of Polish mountains and the Polish highland culture. It was stressed that the descriptions may be of historical value. They are valuable because "by providing information on issues belonging already to the past, on the other hand they shed light on the spiritual development of the human attitude towards mountains" ("Wierchy", 1928, p. 119).

In number seven, eight and nine (similarly as in the issue of 1927), not much was written about nature conservation ("Wierchy", 1929, p. 188; cf. "Wierchy", 1931, pp. 32-46). In the jubilee number – the tenth one, the topic of cultural background for the relationship between humans and nature was restored (Lubertowicz, 1932, pp. 1-10). There was also a reference to the works of J. J. Rousseau who "converted nature into the beloved confidante of the man" (Romaniszyn, 1932, p. 48).

In the magazine it was stressed that in 1913 the 40th jubilee of founding the Polish Tatra Society was solemnly celebrated in Cracow, and that since 1923 "Wierchy" has been published ("Wierchy", 1932, p. 125). What is precious – due to the process of education for nature conservation – apart from conclusions and summaries of scientific research concerning Polish mountains, the magazine included articles devoted to the importance of nature conservation (in the section entitled "Ochrona przyrody" [Nature conservation] and "Parki Narodowe" [National parks]). Justification was provided for the following statement: "the idea of nature conservation has to fight its way through to the understanding of the society" (ibid., p. 127).

The readers have also been informed that the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation published in 1932 a collective work under scientific editorship of Władysław Szafer entitled "Skarby przyrody i ich ochrona" [The treasures of nature and their conservation], constituting a review of all issues concerning the theoretical and practical side of nature conservation (Mileski, 1932, p. 209). This work was developed for nature lovers, teachers and pupils, students and "all those who in their work and hobby activities come across nature conservation, its practical use and issued related to it" (ibid.). As agreed by the Polish State Council for Nature

Conservation and the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment, the work is compounded of the following chapters: J. G. Pawlikowski "Ogólny rzut oka na istotę ochrony przyrody, jej znaczenie i sposoby realizacji" [General overview of the essence of nature conservation, its meaning and ways of implementation], W. Szafer "Z dziejów ochrony przyrody" [From the history of nature conservation], J. Smoleński "Ochrona krajobrazu" [Landscape protection], H. Jasiński "Stosunek techniki do ochrony przyrody" [The relation of technology to nature conservation], W. Szafer "O parkach narodowych" [On national parks], A. Wodziczko "Ochrona roślin" [Protecting plants], J. Grochmalicki "Ochrona zwierząt niższych" [Protection of metatheria], T. Jaczewski "Ochrona owadów" [Protecting insects], W. Roszkowski "Ochrona płazów i gadów" [Protecting amphibians and reptiles], M. Siedlecki "Ochrona ryb" [Protecting fish], J. Sokołowski "Ochrona ptaków" [Protecting birds], E. L. Niezabitowski "Ochrona zwierząt ssących w Polsce" [Protecting mammals in Poland], J. Domaniewski "Ochrona przyrody a łowiectwo" [Nature conservation vs hunting], S. Sokołowski "Ochrona przyrody a leśnictwo" [Nature conservation vs forestry], S. Kreutz "Ochrona przyrody nieożywionej" [Conservation of inanimate nature], J. G. Pawlikowski "Prawodawstwo ochronne" [Protection legislation], W. Kulczyńska "Organizacja ochrony przyrody w Polsce niepodległej" [Organisation of nature conservation in independent Poland], W. Goetel "Parki Narodowe w Polsce" [National parks in Poland], W. Szafer "Rezerwy w Polsce" [Reserves in Poland], A. Wodziczko "Ochrona przyrody w szkole" [Nature conservation at school], W. Kulczyńska and W. Szafer "Literatura oraz wskazówki bibliograficzne" [Literature and bibliographic indexes]. Altogether 363 pages (119 images).

Due to the jubilee, all the co-workers of "Wierchy" have been introduced. Among numerous names there are also Stanisław and Marian Sokołowski ("Wierchy", 1932, p. 129) – authors popular in the Second Polish Republic (1918 – 1939), thanks to their work and involvement in the area of nature conservation.

In number eleven of "Wierchy" of 1933, in connection to the formerly addressed issue of the meaning of nature conservation for the environment, it was generally stated: "in the area of nature conservation the slogan is "czuwaj" [be on the alert]. This slogan comprises the concept of continuity. The obligation of being on the alert never stops and it will never end for the Society – it might only slightly change its form" ("Wierchy", 1933, p. 7). In number twelve of the magazine, published in 1934, there is an article of Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski, devoted to the history of the Tatra poetry. The author emphasised that poetry is 'not only an expression, but also a teacher (...) it teaches to look, it reveals what was invisible to the ordinary eyes, it wakes beauty from the dead (...) it multiplies the Tatras. It is thus a path for all those who cherish the Tatra mountains (...) it is a proof of the impression made by Tatras,

and its history exposes changes of this sensitivity's form (Pawlikowski, 1934, p. 1-2). On selected examples of the Polish idea culture, Pawlikowski presented a development path of creating "monuments" of the Tatra poetry.

Number thirteen of "Wierchy" begins with the information about the broad activity of Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski on the publishing field of the analysed number – he is presented as a developer of the Polish culture and as editor-in-chief in the period between 1923 – 1934 ("Wierchy", 1935, p. 5). As it was in the previous numbers, so in the number of the year 1935 published already under the editorship of Walery Goetel and Jan A. Szczepański, when writing about mountains and the highland culture as well as the cultural aspects of the relationship between humans and the Tatra nature (ibid., p. 232), the value of nature conservation was referred to. The thought of Marshal Józef Piłsudski may serve as an example here: "There is a strange charm of great nature, when the charm is not interrupted by men" (ibid., p. 151). Another example: the article of Walery Goetel, where he referred to this sentence and reminded that Józef Piłsudski valued the simplicity and natural beauty of the forest: "The Marshal used to go for long walks between the trees at night. Leafs rustled under his feet, dry pine sticks scraped (...) nobody had the idea (...) to convert a Polish forest into an English mop. Only the gardener, Żukowski, could never agree with that and he always complained: I can't look at those bushes. The grass grows wherever it wants, the trees wherever they wish. I can't cut a single twig. The Marshal keeps walking around and checking whether everything stays as it is. In all my life, I haven't seen a household where it is forbidden to cut grass" (Goetel, 1935, p. 176).

In number fourteen of "Wierchy", published in 1936, there was no mention of the issues concerning education for the purposes of nature conservation, while in the fifteenth number of the analysed magazine a reference was made to the work of Jan Gwalbert Pawlikowski. Also his precious thesis was repeated: "Nobody will make flour sacks out of Matejko's canvas" ("Wierchy", 1937, p. 148). It was emphasised that there are masterpieces in the nature, being of similar value for the spiritual culture of the society, as masterpieces of artists. The beauty of mountains, forests, seas becomes a "treasure for the culture (...) therefore the term vandal refers not only to someone who sets a historic church on fire or deforms an ancient building, but also someone who cuts historic trees, destroys rare plants, kills precious animals or disfigures a beautiful landscape (...) by destroying nature, he deprives it of its attracting power. (...) Maintaining the primary character of the Tatra mountains is the capitalisation of its value (ibid., p. 149).

The last, sixteenth number of "Wierchy", published in the time of the Second Polish Republic (1918 – 1939), was devoted to the music expression of the man's

relationships with the highland culture and the natural environment of the Tatras. It was reminded that many Polish composers "left proof of a creative interest in Podhale and Tatras" ("Wierchy", 1938, p. 1) in their works. As an example we can mention the creative expression of the highland dances in "Halka" by Stanisław Moniuszko, the symphonic track entitled "W Tatrach" by Władysław Żeleński, the works of Zygmunt Noskowski entitled "Morskie Oko" and "Fantazja góralska", works of Ignacy Jan Paderewski entitled "Album Tatrzański" and highland melodies of Jan Kleczyński in "Pamiętnik Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego" as well as piano variations (Op 10) of Karol Szymanowski, composed around the year 1910 (ibid., pp. 2-6).

On the basis of conducted analysis of "Wierchy" for the years 1923 – 1938 we can summarise that this magazine, published for 16 years in the period of the Second Polish Republic (1918 – 1938) was mainly a teaching support in evoking readers' interest in the matters of "mountains and highland culture". In particular issues, considering the point of view of nature conservation and process of education for the purposes of nature conservation, the information about the need to protect Tatras' nature was announced. Much attention was drawn to the problem of destroying nature and polluting the natural environment during school trips. With reference to this issue, the Tourist Section and the Tatra Conservation Section of the Polish Tatra Society published in the magazine the memorial addressed to the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment in order to draw attention to this urgent and basically educational problem, related to the process of education for the purposes of harmonious relation with the natural environment and protection of the natural landscape of the Tatra mountains. What is also important, due to its educational value, "Wierchy" elaborated on the cultural background of the relationship between humans and the mountain nature on the examples of scientific, poetic and music works, constituting heritage of the Polish culture.

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