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The Oldest Polish Guidebooks as a Historical Source Regarding Tourism

Abstract

Tourist guidebooks are one of the oldest forms of *literatura periegetica* already known in antiquity. Although, in Poland the tradition of writing them is much shorter, it dates back as far as to the turn of 16th and 17th centuries. The 19th century was the beginning of new guidebooks created according to modern criteria, i.e. not only did they include description of a given place, but also some practical information and suggested sightseeing routes. The purpose of this article is to discuss the roots of Polish guidebook literature and to point out the significance of guidebooks as a historical source regarding tourism.

Keywords: travel literature, guidebooks, history of tourism.

Introduction

Modern definition of a guidebook describes it as “a book of information about monuments, tourist routes, accommodations and the history, geography, etc. of a given town, region or country”¹.

Guidebook publications differ regarding their content and form. A common criterion for division of the guidebooks is their territorial coverage. There are tourist guides to destinations around the world, continents, countries, regions, cities or towns and particular facilities and routes². Sometimes further subdivisions are created with respect to the specificity of the geographical region (mountains, mixed, highlands, lowlands) or a particular object (industrial, architectural, historical, natural)³.

¹ *Przewodnik*, [in:] B. Dunaj (ed.), *Słownik współczesny języka polskiego*, Warszawa 1996, p. 897.

² R. Schramm, *Kategorie przewodników i zróżnicowanie ich roli*, [in:] *Dorobek wydawniczy w dziedzinie krajoznawstwa. Potrzeby i perspektywy*, Warszawa 1980, pp. 119–120.

³ D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne na ziemiach polskich w okresie zaborów. Studium historyczno-źródłoznawcze*, wyd. 2, Krosno 2013, p. 69.

Tourist guidebooks are one of the oldest forms of travel literature already known in antiquity. Pausanias, famous for his exhaustive descriptions of Greek regions in the 2nd century A.C. was acknowledged as a precursor of travel guidebook literature for his descriptions were addressed to the travellers⁴. *Natural History* by Pliny the Elder makes it clear that similar works were written in Greece before Pausanias. However, they did not survive⁵. What was created in the medieval and modern times were some descriptions for pilgrims including descriptions of frequently visited places of worship. Further development of the travel guidebooks was connected with the advent of educational trips known as *Grand Tours* that developed in 17th and 18th centuries⁶ and later with the dramatic development of tourism in the 19th century.

The beginnings of Polish guidebook literature fall within the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries. Guidebooks slowly started to separate from other forms of travel literature, especially from travel diaries. As Antoni Mączak observed, it is often difficult to tell the difference between these two genres⁷. Apart from that, already in the old Polish period there were a few other forms of travel literature. Wacław Odyńiec distinguished: regular diaries, irregular diaries, memoirs, memoirs – travel guidebooks, epistolary accounts and travel poetry⁸. Typical travel guidebooks with a description of a given place, but also some practical information and suggested sightseeing routes started to appear at the earliest in the 19th century. The purpose of this article is to show the roots of Polish guidebook literature and to point out the significance of guidebooks as a historical source in terms of tourism.

Guidebook literature in the old Polish period

It is difficult to clearly indicate a publication which might be deemed the oldest Polish guidebook. As it was mentioned before, the problem is that it

⁴ Z. Kulczycki, *Historia turystyki*, Warszawa 1982, p. 12.

⁵ W.M. Freitag, *Guidebook*, [in:] J. Turner (ed.), *The Dictionary of Art*, vol. 13, London 1996, p. 807.

⁶ The term *Grand Tour* for the first time appeared in 1670, in the newly published book by Richard Lassels entitled *The Voyage of Italy*. However the beginnings of the modern educational trips are much earlier and reach the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century. See: D. Żołędź, *Podróże edukacyjne Polaków w XVI i XVII w.*, [in:] J. Hellwig, W. Jamrożek, D. Żołędź, *Z prac poznańskich historyków wychowania*, Poznań 1994, p. 31; M. Bratuń, *Narodziny – Rozwój – Zmierzch*, [in:] A. Roćko (ed.), *Polski Grand Tour w XVIII i początkach XIX wieku*, Warszawa 2014, p. 21.

⁷ A. Mączak, *Życie codzienne w podróżach po Europie w XVI i XVII wieku*, Warszawa 1978, p. 32; idem, *Odkrywanie Europy. Podróże w czasach renesansu i baroku*, Gdańsk 1998, pp. 5–6.

⁸ W. Odyńiec, *Z dziejów polskiej turystyki od XVI wieku do roku 1939*, Gdańsk 1993, p. 8–9. Selected by the researcher “memoirs – travel guidebooks” were supposed to cover the reports including some guidance for the reader which might be helpful during a future trip.

seems hard to find the oldest guidebook amongst other forms of travel literature, particularly travel accounts. The situation becomes even more of a puzzle if one realizes that those accounts were commonly used as guidebooks providing information about places and monuments previously visited by someone and described afterwards. *Opisanie Ziemi Świętej* [*Description of the Holy Land*] by Anzelm Polak (1507–1508), *Peregrynacja do Ziemi Świętej* [*Peregrination to the Holy Land*] by Jan Goryński (around 1560) and the most famous work of a similar content – *Peregrynacja do Ziemi Świętej i Egiptu* [*Peregrination to the Holy Land and Egypt*] by Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł, nicknamed “Sierotka” [“Little Orphan”] (1582–1584) should be listed among the early examples of Polish descriptions of that kind⁹.

Zbigniew Kulczycki considered a description of the country written by a well-known historian, later Warmia Bishop – Marcin Kromer¹⁰ as the oldest travel guidebook. The manuscript of that work entitled *Polonia, sive de situ, populis, moribus, magistratibus te re publica Regni Poloniae* was given to the newly elected king of Poland Henryk Walezy in 1574. One year later, in Frankfurt, the work was published for the first time in print (without the author’s knowledge), and the first authorized editions were published in Cologne in 1577 and 1578¹¹. This comprehensive Kromer’s study should be treated as a book of geographical and historical nature, which familiarizes the reader with the rudimentary information about our country. Obviously, the intention behind writing it was not to use it in practice during a trip.

One of the oldest examples of the travel guidebook literature are descriptions of the cities – Krakow and Warsaw. Chronologically earlier is the 1603 study into the churches located in the older of the capitals. It deserves special attention, because the word “guidebook” was used for the first time in its title. It should be difficult to consider the anonymous *Przewodnik abo kościołów krakowskich krótkie opisanie* [*A guidebook or short description of the Krakow’s churches*] as a true guidebook since it does not include any practical information regarding sightseeing, but only concise description of 46 Krakow’s churches¹². This booklet was published on the occasion of Jubilee celebrated in Krakow in 1603 and dedicated to the Krakow Bishop, Bernard Maciejowski. Undoubtedly, it was thought to be a kind of help to the worshipping pilgrims. According to Michał

⁹ Listed and other Polish accounts of the 16th-century journeys see: R. Pollak (ed.), *Antologia pamiątek polskich XVI wieku*, wybór i opracowanie S. Drewniak i M. Kaczmarek, Wrocław 1966.

¹⁰ Z. Kulczycki, *Zarys historii turystyki w Polsce*, wyd. 3, Warszawa 1977, p. 20.

¹¹ R. Marchwiński, *Wstęp*, [in:] M. Kromer, *Polska czyli o położeniu, ludności, obyczajach, urządach i sprawach publicznych Królestwa Polskiego księgi dwie*, translation by S. Kazikowski, introduction and compilation by R. Marchwiński, Olsztyn 1984, p. XX–XXIII.

¹² J. Duda, *Przewodniki po Krakowie (do 1914 roku)*. *Książki, ich autorzy i wydawcy*, “Rocznik Krakowski” 1996, vol. 57, p. 55–56.

Rożek the author of the study might have been a renowned contemporary bookseller and writer – Jan Januszowski¹³.

Exactly forty years later *Gościniec abo krótkie opisanie Warszawy* [*The roadway or short description of Warsaw*] by Adam Jarzębski was published. It is sometimes considered the first guidebook written in Polish language and relating to Poland per se¹⁴, which seems completely unjustified both due to the form of this brief work and the fact that a study into Krakow's churches had already been published. The booklet by Jarzębski is written in octosyllabic verse and is a kind of literary fiction – alleged story of a gullible commoner coming to Warsaw and reporting on his impressions. A description begins with Praga (now a district in Warsaw, at that time not part of the capital yet) and then moves to other districts, starting from the Market Square of the Old Town and Krakowskie Przedmieście. As Władysław Tomkiewicz observed, Jarzębski's work despite its weak form is the first explicit description of Warsaw and might be treated as kind of guidebook to the architectural design of the city¹⁵. As a matter of fact, the author devoted too much attention to the architecture. However, its form and content do not allow to call *Gościniec* a travel guidebook.

In 1647 another study was published regarding the sacral monuments of Krakow entitled *Stolecznego miasta Krakowa kościoły i klejnoty* [*Churches and Jewels of the Capital City of Krakow*]. For a long time his authorship was the subject of controversy since that same year the edition with the name of Piotr Hiacynt Pruszczyk on the cover was published. This author was mentioned also in the following edition in 1650, carrying a slightly different title (*Klejnoty stolecznego miasta Krakowa* [*The Jewels of the Capital City of Krakow*]) yet with almost the same content repeated after the previous version. Most probably, however, the author of *Klejnoty* was the editor in chief, Franciszek Cezary and Pruszczyk might have prepared a complemented version of the second edition¹⁶. The book was quite popular as attested by the updated editions published in the

¹³ M. Rożek, *Mirabilia Urbis Cracoviae*, "Krzysztofory. Zeszyty Naukowe Muzeum Historycznego Miasta Krakowa" 1986, no 13, p. 51.

¹⁴ Z. Kulczycki, *Zarys historii...*, p. 33; J. Merski, J. P. Piotrowski, *Drogi ewolucji drukowanych przewodników turystycznych po Polsce*, Warszawa 2010, p. 32.

¹⁵ W. Tomkiewicz, *Słowo wstępne*, [in:] A. Jarzębski, *Gościniec, abo krótkie opisanie Warszawy*, opracował i wstępem opatrzył W. Tomkiewicz, Warszawa 1974, p. 5.

¹⁶ A thesis was set forth in the 19th century by Karol Estreicher St., and later most researchers studying the guidebooks to Krakow and Franciszek Cezary per se agreed with it. See e.g.: *Bibliografia Polska Karola Estreichera*, vol. 14, Kraków 1898, p. 135; K. Estreicher, *Emanuela Murraya "Opisanie Krakowa" a literatura o Krakowie i plan kółkajowski*, "Rocznik Krakowski" 1977, vol. 48, p. 60; M. Rożek, op. cit., p. 51; M. Malicki, *Repertuar wydawniczy drukarni Franciszka Cezarego starszego 1616–1651*, część 1: *Bibliografia druków Franciszka Cezarego starszego 1616–1651*, Kraków 2010, p. 749; D. Ziarkowski, *Zabytki a turystyka. Studium poświęcone historii naukowego i krajoznawczego poznawania Doliny Prądnika*, Kraków 2011, p. 18.

18th and 19th centuries. The city of Krakow was described as “the most famous and finest in the Kingdom of Poland [...] built in a beautiful spacious place on a good ground by the Vistula River at the foot of the rocks”¹⁷. It is worth adding that the aforementioned bookseller Franciszek Cezary was also the author of the oldest guidebook to Rome written in Polish, entitled *Pielgrzym włoski, albo krótkie Rzymu i miast przedniejszych włoskich opisanie* [*A Roman Pilgrim or a Short Description of Rome and the Finest Italian Towns*]¹⁸. This interesting work published in 1614 in Krakow is a translation of a booklet by a renowned architect, Andrea Palladio, on the ancient monuments of the Eternal City. Franciszek Cezary complemented it with an erudite preface and a list of practical information regarding the travel routes, accommodation and currencies used in the countries on the way. The above generally proves that Mr. Cezary was the precursor of the guidebook literature in Poland. However, this aspect of his work has not been appreciated or even studied enough.

The publications discussed so far can be considered to be the oldest guidebooks, however, with the reservation that their form, structure and content were far from the model developed in the 19th century and still applied in the modern times. What they lack is mostly the recommendations for sightseeing, and the informative part is very limited or completely omitted. Due to that fact some scientists refuse to acknowledge them to be the genuine guidebooks. For instance, Dariusz Opaliński has recently used the term “*quasi-guidebooks*”¹⁹ to describe them.

It is quite intriguing that the following Polish publications of guidebooks were not published until the first half of the 19th century. The question could be explored why in the 18th century practically no new similar compilations were published to continue the process commenced in the previous century. It might be assumed that the most important reason for such a situation was the fact that our country, beginning from the second half of the 17th century had been in an adverse period of wars which led to economic, demographic, and social stagnation. It naturally hindered travelling and there was simply no demand for guidebooks²⁰. Even in Krakow, commonly known as the treasury house of the national relics, the only book published was a subsequent edition of *Klejnoty Stołecznego Miasta Krakowa*, yet significantly expanded as compared to the previous editions. An anonymous author added inter alia the descriptions of eight more churches including the monuments located in the city vicinity (Tyniec, Bielany, Mogiła, Staniątki)²¹.

¹⁷ *Klejnoty Stołecznego Miasta Krakowa albo kościoły i co w nich jest widzenia godnego i znacznego, przez Piotra Hiacynta Pruszcza krótko opisane*, Kraków 1861, p. 3.

¹⁸ For full text with the comments in the notes see: A. Litwornia, *Staropolski przekład Palladia*, [in:] idem, *W Rzymie zwyciężonym Rzym niezwykły. Spory o Wieczne Miasto (1575–1630)*, „Studia Staropolskie”, Series Nova, vol. 3, Warszawa 2003, p. 94–126.

¹⁹ D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 50.

²⁰ J. Duda, op. cit., p. 56; D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 52.

²¹ J. Bieniarzówna, *Wiekowe tradycje miłośnictwa Krakowa*, “Rocznik Krakowski” 1974, vol. 45, pp. 12–13.

Even though no new guidebooks were written in the 18th century it does not mean that no descriptions of the towns were written. At that time it was popular to write memoirs, diaries and there were descriptions written by the diplomats, travelers and scientists. All these forms of travel writing complemented later the press articles and texts printed in the calendars contributed to the creation of the 19th-century guidebooks in their fully shaped form²².

19th-century guidebooks

19th century was a period of an unusual development of guidebook literature. The creation of numerous guidebooks was the response to the needs connected with development of tourism, which was mainly a result of the invention of new means of transport, particularly the revolutionary invention of the rail. A significant role is attributed to the sightseeing movement, which appeared in different European countries in the Enlightenment period²³. The beginnings of sightseeing in Poland are connected with the activity of the Commission of National Education and Mr. Stanisław Staszic and Mr. Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz²⁴. At the end of the 18th century, certain sightseeing canon was developed and was supposed to be applied when travelling all over Poland²⁵. Later on, this canon was reshaped and expanded particularly by the objects and places connected with the history of the nation which throughout the period of partitions were specially venerated. A substantial role in awakening the interest in the homeland was played by the oldest sightseeing organizations – the Tatra Association (founded in 1873) and Polish Sightseeing Association (operating since 1906).

In the old Polish period guidebook literature was basically limited to the large towns. In the 19th century the thematic diversity of the guidebooks expanded significantly. As a matter of fact, guidebooks to the towns still dominated, but there were also compilations concerning other places (particularly spas), particular regions (mainly mountains) and single objects (e.g. architectural monuments and museums)²⁶.

²² This issue was examined in an interesting way by Stanisław Cieplowski on the example of Warsaw. See: S. Cieplowski, *O rodowodzie warszawskich przewodników turystycznych*, "Almanach Muzealny" 2001, vol. 3, pp. 203–213. It might have looked similar in other big cities, although the issue was not the subject of detailed study at that time.

²³ G. Bieńczyk, *Krajoznawstwo i jego związki z turystyką*, Warszawa 2003, p. 16.

²⁴ Z. Kruczek, A. Kurek, M. Nowacki, *Krajoznawstwo. Teoria i metodyka*, wydanie 2 uzupełnione, Kraków 2012, pp. 31–32.

²⁵ J. Kamionka-Straszakowa, "Do ziemi naszej". *Podróże romantyków*, Kraków 1988, p. 23.

²⁶ According to the research of Dariusz Opaliński during the partition 256 Polish guidebooks were published including 60% of *bedekers* (a type of guidebook) to the towns. Almost 1/4 of the publications were the regional guidebooks (most of them concerned mountain areas) and about 15% were the guidebooks to the particular monuments. See D. Opaliński, *Z bedekerem po*

It is surprising though that there was only one guidebook to the country divided by the invaders written in the 19th century. This work by Józef Wawrzyniec Krasiński was first published in French in 1820, and a year later also in Polish under the title *Przewodnik dla podróżujących w Polsce i Rzeczypospolitej Krakowskiej*. It should be emphasized that chronologically it was the first Polish 19th-century guidebook²⁷. In his introduction the author underlined the scarcity of the country descriptions, which seems a gap to be filled with his work. Contrary to the title, the guidebook did not describe the entire country but only selected towns and their neighbourhood. Major space was given to Krakow the description of which was placed at the beginning. The Wawel Royal Castle was described by Krasiński in these words: "What Capitulum was for the old Romans, and Pantheon for France, this sacred place is for the Polish hearts, the storage of the most precious and proudest relics of joy, greatness and pride of the Nation"²⁸. This part is followed by the description of the route to Warsaw and the city itself, then amongst other Kalisz, Częstochowa, Lublin and Zamość. The fact worth highlighting was that the guidebook included a lot of useful information (i.e. about guest houses, inns and pubs, and public utility places) and suggested excursions e.g. around the suburbs of the biggest cities.

When it comes to the guidebooks to the towns, they mostly concerned Krakow. Following the outbreak of the First World War almost fifty books were written about Krakow. In the 19th century, the most important author of the guidebooks to Krakow was Ambroży Grabowski – a bookseller, monument lover and an amateur researcher who published *Historyczny opis miasta Krakowa i jego okolic* [*A Historical Description of the City of Krakow and Surroundings*] in 1822. This publication was quite popular with the residents of Krakow and the tourists. Thus, it was published in subsequent editions throughout the 19th century and even the beginning of the 20th century²⁹. In the following chapters the reader can find information not only about the history of the city but also about places like the Krakow Academy, Wawel Royal Castle, numerous churches and the bishop's palace. Grabowski's works had become the model for other similar publications. The guidebooks that should be listed amongst the most important studies are the extensive works of Józef Mączyński (*Pamiętka z Krakowa* from 1845 and *Kraków dawny i dzisiejszy z przeglądem jego okolic* from 1854),

zaborach. *Podróż w dawnych przewodnikach turystycznych*, [in:] E. Ihnatowicz (ed.), *Podróż i literatura 1864–1914*, Warszawa 2008, p. 526 note 2 and more: idem, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 69–86.

²⁷ D. Opaliński, *Polskie dziewiętnastowieczne przewodniki turystyczne – próba definicji*, [in:] J. Hoff (ed.), *Z przeszłości Europy Środkowowschodniej*, Rzeszów 2002, p. 115, note 16.

²⁸ J.W. Krasiński, *Przewodnik dla podróżujących w Polsce i Rzeczypospolitej Krakowskiej*, Warszawa 1821, p. 3.

²⁹ Subsequent editions were published under a different title: *Kraków i jego okolice*. The last one was published in 1905.

Władysław Łuszczkiewicz (*Przewodnik po Krakowie i jego okolicach* from 1875), Aleksander Napierkowski (*Przewodnik po Krakowie i okolicach*, 1883), Józef Rostański (*Przewodnik po Krakowie i okolicy*, 1891) and Walery Eljasz Radzikowski (*Kraków dawny i dzisiejszy*, first edition from 1902)³⁰.

The second dominant in terms of the number of guidebooks was obviously Warsaw. Throughout the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century 25 such publications were written³¹. *Przewodnik po Warszawie* [*The Guidebook to Warsaw*] by Jan Glücksberg from 1826 (later reissued several times) is considered to be the oldest, yet it seems more of a pamphlet for travelers. That same year a very detailed and extensive *Opis historyczno-statystyczny stołecznego miasta Warszawy* [*Historical and Statistical Description of the Capital City of Warsaw*] by Łukasz Gołębiowski was printed in "Nowy Kalendarz Polityczny" [the New Political Calendar] and later published in the form of a separate book³². A lot of information from this book was later used by Franciszek Maria Sobieszczański in his *Przewodnik po Warszawie* [*The Guidebook to Warsaw*] published in 1857. This relatively short book in turn presents a well-thought-out structure and a complete character. In the first place the author presented general information about Warsaw and then multiple useful information about passport formalities, hotels, cafes, restaurants and shopping and some important offices. In the following chapters he used his expertise in the monuments of art³³ and described churches, statues and other old buildings, as well as the surroundings of the city. He was able to skillfully join the substantive message with practical information in a synthetic form e.g. when he wrote about Saint Martin's church that "[...] there is a Holy Mass provided every day at midday, served intentionally for those pious who are not able to join the service earlier"³⁴. Particularly large number of guidebooks to Warsaw appeared in the last decade of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century³⁵.

The remaining Polish cities were far less popular subjects of guidebooks. According to the study carried out by Dariusz Opaliński, the cities ranked according to the number of guidebooks published before 1914 were – after Krakow and Warsaw – Lviv (11 books), Vilnius (8) and Poznań (6)³⁶. However, some of the cities earned their guidebooks relatively early, as early as in the first half of the 19th century, e.g.

³⁰ J. Ziarkowska, D. Ziarkowski, *Status quo czy panta rhei? Atrakcje turystyczne Krakowa od końca XVIII wieku do czasów współczesnych*, "Turystyka Kulturowa" 2015, no 7, p. 37.

³¹ D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 73.

³² S. Cieplowski, op. cit., p. 206–208.

³³ Franciszek Maria Sobieszczański was one of the precursors in studying the monuments of art in Poland, the author of the first historical and artistic synthesis published in two volumes, entitled *Wiadomości historyczne o sztukach pięknych w dawniej Polsce* in the years 1847 and 1849.

³⁴ F.M. Sobieszczański, *Przewodnik po Warszawie z planem miasta ozdobionym 10cią rycinami na stali*, Warszawa 1857, p. 10.

³⁵ For more see: A. Sołtan, *Prawobrzeżna Warszawa w przewodnikach po mieście (XIX–XX w.)*, "Kronika Warszawy" 1998, no 1–4, p. 15–41.

³⁶ D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 73.

Obraz miasta Lublina [The Picture of Lublin] by Seweryn Zenon Sierpiński from 1839, the second edition of which was published four years later under the title *Historyczny obraz miasta Lublina* [Historical Picture of Lublin]³⁷.

A separate category of guidebooks that developed in the 19th century was the guidebooks to spas and resorts. It was connected with the development of spas beginning already at the decline of the 18th century and booming in the second half of the 19th century. Most guidebooks described Szczawnica, Zakopane and Krynica. The oldest works – like *Przewodnik do źródeł lekarskich w Szczawnicy* [The Guide to the Healing Springs in Szczawnica] by Onufry Trembecki from 1861 – focused on the spiritual experience of treatment and contemplation of sights during short excursions around, limiting the information on how to prepare for a stay in a spa³⁸. The guidebooks from the 70s. and 80s. of the 19th century began to take more interest in the luggage and social standards applicable during the trip. Special attention was paid to outfit and shoes which were suggested to be comfortable and healthy, not fashionable only³⁹. What dominated in the descriptions of spas was usually the information about the values, objects and healthcare devices. Nonetheless, frequently information concerned the sight-seeing advice, which was helpful when visiting the vicinity of a spa.

In the aforementioned period, a lot of guidebooks to particular regions were written – a total of 60 books, in fact. Most of them, that is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total number described Galicia, particularly the mountain area. The land under the Prussian rule deserved only six guidebooks and the land under Russian rule was described in eight compilations of that kind⁴⁰. When it comes to the mountains the most interest was aroused by the Tatra Mountains. The earliest expression of this interest was *Przewodnik w wycieczkach na Babią Górę, do Tatr i Pienin* [The Guidebook for Travelers to Babia Mountain, the Tatras and Pieniny] by Rev. Eugeniusz Janota from 1860. In the following decades the guidebook literature regarding the Tatras was dominated by one author, Walery Eljasz Radzikowski. His first publication entitled *Ilustrowany przewodnik do Tatr, Pienin i Szczawnicy* [Illustrated Guide to the Tatras, Pieniny and Szczawnica] was published in 1870. The text of the booklet was complemented with the illustrations and the panorama of the Tatra mountains. Later, five more editions of this popular guidebook were published (the last in 1900). Each subsequent edition was expanded and updated and included more illustrations. The last two editions were edited with the help of Walery's son, Stanisław⁴¹. Those studies guaranteed Walery Eljasz a permanent place in the history

³⁷ M. Wyszowski, *Przewodniki po Lublinie i ich autorzy w XIX i XX wieku*, [in:] A. Krawczyk and E. Józefowicz-Wisińska (ed.), *Lublin a książka*, Lublin 2004, p. 486.

³⁸ D. Opaliński, *Z bedekerem...*, pp. 530–531.

³⁹ Idem, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, pp. 227–228.

⁴⁰ Ibidem, p. 77.

⁴¹ J. Ziarkowska, D. Ziarkowski, "Obrazy czarujące, od których oczów trudno oderwać...". *Uwagi o sposobach przedstawiania Tatr w twórczości Walerego Eljasza*, [in:] P. Cybula, M. Czyż

of Polish tourism and even the name of “the father of Polish guidebook literature”⁴². Obviously mountain guidebooks were specific. A lot of space was devoted to the trails, particularly the equipment (with special attention to food). A lot was written about the summits, which were the most important goals for the tourists and the ways of reaching them. Another highlighted thing was the sightseeing, aesthetic and therapeutic value of the mountains⁴³.

And last but not least, it is worth mentioning the group of *baedekers* [a type of printed guidebooks] which were not so numerous and focused on selected objects. Most of them concentrated on the monuments of architecture, particularly sacral architecture. Jasna Góra is the place which received the most attention. In the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century as many as five guidebooks were written (the oldest *Przewodnik dla zwiedzających Częstochowę* [A Guidebook for the Visitors to Częstochowa] by Hipolit Skimborowicz was published in Warsaw in 1840). There were three guidebooks written about the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow (one by Lucjan Rydel and two anonymous), two – about Poznań Cathedral, and single guides were written about, inter alia, the abbeys in Sulejów and Tyniec. Notably less often the guidebooks concerned the monuments of secular architecture, out of which only two became a subject of this kind of study, the Wawel Royal Castle (three works of Klemens Bąkowski) and the palace in Wilanów (two books by Wiktor Czajowski)⁴⁴. The oldest museum guidebook is the study prepared by Izabela Czartoryska about the Gothic House in Puławy dated 1828⁴⁵. The next was the guide to the treasury of the Wawel Cathedral written by Rev. Ignacy Polkowski, published, however, much later in 1881⁴⁶. The following studies did not appear until the beginning of the 20th century. Certainly, it is worth mentioning a few guidebooks to the salt mine in Wieliczka, a fortiori that they were the only *baedekers* at that time devoted to the industrial monuments⁴⁷. The oldest one, entitled *Przewodnik dla zwiedzających żupy solne w Wieliczce* [The Guidebook for the Visitors to the Saltworks in Wieliczka] was published in Krakow in 1860 and eight years later *Przewodnik dla zwiedzających kopalnie Wieliczki* [The Guidebook for the Visitors to the Salt Mine in Wieliczka] by Jan Kanty Turski was published⁴⁸.

and S. Owsianowska (ed.), *Góry – Człowiek – Turystyka. Księga jubileuszowa dedykowana prof. dr. hab. Andrzejowi Matuszykowi w 75. rocznicę urodzin*, Kraków 2011, p. 236.

⁴² Z. Kulczycki, *Zarys historii...*, p. 34.

⁴³ D. Opaliński, *Z bedekerem...*, p. 533–536.

⁴⁴ Idem, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 83.

⁴⁵ E. [Izabela] Czartoryska, *Poczet pamiątek zachowanych w Domu Gotyckim w Puławach*, Warszawa 1828.

⁴⁶ I. Polkowski, *Przewodnik dla zwiedzających skarbiec katedralny na Wawelu*, Kraków 1881. In the subsequent three years the work was reissued three more times.

⁴⁷ D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, p. 85.

⁴⁸ As Iwona Pawłowska observed, even the guidebooks concerning Wieliczka were almost completely devoted to the mine. For more see I. Pawłowska, *Przewodniki turystyczne o Wieliczce*, “Studia i Materiały do Dziejów Żup Solnych w Polsce” 2003, vol. 23, p. 179–193.

Generally, the fact worth emphasizing is that the 19th century brought a major development of Polish literature which was not stopped even by the deadening effect of the lack of independent statehood. It was then that a few types of guidebooks emerged and certain patterns regarding their construction and content were developed. Later they were adapted by the *baedekers* and to a large extent still remain valid in the modern times.

The meaning of guidebooks as the source of history of tourism

Undoubtedly, the travel guidebooks of old days are valuable sources of knowledge of the history of tourism in Poland. Nevertheless this value of the guidebook publications is not appreciated in the scientific studies as they rarely become the subject of a thorough study. The authors of general studies of the history of tourism in Poland limit their research to the most important titles and authors. In more detailed works the attention of the researchers is focused on the rudimentary factual background concerning the authors, editors, subsequent editions, content structure of the *baedekers*, and the like. What can be clearly noticed is the lack of a deeper analysis of the content and the juxtaposition of the guidebooks and other historical sources concerning the same or related issues. A similar approach was proposed by Dariusz Opaliński⁴⁹ in his explicit synthesis. However, it would be advisable to make an effort to analyze typologically or territorially limited group of guidebooks in order to elicit more information significant for the history of tourism.

In case of the oldest publications written in the old Polish period, historical and descriptive information regarding mainly the historic districts and objects in the city prevails. The analysis of these accounts allows proving what was considered particularly important and worth seeing and how places and objects serving for tourist attractions of the time were perceived. The guidebooks that have appeared since the 19th century are often an additional treasure chest of information about tourist infrastructure, including accommodation and catering. One can easily find out e.g. which hotels, guest houses, restaurants and cafes were particularly recommended, what the prices for services were etc. Moreover *baedekers* facilitate the reconstruction of the tourist trails, inform about the course of trip, tell what the contemporary tourist packed before going to the spas and what the preparations to mountain trips looked like.

The value of the guidebooks as the historical sources is enhanced by the fact that they described the objects and devices which did not survive till modern times (or were dramatically altered later). The guidebook by Zdzisław Mierzyński from 1895 relating to Ojców, which was a spa at that time could

⁴⁹ D. Opaliński, *Przewodniki turystyczne...*, op. cit.

serve as an example. The author described in great detail, inter alia, a large building of the hydropathic building “Goplana” (which did not survive till the present times due to the fact that it was dismantled by the end of the 30s. of the 20th century). According to Mierzyński’s text, there were over 60 rooms in the building located on the floors, whereas on the ground floor there was the main bathing facility and various auxiliary rooms and devices. The guidebook also provides information about the types of baths served to the patients: “[...] besides the main hydrotherapy with the use of fresh spring water, the bathtubs of the bathing facility Goplana offer all kinds of baths: mineral, salt, lye, sludge, peat, needle and herbal, depending on the doctor’s prescription”⁵⁰. It seems that while reconstructing the history of Polish spas, the guidebooks might be extremely helpful.

An attempt to find the relation between creation of guidebooks and tourist attractiveness of given regions, cities or objects seems to be a very interesting research perspective. Those relations seem to be very strong and mutual at the same time. The fact that in the old Polish period and in the 19th century Krakow and Warsaw were far more often described and amongst the mountain guides prevail those concerning the Tatras is meaningful. What was considered to be the most valuable in terms of history, science or aesthetics was often described in the *baedekers* as there was an actual demand for the guidebooks to particular regions, cities or attractions. At the same time the guidebooks had a huge power of creating tourist attractiveness which is exemplified by the Tatra guidebook by Walery Eljasz who mainly contributed to the tourist career of Zakopane. Shortly after the publication all bed places in Zakopane were booked⁵¹. Obviously, carrying out such a study requires an interdisciplinary research and taking into consideration historical sources, other than guidebooks, related to the development of tourism, including sightseeing and tourism-related press.

Summary

Polish guidebook literature has rich traditions reaching the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries. The oldest guidebooks concerned Krakow and Warsaw and were derived from other forms of travel writing, such as travel accounts and travel diaries. In the 19th century, following the development of tourism modern guidebooks started their life with their content full of practical information con-

⁵⁰ Z. Mierzyński, *Ojców. Uzdrowisko klimatyczne leśno-górskie*, Kraków 1895, p. 16. For more guidelines concerning Ojców, see. D. Ziarkowski, *Przekaz treści historyczno-artystycznych w przewodnikach po Dolinie Prądnika do 1939 roku*, [in:] P. Krasny and D. Ziarkowski (ed.), *Sztuka i podróżowanie. Studia teoretyczne i historyczno-artystyczne*, Kraków 2009, pp. 159–178; idem, *Zabytki a turystyka...*, pp. 212–221.

⁵¹ Z. Kulczycki, *Zarys historii...*, p. 33.

cerning, e.g. transport, accommodation, catering, trails and tourist routes. It was the time when the *baedekers* started to differ typologically. Beside the city guides, there appeared the guidebooks to larger areas (regions), spas, mountains and even single objects. Guidebook publications were the most important sources of information and practical tips for the journey for the contemporary tourists. Due to this fact travel guidebooks are significant sources to the history of tourism in Poland which have not been properly used so far. A detailed analysis of the guidebook contents could certainly contribute to a lot of new findings relating to the history of travelling and tourism.

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