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## DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL SETTLEMENT IN PODHALE

*Abstract:* In their paper the authors discussed the historical development of the settlement in the Podhale Region, since the Middle Ages to the contemporary epoch, against the natural conditions and evolution of the political situation. Various functional types of rural settlement were shown, with the spatial patterns and traditional forms of farm architecture, observed in this part of Poland.

*Key words:* Podhale, rural settlement, history, architecture, spatial pattern

### 1. An outline of history

Natural conditions in the Podhale region were less favourable for the settlement than those in other parts of Poland. In the Middle Ages even the discussed area was covered by forest, its flat zones were swampy and marshy, the severe climate and poor soils were also discouraging factors. Moreover, this peripheral region was dangerous and needed a military protection.

The first settlers came from the Vistula river valley, along its tributaries. The permanent settlement has been developed here since the 13<sup>th</sup> c. Its proves are names of rivers and streams in documents, i.e. Biały and Czarny Dunajec, Wielki and Mały Rogoźnik, Piekielnik, Leśnica and Poroniec (Dobrowolski 1935).

The above mentioned settlers originated from the regions of the early cities – those of Cracow, Bochnia and Sandomierz. There were three main routes of their migration – the Cracow route, along the Raba and Skawa valleys, the Sandomierz route (the earliest one) along the Dunajec river valley, and the Szczyrzyc route. The latter one started at Szczyrzyc monastery, the Cisterian one. This order, due to the vast land, obtained from the Cracow prince, began to establish villages in Podhale, according to the German Law principles, in the eve of the 14<sup>th</sup> c. These were the villages of Długopole (founded in 1327), Szaflary (1328), Ludźmierz and Krauszów (both 1333) and Klikuszowa

(1338). Due to private owner the villages of Dębno and Harkłowa (1335) and that of Waksmund (1338) were founded.

According to historical sources, in the 13<sup>th</sup> c. there was the salt work in the area of the actual Rabka Spa. The village of Rabka was also founded by Cisterians, in 1336.

Another order, which was also allowed to establish the villages by the German Law in the Dunajec River valley was that of Poor Clares, from the city of Stary Sącz. Due to those nuns, numerous villages were founded, i.e. Sromowce Niżne (1323), Maniowy (1325), Kluszkowce, Sromowce Wyżne and Grywałd (all in 1330), Tylmanowa (1336). In the mid-14<sup>th</sup> c. lands of both those orders became the royal domains. In this period the city of Krościenko was founded (1348) and the village of Łopuszna (1364).

The more intensive colonisation of Podhale began when the well-organised Hungarian settlers reached the Spisz region, along the upper part of the Poprad river valley. But those lands belonged to Polish settlers from the cities of Gniazda and Podoliniec to the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> c. In the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> c., due to the Hungarian initiative several Spisz villages were founded by the German Law rules – these were Frydman (1308), Kacwin and Niedzica (1320) and Łapsze Niżne (1340) – all these had belonged to the Holy Sepulcher Order monks from the city of Miechów (north of Cracow). In the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> c. the villages of Nowa Biała and Krempachy were established. The establishers and the first chiefs of those villagers were Germans and the village names were usually German, although most of the settlers was Polish, due to the immigration from north, along the valleys of Dunajec and Raba. Also in the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> c. the villages of the Szczawnica Niżna and Wyżna were founded, and later in the Spisz subregion – those of Trybsz (1439), Łapsze Wyżne (1463) and Durszyn (1469).

According to K. Dobrowolski (op. cit.) the site of the oldest Podhale villages depended on relief, soil fertility and climate. They were located in the valley of Dunajec and in those of its tributaries, in the zones of relatively fertile, alluvial soils, covering the river terraces being also well – insolated areas. The less favourable natural conditions blocked the colonisation of the western and northern parts of Podhale. In the eve of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. still uninhabited was the Orawa subregion, with the most of the western part of the Nowy Targ Basin, the Spisko-Gubałowskie Foothills and the Podtatrze<sup>1</sup>. There was neither settlement in the upper parts of the Raba and Skawa river valleys, nor in the valleys of their Gorce tributaries.

The considerable merits in the Podhale colonisation were those of the Pieniązek family, ruling the Nowy Targ County (starostwo) since the mid-16<sup>th</sup> c. Allowed to establish new villages (according to the royal privilege) Jan Pieniązek initiated the intensive settling activity. In the same period in the Czorsztyn County, the village of Gronków was founded about 1550, in the land of the Nowy Targ City. In 1552 the Pieniązek established the village of Czarny Dunajec, next those of Morawczyzna, Niwa and Bańska, all mentioned in the documents from 1564. In 1579 the village of Biały Dunajec was founded, in the last decade of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. – those of Stare Bystre, Chochołów, Pieniążkowice and Ciche (Rafacz 1935), and in the first decade of the 17<sup>th</sup> c. – the villages of Wróblówka,

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<sup>1</sup> The Podtatrze Subregion equals to that of the Sub-Tatra Trench (after Klimaszewski).

Podczerwone, Dział and Pyzówka. Before 1616 the villages of Lasek, Leśnica, Ratułów, Skrzypne and Załuczne were established (Rafacz 1935).

In the private lands lying in the valleys of the upper Skawa and Raba, the villages belonging to the Rabka parish, those of Chabówka, Słone and Rdzawka, were founded. That of Raba Wyżna was established about 1580, soon – those of Spytkowice, Rokiciny, Sieniawka and Bielanka, forming the Spytkowice–Sieniawka estate.

In the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> c. in the Spisz subregion were founded the villages of Jurgów, Łapszanka, Czarna Góra and Rzepiska, created partially due to Valachian sheep – rearing people who came here from other villages situated in the Spisz Zamagurze area. Valachians, being of the Romanian origin, settled formerly the clearings of the Gorce Mts. and the Pieniny Mts., next became the basic settler elements in the worst accessible areas of Podhale, especially in the subregions of Orava and Podtatrze.

The first subregion, which lands were the royal property, was uninhabited to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> c. Then began – unofficially – the colonisation organised by Hungarian owners of the Orava Castles domain – the Thurzo family. Due to the friendly attitude of Cracow rulers, they established the villages along the commercial route Cracow – Hungary. These were Jabłonka (1561), Bukowina (1565), Podsarnie (1567), Podwilk (1585), Piekienik, Podszkle and Studzianka (all in 1588), Chyżne (1595), Zubrzyca (1605), Lipnica Mała and Wielka (both in 1609) – Gotkiewicz (1958).

The subregion colonised the last was that of Podtatrze, under the rule of Witkowski. Having the Royal privilege, he founded Dzianisz, (1619) and Zubsuche (1620), next (before 1624) the villages of Witów, Groń, Gliczarów, Białka, Bukowina, Olcza and Poronin, and that of Suche (1630) – Rafacz (1935).

The development of mining and smelting in the Tatra Mts. and the continued grazing turned the sub-Tatra clearings into hamlets, and then into villages – like Zakopane, Murzasichle, Małe Ciche, Nowe Bystre and Kościelisko.

In the first stage of the Podhale colonisation, that of the 14<sup>th</sup> c., appeared numerous German elements, connected with the Hungarian influence reaching from the upper Poprad Valley the Spisz Subregion and the Dunajec valley.

Also the beginnings of grazing in the Podhale are due to German settlers – the prove is not only the names of Tatra clearings, belonging to the oldest Podhale villages, but also the village names. To that of Szaflary belonged pastures of Kalatówki and Strążyska, to the Waksmund village – those of Kondratowa and Waksmundzka (Podkański 1986). In the final stage of colonisation the most important was an inflow from north, along the Raba and Skawa valleys. Due to those settlers – the Poles – the western Podhale (especially the Orava Subregion) was settled. From south, along the Vah and Orava river valleys came Valachians, who flew also from the Zamagórze Spiskie area. The Valachians brought new methods and traditions of grazing. The polonized Germans and the Valachians, together with the dominating Poles, were elements, owing those the Podhale highlanders became the separate cultural group in the Małopolska population.

Most of the Podhale lands was the royal domain. Peasants being the king subjects were allowed to appeal to the royal court, when their laws were violated by local landlords, thus their legal situation was better than in the other regions of Poland. In the Nowy

Targ county their duties (work, rents tributes) were the lowest. The worst situation was that of the peasants from the private lands.

In 1769 Orava and Spisz were annexed by Austrian Empire, next year the Polish –Austrian border was moved northward, to the Gorce Mts. Finally, Spisz and Orava became the part of the Hungarian State, while the counties of Nowy Targ and Czorsztyn – that of Austrian province of Galicia and Lodomeria (together with the Grand Duchy of Cracow). Formerly Podhale was the separate Nowy Targ district, then it was included (in 1782) to that of Nowy Sącz.

During the partition period, the Austrian authorities turned the former royal domains into the empire lands, but soon, because of financial problems, decided to sell them to private owners. To make this transaction easier, the former Nowy Targ royal domain was divided into 4 parts, that of Czorsztyn – into 5. The sold, started in 1819, lasted in the Nowy Targ part to 1824, in the Czorsztyn one – to 1828.

From the Nowy Targ Domain, the Klikuszowa section, consisted of 10 villages (Niwa, Obidowa, Klikuszowa, Lasek, Morawczyzna, Pyzówka, Pieniążkowice, Dział, Załuczne and Długopole) was bought by Sebastian Stadnicki. The Zakopane section (15 villages, those of Waksmund, Białka, Groń, Leśnica, Bukowina, Brzegi, Zakopane, Ząb, Suche, Stare Bystre, Miedzyczerwienne, Maruszyna, Ostrowsko, Dębno and Gronków) became the property of Emanuel Homolaes. The villages situated in the Biały Dunajec river valley (Szaflary, Zaskale, Baniska, Biały Dunajec, Poronin, Murzasichle, Skrzypne and Gliczarów) were purchased by Tomasz and Honorata Uznański. The western section (the villages of Czarny Dunajec, Wróblówka, Podczerwone, Chochołów, Ciche, Dzianisz and Witów) was bought by Jan Pajęczkowski in 1819, and next, in 1821 Rev. Szczurkowski, acting in the name of 83 peasants. This estate became later the common property of those 7 villages – but after the long action lasting to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. The former Cisterian domain in the vicinity of Ludźmierz were sold by Austrian authorities to Wojciech Przerwa-Tetmajer in 1819 (those were the villages of Ludźmierz, Krauszów and Rogoźnik).

In the former Czorsztyn county the transaction began from the Maniowy section (the villages of Maniowy, Huba and Mizerna) bought in 1818 by Jan Pirażowski, and in 1819 – by Józef Gorząbek. The Czorsztyn section, consisted of the villages of Czorsztyn, Kluszkowce, Sromowce Niżne and Wyżne, Krościenica and Hałuszowa (was bought by Maksymilian Drohojewski), the Krościenko part (Krościenko, Grywałd, Tylka) – by Franciszka Grossowa (in 1822), while the villages of Tylmanowa and Ochotnica were bought by Ambroży Kołodziejcki (in 1828). In the same year Josephine Szalay purchased the village of Szczawnica – the further development of this spa due to this Hungarian family, which used the local mineral sources (oxalates).

The Orava and Spisz villages still belonged to the rich Hungarian families. The private property were the lands of the villages of Rabka, Sieniawa and Spytkowice, also did those of Łopuszna (the Tetmajer family), Harkłowa (the Rodeckis, the Krobickis), and Raba Wyżna, too.

Being the subjects of the new owners of the former of royal domains, the peasants were obliged to do their duties – until the 1848 enfranchisement. Since this land reform in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. the self-government became popular in the Podhale villages.

These were the bodies with community councils and chiefs. But those communities still depended on landlords, whose estates were organised in the separate administrative units.

The economic base for the self-government became the common lands and rural forests, delimited by special commission, organised in the city of Lwów. Those lands were an equivalent of the former law to use the wood from landlord forest. Those self-governments acted without any support from the State authorities to the 30 s. of the 20<sup>th</sup> c.

When Poland regained its independence in 1918, Podhale became the part of the Nowy Targ powiat (district). Initiated then the regional movement, in which participated the educated people (writers, artists, economic activists) created the first regional organisation in Poland – the Union of Podhale Inhabitants (Związek Podhalan), which has its overseas branch in the United States of America.

In 1933 the greatest Podhale villages became the centres of local administration, the so-called the collective communities. These were 20 units of this type – 18 rural and 2 urban ones. In the alphabetical order, these were: Bukowina (containing 6 villages), Chochołów and Ciche (4 each), Czarny Dunajec (2), Czorsztyn (7), Jabłonka (8), City of Krościenko and Krościenko as the community consisted of 5 villages, Ludźmierz (10), Łapsze Niżne (8), Łopuszna (9), Ochotnica (2), Odrowąż (6), Poronin (5), Raba Wyżna (9), the Rabka Spa, Szaflary, (8), Szczawnica Wyżna (6) – and two cities, those of Nowy Targ and Zakopane.

Such the administrative structure lasted to 1954 and was the base of an local administration scheme introduced in 1972.

In the 1954-62 period most of Podhale villages was the separate communities, combined into the greater units since 1963 to 1976. The actual self-governmental system is similar to the pre-war one – the same are the community centres and the spatial scope of most of the Podhale communities is similar. But in 1999 the district self-government pattern was changed – since this year there have been two districts, those of Nowy Targ and Zakopane (the Tatrzański district). The latter one is small, consisted of 4 communities only (those of Bukowina Tatrzańska, Biały Dunajec, Poronin and Kościelisko) – and of the city of Zakopane. The Nowy Targ district is much more greater – there are the city of Nowy Targ and 12 remaining communities. Near the city there are those of Nowy Targ and Szaflary, westward of it – the communities of Czarny Dunajec, Jabłonka and Lipnica Wielka, eastward – Czorsztyn, Łapsze Niżne and Krościenko, northward – Spytkowice, Raba Wyżna and Ochotnica Dolna.

A competition of Nowy Targ and Zakopane caused this division of Podhale into 2 districts. All the territorial self-governments are members of the Community Union, which centre is Nowy Targ. This Union is to initiate the co-operation of the Podhale communities in order to important investment projects realisation.

## 2. Spatial patterns of Podhale villages

As it was stated before, the settlement development in Podhale had always depended of the natural conditions, mainly on the relief and the hydrographical network. The first villages were founded in the valleys of Dunajec and its tributaries. The farm location close the river made supply with water easy. The primary settlement divided

the village territory into fields belonging to particular farmers, the common pastures and forests. The primary spatial pattern was connected with three – field rotation. In the first year the given field was used for potato, into the second one – for rye and barley, and in the third year oats was sowed. All the farmers were obliged to plant the same crops each year on the each field (Dobrowolski 1935). In some villages i.e. at Nowa Biała, even now plots situated within the given field complex are used in the same way.

The oldest villages were the street villages, with houses situated along the main road, from both its sides, or one. In the middle there was a rectangular square. Such the pattern is still visible at Szaflary, Nowa Biała, Niedzica and Krempachy. Such the primordial street village was later transformed into the so-called dense street village. If its spatial development was lateral, the clustered village appeared, like that of Dursztyn. If along the main road passed another one and its end was next joined with the main axis – the fork-like pattern was obtained – like that of the Jurgów village.

The further spatial growth of the street villages caused the building dispersion along numerous roads, thus those localities became the irregularly clustered villages – the best examples are those of Ludźmierz, Waksmund, Szaflary and Dębno.

The old three-field villages kept its radial road pattern. Out of the main road with basic building concentration the lateral roads are spread and the field roads, too. The first settlers located their village in such the way that its territory contained not only the valley, but also the high afforested mountain slopes (i.e. at Waksmund, Ostrowsko, Łopuszna, Harkłowa). The use of forest was always important for highlanders, because of wood and other incomes.

In the second stage of the Podhale colonisation, initiated in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> c., the worse accessible zones were settled, those with poorer soils and more severe climatic conditions. Most of villages founded in this period formed the chain of farms, over ten kilometres long, along the stream valleys. Those streams gave water for people and agricultural needs. Such the villages are called chain villages. In the lower section of the valley the farms are situated on the low flat terraces, while in the medium section on the slopes. In the highest section, in which the valley is too narrow for the farm location, the buildings occupy the flattened slopes or ranges, forming hamlets.

The typical chain villages in the Spisko-Gubałowskie Foothills region are those of Ciche, Stare Bystre, Ratułów, Białka, Groń, Leśnica and Łapszanka. In the Nowotarska Basin such the pattern is showed at Gronków, Lasek and Trute. In the Orawa subregion the same is the pattern of Zubrzyca Dolna and Górna, Lipnica Wielka and Mała, and the Podwilk village. In the Gorcze Mts. the chain villages are those of Sieniawa, Raba Wyżna, Rdzawka, Ponice, Klikuszowa, Obidowa, Ochotnica Dolna and Górna. The two latter ones show considerably great denivelations, thus they have numerous hamlets situated on the barely accessible clearings. Some of them, like those of Osobie, Górniki, Folwark and Skałka lie 200 m higher than the level of the basic valley, where most of the buildings is concentrated.

Typical for the Ochotnica spatial pattern are also the lateral embranchments of the built-up zones, those along the streams of Młynne, Gorcowe, Jamne, Jaszczce, Forędówki and Furcówka. They form the well-developed settlement network in the Ochotnicki stream catchment basin.

The settlement on the Gorce clearings was always seasonal. The highlanders used them in summer, grazing cattle and sheep and moving the grass, to obtain hay for winter. In autumn people and animals returned to the farms in the valley. Such the “stage agriculture” lasted in the Gorce longer than in the Tatras, where, after the creation of the Tatra National Park, the grazing on the clearings and alpine meadows was considerably limited.

In the Podhalańskie Foothills, the region of less intensive relief, the villages were founded on the flat crests, in the form of the crest chain village. Such the pattern is shown at Bańska Niżna and Wyżna, Sierockie, Ząb, Bustryk, Czerwienne and Gliczarów Górny. The village of Bukowina Tatrzańska, the well-known tourist centre, lying the eastern zone of Foothills, close to the Tatras – occupy several crests (the so-called “wierchy”), those of Olczański, Kurców, Rusiński and Głodowski. There are the settlements of the tourist functions, while the village centre lies on the northern slope of the Kramarski Wierch, along the main road.

On the clearings lying in the western part of the Sub-Tatra Trench and on the southern slopes of the Gubałówka Range, at the foot of the Western Tatras, there is another famous tourist centre – the Kościelisko village, the primordial building structure of this village founded in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> c., was completely transformed due to the tourist development observed there in the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. Formerly there were dispersed settlements situated on the clearings, i.e. those of Nędzówka, Chotarz, Szeligówka, Wojdyłówka, Karpiełówka, and Krzeptówki.

Many Podhale villages, especially those entering the mountains, have hamlets – the small settlements consisted of several, or about ten farms, located far from the village centre, on the clearings. They are hardly accessible due to considerable denivelation. The examples of hamlets in the Orava are Kiczory<sup>2</sup> at Lipnica Wielka and Mała, Danielki at Podwilk and Studzianki at Orawka and Podszkle.

In the Gubałowskie Foothills the hamlets are greater, being consisted of several ten farms, like Leszczyny and Stołowe at Biały Dunajec, those of Sądel and Stefany at Leśnica, and Koszary at Harkłowa are smaller. At Łopuszna the hamlets of Zarębek Wyżni and Koszary lie far off the village centre, but those of Żory and Zagrody at Odrowąż and Takuški, Ubocz and Morawy at Czerwienne are situated on the village fringe. In contrary, the hamlets of the Ratułów village, those of Mulice and Górki, are very distant and are hardly accessible, especially in winter. In the Gorce villages the hamlets are disappearing (i.e. at Ochotnica, Harkłowa, Szlembark, Maniowy), because of their unfavourable location, on the inaccessible clearings, high in the mountains.

But the hamlets are attractive for the recreational buildings. Such the objects are built on the fringe of the villages of Bukowina Tatrzańska, Kościelisko, also in the Spisz subregion at Falsztyn, Dursztyn, Nowa Biała). At the Łopuszna village, which enters deeply into the Gorce Mts., the holiday settlement was built, too.

The small forest-field villages cut transversally the small lateral valleys (i.e. at Załuczne), or show the rural pattern without the visible centre, like at Rzepiska

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<sup>2</sup> Kiczory – the village within the Lipnica Wielka community, consisted of two hamlets in the villages of Lipnica Mała and Wielka,

in Spisz, where the village is consisted of separate clusters, i.e. those of Grocholów Potok, Wojtyczki, Szyszkowie, Bryjów Potok and Pawliki.

The chain village show the long – lot field pattern. Out of the farms are stretched elongated field (the so-called “role”), with the field roads along them (and perpendicularly to the main road). At Białka, Groń, Leśnica, Raba Wyżna, Sieniawa, Rdzawka and Police the spatial expansion of the built-up zones was realised along the field roads. But that at Szaflary, Biały Dunajec, Poronin, Rogoźnik and Gronków was observed both along the main road and the lateral ones. Also at Bustrzyk, Sierockie, Bańska Wyżna, Czerwiene and Bukowina Tatrzaska the new roads became attractive settlement axes. Together with the road network, that of waterpipes makes the settlement more compact, because the buildings can be located off the sources.

### 3. Spatial patterns of village farms

The rural patterns of Podhale villages is generally favourable for the development of roads, waterpipe network and that of canalisation for building of the gas network, and that of electric energy. But in some compact villages of the Nowotarska Basin and in Spisz the building areas lack. Moreover, the traditional form of the Spisz farm, with the narrow gate, makes different the driving of the agricultural machines in the yard and the transport of yield to the farm buildings.

Those compact forms of the rural building in Spisz and in the Nowy Targ Basin are connected with the oldest stage of colonisation that of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> c., according to the German Law principles. The longer chain villages, founded later, in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> c., played a decisive role in the colonisation of the mountain zones of Podhale.

The discussed region shows the considerable rural architecture traditions, expressed mainly by a great variety of farm buildings types. The so-called “Podhale style”, transformed artistically by S. Witkiewicz, is well -known and appreciated all over Poland. Unfortunately, under conditions of an uncontrolled building movement, lasting since the 60s., in some parts of the Podhale region the tradition of wooden architecture was abandoned. New houses built of brick, are vast and comfortable, but their solids are seldom similar to those of old highlander houses. Those houses were built of smoothed logs, and the wooden construction of walls was ended by steep roof covered by shingles. The roof was decorated by eaves beams, ingenious top joinings and porches. The style used in the rural architecture in Podhale was adopted to the local natural conditions, mainly to the long winter, abundant precipitations and strong winds.

The houses were sited in the well-insolated places, to make the flat lighted and to use the sun warm in the severe mountain climate. The building gable was exposed to the roads, passing usually north-south, along the valley course. From west, perpendicularly to the house, the farm buildings were built, in the L – shape pattern – thus, the house occupied northern or southern edge of the plot, being protected from west winds, prevailing in Podhale. Such the site of the farm building made them accessible from the village road.

In the mountain zones of Podhale the houses were located usually from the southern side of the farm plot, while the remaining buildings – to the north. This pattern was

typical for the southern part of Podhale, where snowy winters are long. In such the circumstances the highlander had better access to this buildings from the house.

Completely different farm types, due to another cultural traditions, are found in the subregions of Orava and Spisz. The villages of the latter area are similar to the small towns, i.e. that of Nowa Biała. The houses with wide hall from compact pattern along the village road – or their gables are exposed to the road, with the quadrangle of farm building behind the house. The access to them is due to the lateral road passing by the houses. Because of lack of space plots are very narrow and the mentioned quadrangle of buildings is elongated.

There are also groups of 3-4 farms situated by the common yard. In such the cases they occupy both the sides of the road leading to the principal one – first, the houses, behind them the farm buildings belonging to various farmers. Out of this pattern, in a given distance, there is a row of barns – such the site was chosen to prevent the houses from the fire.

The above described peculiar rural pattern of Spisz villages needs the legal protection, as the precious monument of material history, the remnant of the German medieval settlers who brought from their country such the architecture. Similar also i.e. at Ostrowsko and Waksmund – those villages had to have some connection with the Spisz subregion in that epoch.

Another physiognomy is that of the Orawa villages. There are the elongated farms, exposed to sun and situated perpendicularly to the main road, from its both sides. By the houses there are granaries made of brick or stone, behind them are situated barns and brick stables, and on the plot end – the remaining buildings. All those buildings are covered by the common roof, several ten meters long. The similar pattern is observed in the Podhalańskie Foothills, but in this subregion the houses are exposed southward and the farm is situated parallelly to the main road. The latter rural pattern was introduced by the Polish settlers coming from north.

Most of the Podhale villages is elongated north-south, along the river and stream valleys and the main road, being the settlement axis. Formerly the houses were always built east of the farm buildings. The present farms are opened to the road from its western side, forming with the houses the L-shape pattern. In the Orawsko-Nowotarski Basin, the subregion elongated from the west to east, the houses are situated along the road showing the same direction and the rest of farm buildings stands behind them, being joined with the houses, or not. Also in this zone the houses are exposed to sun.

But all those rules are not obeyed in the new architecture. The houses are usually separated from the other buildings of the farm, being joined sometimes with them by garages. Each house is exposed toward the road. The wood, the stone and thatched roof were replaced by brick, hollow brick, tiles, sheet and eternit. Only in the Podtatrze subregion the houses are sometimes built according the traditional Podhale style, of logs located on the foundation wall made of granite gables, taken from the Tatra stream beds.

In spite of the differentiated physiognomy of villages lying in the particular Podhale subregions, the houses built in the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. are similar everywhere. Such the unification concerns both their form and inner equipment.

In some zones the traditional highlander houses disappeared. Those which still exist, are considerably transformed. In the traditional houses there were usually two vast rooms, separated by the hall with the open or glazed porch. Such the houses were typical for all Podhale, except for the Spisz and Orawa subregions.

In winter the huge highlander family live in only one heated room, in which linen and wool were processed – and during the strongest frost period – lambs and calves just borned were kept. Such the use of the same room to work and to animal nursing was unfavourable for the people. The low level of hygiene influenced negatively the health, especially that of children and the oldest generation members.

The transformation of the Podhale villages became intensive in the 60s. of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. In spite of the general progress in the construction methods, the old carpenter art is continued. The Podhale carpenters pass their skills from one generation to another and every of them is able to built the nice wooden house. The prove of their art are traditional roofs built on the brick buildings, which shape is unique in Poland. The Podhale masters of wooden architecture are ingenious in creation of wooden interiors and are well-known all over the country and even abroad. The Podhale carpenter teams work in various parts of Poland and – seasonally – in other countries.

The villages of Chochołów can be treated as the open air museum of the traditional Podhale rural architecture. There are well-preserved wooden houses, build of logs of 80 cm diameter, taken from the Tatra forest covered by shingles. Although their interior is quite modern, because of contemporary inhabitants needs, those houses still show their original aspect. In the discussed village there are several tens of such the houses, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> c. and forming the compact pattern. Being officially qualified as the historical monuments of European significance, all are inhabited. The highlanders live in them, work in agriculture, craft or in tourist service. Each of those houses is the regional tourist attraction<sup>4</sup>.

The residential conditions of the Spisz and Orawa inhabitants were slightly better, due to the greater dimensions of their houses, in which two adjacent rooms were heated by the common stove.

The Spisz houses, situated one by one, were usually made of brick. It was connected with the Hungarian fireproof rules, according to them it was forbidden to built wooden houses in the compact settlement patterns.

The houses being built nowadays in Podhale are fireproof and are high structures of several floors, similar to urban “villas”, equipped with central heating, water pipes, vast bathrooms in two or three floors and the vast laundries in the basement. From the southern side there are balconies, under them, usually on the garages, there are sometimes terraces.

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<sup>3</sup> The Podhalańskie Pogórze – the subregion consisted of the Pogórze Gubałowskie and the Pogórze Bukowińskie

<sup>4</sup> The Podhale style of rural architecture is continued widely in the subregion of the Skalne (Rocky) Podhale, in other areas only sporadically – in the form of wooden houses showing the highlander aspect, but equipped in the luxurious way.

By those houses, in the well-kept yard, there are the farm buildings and the separate garages. Thus the village physiognomy is rather attractive. The post-war progress in the Podhale settlement concerned mostly the buildings dimensions and functions. The old small barns are replaced by the greater ones, better enlightened and ventilated, often equipped with running water. The vast barns can contain more harvest, which machinery – the most valuable machines are kept in the garages or at least under station roof.

In spite of all those changes, the tradition of the joining of the farm buildings under the common roof is still alive. Such the complex is consisted of the brick stable and the wooden barn with wide hall in order to pass through. In some cases to this complex are added brick garages, in which the machines are kept, and the cart sheds.

The spatial pattern of the contemporary farm shows the trend toward a reduction of the type and number of buildings, recompensed by their growing dimensions. In contrary to the houses, the buildings used in agricultural purposes are often wooden. Made of wood are the barns, the cart sheds and floors built over the brick garages and stables.

In the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> c. Podhale is both the region of the traditional settlement structure and of the dynamic building movement, observed along the new transport axes and local roads. The houses are comfortable and well-equipped. Over 2/3 of the local population live in the houses of the urban standard.

Since the 90s. of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. the successive villages or their parts are joined to the canalisation collectors, taking sewages to modern treatment plants. Most of them was situated around the new artificial lake, the Czorsztyński Reservoir on the Dunajec river, other were built in the valley of this river, up the lake. They take the sewages not only from the cities of Nowy Targ and Zakopane, but also those from numerous Podhale villages.

In the last decade of the past century over 1/4 of rural households in the discussed region was served by the running water, and 10% – by the canalisation network. Also about 1 of houses were heated centrally. The automated washing machines, freezers and refrigerators are widely spreaded.

Thus the traditional image of the poor land great highlander family, having many children and composed with several generation, all living in the small 1-2 rooms flat has passed. Nowadays every member of the family has the separate room. Let this fact shows the scale of progress, realised in the Podhale region, especially over the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> c.

## Rozwój osadnictwa wiejskiego na Podhalu

### Streszczenie

Warunki przyrodnicze Podhala były mniej korzystne dla rozwoju osadnictwa niż w innych rejonach Polski. Pierwsi osadnicy pochodzący z ziem nadwiślańskich dotarli na płaskie tereny Podhala porośnięte puszcza karpacką dolinami rzek już w XIII w. W drugim etapie zasiedlania Podhala, rozpoczętym w połowie XVI w. kolonizowane były trudniej dostępne obszary, z ubogimi glebami i gorszymi warunkami klimatycznymi. Większość tworzonych wtedy wsi ciągnęła się wzdłuż dolin potoków. Liczne wsie podhalańskie, zwłaszcza te, które wchodziły w tereny górzyste, posiadają przysiółki. Są to osady skupiające po kilka lub kilkanaście zagród, znacznie oddalonych od głównej zabudowy wsi, leżące zwykle na polanach leśnych z utrudnionym dojazdem, ze względu na dużą różnicę wysokości.

Podhale wyróżnia się wyjątkowo bogatymi tradycjami budowlanymi. Dowodzi tego m. in. wielka różnorodność typów zagród rolniczych. Styl podhalański, któremu w pełni artystyczne znamię nadał Stanisław Witkiewicz, znany jest i ceniony w całej Polsce.

Przebudowa wsi podhalańskich z większym rozmachem rozpoczęła się dopiero w latach sześćdziesiątych XX w. Mimo zróżnicowanej fizjonomii wsi w poszczególnych obszarach Podhala, zbudowane w ostatnich dziesięcioleciach domy mieszkalne wszędzie są podobne. Można wręcz mówić o unifikacji budownictwa, zarówno w aspekcie zewnętrznego wyglądu domów, jak i ich wewnętrznego wyposażenia.

Obraz ubogiej, wielodzietnej i wielopokoleniowej rodziny góralskiej, mieszkającej w jedno- lub dwuizbowym mieszkaniu należy już do przeszłości. W przeciętnej rodzinie każda osoba ma dziś do dyspozycji oddzielną izbę. Ten fakt najlepiej odzwierciedla skalę postępu cywilizacyjnego, jaki dokonał się na Podhalu w procesie rozwoju tego regionu, zwłaszcza w drugiej połowie XX wieku.

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