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## Travellers from selected settlements in Wrocław and Kalisz : their motifs and destination

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**TRAVELLERS FROM SELECTED SETTLEMENTS  
IN WROCLAW AND KALISZ:  
THEIR MOTIFS AND DESTINATION**

**ABSTRACT.** The introduction to this paper includes the description of journeys undertaken by the best-known Polish travellers and pilgrims, such as Benedykt Pole and Pope John Paul II. Based on surveys, we analysed the motifs of different types of journeys undertaken by people from four Wrocław districts, 2 Kalisz districts, and the village of Tczyca. We also described the intensity of their foreign trips, and their destinations.

**KEY WORDS:** traveller, journey motif, and destination.

**INTRODUCTION**

In the European cultural circle, tourist journeys were already undertaken by ancient Greeks and Romans. Merchants made journeys in order to expand their business, pilgrims visited holy places, rulers sent their emissaries to foreign lands, rich people travelled to spas in order to cure themselves (Przeclawski, 1996).

Polish travellers had similar goals. We would like to introduce a few of them. Benedykt Pole (cir. 1200 – cir. 1280), a Franciscan monk from Wrocław, is generally considered as the first Polish traveller. He joined the expedition from Western Europe to Central Asia. The expedition was led by Giovanni da Pian del Carpine from Italy. They started their journey in the spring of 1245, and they returned in the autumn of 1247. The pope sent them to the great khan. The goal of their legation was to convince the khan that he should stop invading Europe and convert to Christianity. Their mission wasn't successful (Słabczyński, 1988).

Krzysztof Arciszewski (1592–1656) was banished from Poland for killing a neighbour. He went to the Netherlands, and was sent by the Dutch authorities to Brazil. He fought with the Spaniards and Portuguese, and became the first Polish conquistador.

Jan Potocki (1761–1815) is considered the first Polish scientist-traveller. His contemporaries considered him as an eccentric traveller. He was a polyglot and archaeologist. He started travelling when he was seventeen. He visited many countries in Europe, Minor and Central Asia. He travelled to Siberia, China and Mongolia. In 1790, as the first Pole, he travelled by a balloon. It is interesting to speculate where else he might have travelled to, but, unfortunately, he committed a suicide when he was 54.

Polish deportees belong a separate category. As insurrectionists who lost their battles against oppressive governments, they had to escape imprisonment and seek freedom abroad. The authorities for settlement in foreign lands sentenced others. Of course, they travelled against their will. Paweł Edmund Strzelecki (1797–1873) was forced to leave Poland in 1831. Before that date, he had made his own trips to Italy in order to see the Vesuvius. As refugee, he travelled to Australia, Oceania, South and North America. At the end of his life, he managed to visit the Crimea.

After the unsuccessful end of the November Insurrection, Ignacy Domeyko (1802–1889) had to leave Poland. He travelled to the Antarctic, and visited all other continents. As geologist-explorer, he spent 46 years in Chile. He is still remembered and respected in that distant country.

The authorities in Russia sentenced many Poles to forced settlement in Siberia. One of the most distinguished deportees was Benedykt Dybowski (1833–1930), a surgeon and ichtiologist, who spent many years researching the fauna of the Baikal Lake. In Kamtchatka and the Kuril Islands, people called him “The Great White God”.

Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846–1916) travelled across North America in search of adventures. Before he wrote “Quo Vadis”, he travelled several times to Rome, in order to acquaint himself with the realities of ancient Rome. He also visited Greece, Constantinople, Spain, and Africa (where he went for a safari trip).

Henryk Arctowski (1871–1958) was the director of an international expedition to Antarctica. He travelled a lot across Polar Regions, and he became a resident-scientist in New York, Lwów, and, again, in New York.

Pope John Paul II (born in 1920) is, undoubtedly, the most distinguished contemporary Polish traveller. When he still was the reverend Karol Wojtyła, he often went for tourist excursions. He liked biking, kayaking, hiking, and skiing in winter. When elected the pope, he became a pilgrim. Willing to unite the Christendom, he went for over one hundred foreign ecumenical pilgrimage trips. He travelled to almost all the countries in the world, and visited Poland seven times.

Marek Kamiński (born in 1964) is yet another Polish globetrotter, who, during a period of one year (1995), reached both, North and South Poles.

## POLISH TRAVELLERS MOTIFS AND DESTINATION

In 2002, Dziegieć and Liszewski wrote about the history and geography of tourism. They wrote, that tourism, as science branch, developed dramatically in Poland, especially in the 1990's. Also, they wrote about the fact that tourism was influenced by social and economic transformations in Poland.

Statistical data document the participation of Poles in both national and international tourism. In the recent years, the trips abroad stabilised. In 1960, 3.5 million people participated in residential tourist movement in Poland. In 1970, 9.7 million people, and in 1979, 18.1 million people. In the 1990's, domestic tourist movement developed even farther. In 1990, each third citizen of Poland went for 2–4 day trips. In 1998, 39% of Poles participated in such trips. Long-term trips (at least 5 day-long) attracted 34%, and 37% of Poles? In the 1990's, trips abroad attracted 11 to 13% of Poles a year (Lijewski and others, 2002).

Dewailly (2002) quoted an Arabic proverb that a person can enjoy trips, benefit from them, and learn. He referred to the fuzziness of the term "tourism", and used the quotation to better explain the idea.

Warszyńska (1999) wrote about tourists' motifs. She listed the following motifs: education, pleasure (recreation), religion, and business. She wrote about local, regional, domestic, and foreign tourism.

In 1993, the Tourism Institute in Warsaw conducted an interesting poll. They asked almost six thousand people, who crossed Polish borders at 15 border crossings that year, to give their motifs. 27% of the respondents wrote that they were interested in relaxation and recreation. 22% of the respondents went shopping. 21% of the respondents wrote that they visited their relatives and friends. They went to Germany (42%), the Czech Republic (15%), Slovakia (10%), and the countries in the (former) Soviet Union (Gogolewska, 1994).

Gaworecki (1997) quoted the results of other polls by the Tourism Institute. According to their polls, tourism and recreation were the motifs of over 50% of Poles who travelled abroad in 1995, and season workers left Poland much less often (that tendency is becoming stronger each year). In 1995, 45% of people went to Germany, 28% to the Czech Republic, 7% to Slovakia, and others travelled to Ukraine, Bielarus, and Lithuania.

According to polls conducted by the Tourism Institute, 4080 respondents, who travelled around Poland in 1999, were interested in recreation (almost 50%, travelling at least 5 days), and visiting friends and relatives (1/3 of the respondents). Short-term trips (not longer than 4 days) were mostly made by people who wanted to visit their families and friends (2/3), 30% were interested in

recreation (Zawadzki, 1999). The same polls documented the fact that 39% of the respondents went abroad because they were interested in recreation. 1/5 of them was interested in recreation, 18.5% travelled for business reasons.

### MOTIFS AND INTENSITY OF DIFFERENT TRAVELS BY THE RESIDENTS OF WROCLAW, KALISZ AND TCZYCA

A few years ago, the Social and Economic Geography and Regional Development Institute of the University in Wrocław started conducting the research on tourists' participation, motivation and destinations. The respondents come from different areas. The research is a part of bachelors' licence work.

The first series of polls was organised in Tczyca in 1997. It is a village with the population of about one thousand. It is located in Charsznica commune, located near Miechów and Żarnowiec, in the Nida Syncline.

In 1998, the institute organised similar polls in Wrocław-Brochów (south-west of the city centre). Before 1750, it was a typical sub-urban village where people grew vegetables and bred sheep. The railroad station was built in Brochów in 1842, and it contributed to the rapid development of the village. The railroad was the first construction of its kind in Wrocław's vicinity, and it connected Wrocław with Oława. New settlers in Brochów were the railroad workers. In 1910, the village became a city, and it received a town hall, sewage and running water systems. In 1951, Brochów was incorporated into the city of Wrocław. Currently, it is a settlement with the population of 5.5 thousand.

In 2000, the institute organised polls in Kalisz's two districts, and in two districts in Wrocław. In Kalisz, the polls included respondents from Dobrzec and Piwonice. Dobrzec was an old village, located west of the city (from the end of the 16th century, it is a part of Kalisz urban area). Currently, it plays a role of a "sleeping room" for the citizens of Kalisz, and is filled with typical concrete housing projects. Piwonice is also an old village. It was located south of the city centre (from 1928, a part of the city). It is a villa-settlement with the population of 1.6 thousand.

In the same period of time, they conducted polls in Wrocław's Partynice and Grunwaldzki Square. Partynice (10 kilometres south from the city centre), was a village, included into Wrocław in 1928. In the 1970's, they built town houses, and in the 1980's, villas. The settlement Grunwaldzki Square includes six fifteen-story concrete buildings, and is known as Wrocław's "Manhattan". They were constructed before 1975. Because of the location, apartments in those buildings were rather expensive. Currently, because of increasing traffic noise, people try to escape those buildings.

In the spring of 2003, the institute conducted polls in Różanka (northern Wrocław's part). That district is divided in two parts, each including different

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type of buildings: villas and apartment buildings. Różana Valley also was a village. In 1928, it became a part of the city of Wrocław as working-class settlement. Small, one-family detached houses were built in the 1930's. In the 1980's, they built more small villas. In the 1970's, they built apartment buildings in northern part of Różanka. Building blocks are inhabited by 7.2 thousand people.

The institute's polls included 651 households, and 2,345 people. In Wrocław, they received 356 filled poll-forms. In Kalisz, 150 forms were collected. And in Tczyca, 145 forms (Table 1).

Table 1. Settlements, according to the number of respondents

SETTLEMENT	HOUSEHOLDS	GROSS NUMBER OF PEOPLE	MEN	WOMEN
Total	651	2,345	1,140	1,205
Tczyca village	145	607	303	304
Kalisz settlements:				
Dobrzec	75	278	136	142
Piwonice	75	256	119	137
Wrocław settlements:				
Brochów	116	406	193	213
Partynice	50	138	74	64
Pl. Grunwaldzki	50	108	49	59
Różanka:				
Apartment buildings	70	262	127	135
Villas	70	290	139	151

Source: own statistics, based on the data from bachelors' diploma

The motifs of domestic and foreign trips are shown in Table 2. Tourism and recreation dominated in polls. Those motifs dominated foreign trips by the respondents from all settlements, but, especially, from the village of Tczyca (almost 3/4 of all trips). The lowest rate of that motif was registered in Grunwaldzki Square (35%). Also, tourism and recreation dominated domestic travels. In Tczyca, however, only 1/5 of the respondents listed that motif of their domestic trips. One-day trips made by people from Tczyca were not motivated by tourism and recreation. Also, people living in Kalisz don't seem to go often for one-day leisure trips. People more often leave Wrocław for one-day recreation trips, especially those, who live in Różanka's villas (38%).

There are big differences between settlements as to visiting relatives and friends, and that motif is particularly strong in connection with domestic, longer-than-one-day trips. Tczyca dominates that category (51%). As a rule, more than 10 percent of respondents travelled abroad, willing to see their family and

friends (in Grunwaldzki Square, 30%). That motif is listed by many people who mad one-day trips (30–40%), in Brochów – 56%, but in Tczyca, only 7%.

Table 2. Motifs of different types of trips (in %)

SETTLEMENT		TOURISM AND RECREATION	VISITING RELATIVES AND FRIENDS	WORK	SHOPPING	OTHERS
Tczyca village	A*	–	7	5	76	12
	B	20	51	16	–	13
	C	73	16	9	–	2
Kalisz settlements:						
Dobrzec	A	2	32	19	35	12
	B	47	32	14	–	7
	C	46	29	24	–	1
Piwonice	A	1	34	18	41	6
	B	53	28	10	–	9
	C	65	7	22	–	6
Wrocław settlements:						
Brochów	A	12	56	28	3	1
	B	49	40	4	–	7
	C	66	13	18	–	3
Partynice	A	23	11	27	36	3
	B	58	27	6	–	9
	C	61	15	19	–	5
Pl. Grunwaldzki	A	31	23	34	7	5
	B	54	30	7	–	9
	C	35	30	29	–	6
Różanka:						
Apartment buildings	A	31	43	24	–	2
	B	56	36	5	–	3
	C	71	12	16	–	1
Villas	A	38	40	22	–	–
	B	63	24	8	–	5
	C	70	14	16	–	–

\*A – domestic one-day trips; B – domestic more-than-one-day trips; C – trips abroad

Source: own statistics, based on the data from bachelors' diploma

One-day trips are made by those who travel to work (ca. 20 to 30%), in Tczyca, only 5%. That motif is relatively often listed in connection with trips abroad (16 to 29%), but in Tczyca, it is only 9%. Domestic trips motivated by

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the need to work are made by 4 to 16% of respondents, and more people from Tczyca listed that motif than from any other settlement.

Shopping motivates people who leave their homes for one-day trips, and not in all settlements. Tczyca is an exception, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the respondents who shopping in different places. Also, people from Kalisz like travelling in order to buy things, but people living in Wrocław disregard that motif, except people who live in peripheral Partynice.

Table 3. The frequency of foreign trips (in last 5 years)

SETTLEMENT	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	NUMBER OF FOREIGN TRIPS	FOREIGN TRIPS PER 1 RESPONDENT	NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS	PERCENT OF TRAVELLERS	NUMBER OF TRIPS PER 1 TRAVELLER
Total	2,345	2,721	1.16	889	38	3.06
Tczyca village	607	76	0.12	55	9	1.38
Kalisz settlements:						
Dobrzec	278	182	0.65	87	31	2.09
Piwonice	256	364	1.42	90	50	4.04
Wrocław settlements:						
Brochów	406	701	1.73	202	50	3.47
Partynice	138	220	1.59	90	65	2.44
Pl. Grunwaldzki	108	145	1.34	54	50	2.68
Różanka:						
Apartment buildings	262	496	1.89	145	55	3.42
Villas	290	537	1.85	166	57	3.23

Source: own statistics, based on the data from bachelors' diploma

In the last 5 years, the frequency of foreign trips was rather high: the number of such trips was higher than the number of respondents, and that means that each statistical person made more than one trip of that kind (Table 3). The parameter is very different in different settlements (from 0.12 in Tczyca to over 1.80 in both parts of Różanka). When we analyse that situation, we should remember, though, the proverb: "there is a small lie, big lie, and... statistics". In the last 5 years, only 889 people travelled abroad (38% of the respondents, 9% in Tczyca, and 65% in Partynice). Those who travelled abroad, made 3 trips, on the average (from 1.38 in Tczyca to over 4 in Piwonice).

Table 4. Countries most frequently visited (according to percentage of trips)

SETTLEMENT	GERMANY	CZECH REPUBLIC	ITALY	FRANCE	SPAIN	AUSTRIA	OTHER COUNTRIES
Tczyca village	25	16	18	8	5	22	6
Kalisz settlements:							
Dobrzec	21	4	5	20	10	21	19
Piwonice	17	5	8	13	10	16	31
Wrocław settlements:							
Brochów	24	28	10	8	5	7	18
Partynice	21	12	8	9	6	–	44
Pl. Grunwaldzki	27	6	6	7	5	5	44
Różanka:							
Apartment buildings	26	29	6	5	6	7	21
Villas	24	26	9	7	5	6	23

Source: own statistics, based on the data from bachelors' diploma

People travelling abroad, most often visited Germany (as a rule, 20 to 25% of trips), the Czech Republic (except Kalisz settlements and Grunwaldzki Square). The third most popular destination was Italy (18% of people from Tczyca, probably, went as Pilgrims to Rome). France, Spain and Austria were listed as their destination by other travellers, especially from Kalisz. Other countries (also, outside of Europe) were listed by people from Piwonice, Partynice and Grunwaldzki Square (Table 4), and the results suggest that their interest was more scattered.

## CONCLUSIONS

The introduction to the text includes the description of the motifs and destinations of the best known Polish travellers. The first Polish traveller was the 13th century Wrocław Franciscan monk, Benedykt Pole. He was followed by others, including many insurrectionist-deportees. The best-known contemporary Polish traveller is Pope John Paul II.

The motifs and destinations of Polish travellers changed. We discuss the changes, based on the author's own research, and available publications. The destinations are different now, especially when we compare the destinations of foreign trips, made before and after 1990. The changes in tourism are connected

with social and economic changes which started at the beginning of the 1990's. In short, we changed our orientation from eastern to western.

The main part of the paper was based on the results of the research conducted at the Social and Economic Geography and Regional Development Institute of the Wrocław University. The research is organised as the part of bachelors' licence program. The poll forms were sent to people who live in four Wrocław settlements, two settlements in Kalisz, and the village of Tczyca (in the Nida Syncline).

The results of the research reveal the fact that foreign trips are mainly made because of tourist and recreational reasons. Other motifs include: visiting family and friends, work. Regarding domestic destinations (more-than-one-day trips), the motifs are listed in the same order (No. 1 is tourism and recreation, but, it doesn't dominate the list as decisively as in connection with foreign trips). One-day trips are made because people want to see their families and friends. Also, they like to go for short shopping trips (especially people from Kalisz). In the last 5 years, before the polls, 38% of the travellers went abroad (the lowest number registered in rural areas). Most frequently, they travelled to Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy, France, Spain and Austria.

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