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## EARLY TOURISM WRITING AT THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW (15<sup>TH</sup> C.-MID-17<sup>TH</sup> C.)

**Abstract:** The author attempts to outline early tourism writing by professors and graduates from the Kraków Academy (*Akademia Krakowska*), the majority of which are geographic and cartographic works. Among the authors, Jan Długosz, Wawrzyniec Korwin, Jan z Głogowa, Maciej z Miechowa (*Miechowita*), Bernard Wapowski and Marcin Kromer should be mentioned.

**Key words:** Jagiellonian University, geography, tourism.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Having studied the history of geography at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow for many years, I have realized that among the early writings found there are the most ancient examples of Polish tourism literature. The oldest Polish geographical works by professors or graduates of Kraków Academy (*Akademia Krakowska*) can be regarded as models for later guide books or tourism monographs and their strong patriotic element has always been present in later geographical and tourism publications. The beginnings of this literature date back to the Renaissance – a period when Polish and Kraków geography flourished. This reviving intellectual atmosphere was found favourable by many outstanding authors such as Jan Długosz, Wawrzyniec Korwin, Jan z Głogowa, Jan ze Stobnicy, Maciej z Miechowa (*Miechowita*), Marcin Bielski, Bernard Wapowski, Marcin Kromer, Jan Brożek and Szymon Starowolski. Unfortunately, we often forget about the achievements of these first Polish geographers and precursors of tourism.

### 2. CHOROGRAPHIA... BY JAN DŁUGOSZ

Undoubtedly, the first person to shape and develop Polish geographical and tourism literature was a canon from Kraków, Jan Długosz (1415-80) (JACKOWSKI & SOŁJAN 2004, JACKOWSKI 2008). A university graduate, later strongly connected with the royal capital, he demonstrated his knowledge

and understanding of geography and was considered by those who followed to be the father of Polish historiography and the first Polish geographer.

Długosz was brought up in a patriotic atmosphere and discovered his beloved homeland mainly thanks to his work at the Kraków Chapter. He catalogued many geographical materials during his work in the chapter archives and verified them during his many church visitations, a part of his work with Cardinal Zbigniew Oleśnicki. Later he broadened his knowledge further, using his position as a courtier and tutor to the royal children. During his journeys he visited almost all parts of Poland, as well as Prussia, Lithuania, Samogitia, Russia and Silesia. The region he knew best, and which was closest to his heart, was Małopolska. As a member of delegations and diplomatic missions, he also went to Italy, from where he travelled to the Holy Land (1450-1), and also visited Bohemia and Hungary. From those journeys he brought volumes written by ancient authors, including the distinguished Roman historian, Livius, whom he gladly imitated. The fruit of Długosz's work and life was a multitude of works, including *Historia Polski Książ XII (The History of Poland in Twelve Books)*, preceded with a geographical description of the country, quite unusual for those times, entitled *Chorographia Regni Poloniae*, as well as *Liber Beneficiorum dioecesis Cracoviensis (The Remuneration Book of the Kraków Diocese)*. Wanting to present the geography and history of Polish territory in an objective way, he also used foreign publications and

in order to do that properly, he studied other languages such as Russian.

The most renowned geographical work by Długosz is *Chorographia Regni Poloniae*, i.e. *The Chorography of the Kingdom of Poland*, also known as *Geografią szczegółową Polski – A Detailed Geography of Poland*. Stanisław Pawłowski claims that Długosz presented an image of Poland “so true that it could be rivalled by neither his predecessors nor contemporaries” (PAWŁOWSKI 1915, p. 452). It is believed that “a more detailed picture of Poland, and especially of Polish hydrography, cannot be found in Polish literature until Staszic’s times, i.e. the early 19<sup>th</sup> c.” (PAWŁOWSKI & ROMER 1964, p. 558).

When starting his work, Jan Długosz only partly intended to imitate Ptolemy’s work. He certainly used the catalogue form for presenting his splendid descriptive geography of Poland and was also familiar with geographical works by other ancient authors referred to in mediaeval works.

When he decided to work on *Chorographia*, Długosz was strongly motivated by a feeling of patriotism. Studying the works of many authors, he realized that they did not have any true knowledge of Poland and treated it marginally despite its importance. He could not accept the fact that a politically disintegrated Italy had better cartographic documentation than Poland, a country which in the 15<sup>th</sup> c. “reached the apogee of its political power”. It is said that Długosz “proved his deep love of his homeland by writing his descriptive geography of Poland, because only a profound knowledge gave this feeling true value. This love inspired him to collect information and materials referring to the physiography of Poland in different ways” (KORNAUS 1925, p. 98). There is another reason why Długosz started work on his *Chorographia*. Geographical historians point out that Długosz’s profound mind must have noticed and understood the need to associate the historical events which he described, with the given territory where they had taken place. That is why he wrote *Chorographia* and that is why it preceded his *Historia*. This is Długosz’s great contribution.

One part of *Chorographia* is a general description of Poland, based on the texts by Gallus Anonymus and Enea Silvio de Piccolomini. The information concerns climate, soil, arable and pastoral agriculture, and natural resources. After describing the borders, which he tries to relate to natural boundaries, Długosz presents his most valuable part on hydrography, and rivers in particular. This is the part which brought Długosz recognition and gave him a place in the history of geography. In the 15<sup>th</sup> c. to describe a river system was an extremely difficult and ambitious task. The maps of that time contained

few details (only a small number of cities, the contours of some existing or imaginary mountains, or a major river), so Długosz could not base his descriptions on them. His main source of information was the many journeys and surveys he made. In this way he collected data, verified it and supplemented it all the time.

Długosz meticulously mapped the river system of Poland. He studied not only the large rivers and their major tributaries, but also some smaller ones. His great achievement was the division of the country into river basins, which is commonly regarded as a serious step forward in the development of geographical thought, and not only in Poland.

He considers the Vistula to be the main river. “It is the most magnificent Polish river and quite rightly privileged; it waters the larger part of Polish Kingdom and runs a distance longer than other. Having set its course from the west eastwards, it then turns to the north, and enlarged by other rivers joining it from both sides [...], it divides into three at the estuary.”

Next Długosz talks about the Odra with its numerous tributaries, including the Warta and the Bug. He also gives a detailed description of the Dniestr, Nieman and Dniepr. After a general review, he gives details of the tributaries, “[...] which, though they sometimes lose their names by joining other rivers, seemed [to us] worth mentioning in this work”.

The second part devoted to the hydrography of lakes. Długosz presents 90 of them, starting from the best known, Lake Gopło, which “is given priority due to its name alone and its excellence”.

The next part is devoted to highlands. Compared to that on hydrography, it is unfortunately much more modest. Długosz begins with a general statement about the flat character of the country: “Although the Polish Kingdom, undifferentiated and flat, has less higher ground than other countries, it still has a lot ... the major ones of which will be described”. He begins the description with Łysa Góra, probably because of its old tradition and historical significance, and then goes on to Wawel, Jasna Góra in Częstochowa and others. All in all, he describes thirty five, giving information about the natural resources in the area (marble quarries, veins of lead, etc.) or the views from individual summits. As a historian, he focuses on the description of the *grads* (Slavic settlements) built there, both existing and those which had not survived.

Having described these, Długosz moves on to discuss the cities and their population. First he mentions the capital of that time – Kraków – and gives it most of his attention. Following Kraków, he

describes eighteen diocesan capitals, e.g. Wrocław, and twenty five collegiate towns, as well as some other cities such as Gdańsk, Toruń and Elbląg.

Długosz recorded his geographical knowledge in other works, especially in *Historia* and in *Liber Beneficiorum dioecesis Cracoviensis*. They both complement his geography, especially as regards information about cities, roads and the economy. Information about droughts, floods, early frost, severe winters or other natural disasters has become a valuable source for the study of Polish climate and its secular variations. Długosz also provided information about other countries, concerning above all, the landforms, hydrography and forests in Europe.

*Liber Beneficiorum...* is a detailed inventory, a nearly complete statistical presentation of the villages, property and buildings which brought income to the Kraków Chapter. It contains a geographical-statistical description of an area covering 10 000 km<sup>2</sup> with 12 000 settlements.

Jan Długosz's *Chorographia* is the first detailed geographical description of Poland set in the 15<sup>th</sup> c. It should be regretted that this work, similar to *Liber Beneficiorum*, was not fully completed because of the author's premature death. The range of material, the meticulousness and comprehensiveness of the description, the very idea and original methodology - all this makes this work exceptionally significant. Kornaus says: "This work [*Chorographia*] has become the starting point and the basis for all later descriptions of Poland. He gave the description a Polish 'soul and form' and we should be really grateful. He gave the Polish names of about 1000 uplands, rivers, lakes and other places, and his consistent, purposeful aspiration to give the Polish form of topographical names and highlight their Polish sound, makes Długosz more comprehensible and closer to us than the long line of his imitators, who took his words and dressed them in a dead Latin form. He gave us the first descriptive geography of Poland, using a method which stood out from any other used at that time, and for that reason he deserves to be called the father of the geography of Poland" (KORNAUS 1925, p. 101). Pawłowski claims that "nobody before him had provided a more comprehensive picture of Poland, and even after him we had to wait long for such a detailed description; quite rightly then can we see in him the first physiographer of Poland" (1915, p. 472).

### 3. GEOGRAPHY AT THE KRAKÓW ACADEMY (AKADEMIA KRAKOWSKA)

The first regular geography classes date back to 1490 or soon after. In the beginning they were classes in astronomic geography, but gradually the professors of the Academy started to devote more and more time to descriptive geography. Many cosmographic publications appeared which were a kind of geography textbook for students, and containing a lot of tourist and landscape information.

The author of the first cosmography textbook was Wawrzyniec Korwin (*Laurentius Corvinus Novoforensis*, in fact Rabe-Raabe, c. 1465-1527) from Silesia, a friend of Copernicus. His work has a Latin title: *Cosmographia dans manuductionen in tabula Ptholomei* (Basel c. 1496) and Korwin was "the first in Poland to write a geographical textbook for Polish students" (BUJAK 1925, p. 32-3), a clear sign of an original trend in Polish and Kraków geography (BUJAK 1925, p. 25).

The book consists of two parts. In the first, theoretical, the author gives a kind of lecture in mathematical-physical geography. The other, much longer, part is a description of the three parts of the world known at that time: 'Libya' i.e. Africa, Europe, and Asia.

A part is devoted to Poland. Bujak wrote: "While Korwin treats the whole Western Europe as if it was still a province of the Roman Empire, and tells his students to learn about the rest only as much as ancient travelling traders and storytellers were kind enough to say, he makes an exception for Poland, and to relieve his feeling and inspiration, he writes "*Ode sapphica endecasyllaba dicolos tetrastraphos peonice de Polonia et Cracovia*" in its honour (1925, p. 31-2). Despite the fact that this Sapphic ode was written in beautiful language, it is rarely quoted. Therefore we have decided to present it here (based on BUJAK 1925, p. 32):

*"Poland is a land of farming Sarmatians, spreading northwards, cut with many pleasant rivers, but the most beautiful of them is the blue Vistula, springing swiftly from among snow-white rocks. It washes the walls of the royal capital, chosen by Pallas<sup>1</sup> to be her seat. She teaches about the air, clouds, lightning, blizzards, she lectures about the movements of the pink Luna<sup>2</sup> and golden Phoebus<sup>3</sup> who admires the wise men of Kraków from heaven. Here, sweet singing under Apollo's direction and beautiful girls, full of eternal virtue, grow under Venera's<sup>4</sup> care. Not far from Kraków, in Wieliczka, there is an artfully hewed cave leading to Erebus<sup>5</sup>, where the sun's rays never reach nor morning light shines. The cave provides salt, arduously extracted with a great treadmill.*

*Polish lands are also rich in metals, as a thousand horses tear lead ore from it night and day. It also bears sturdy and belligerent men on the Vistula and Odra rivers; the gentry often take up arms, rout their enemies, win the spoil, and place the trophies in God's shrine on Wawel."* Korwin devotes the second verse to his 'small homeland' of Silesia.

We should also mention another Silesian, Jan from Głogów (*Głogowczyk, Głogowita, Głogoviensis*, Jan Schelling, 1445-1507), a highly regarded teacher of astronomy and geography, and an author of a commentary on Ptolemy's *Geography*. According to some historians, Głogowczyk was a typical example of a medieval encyclopaedist and scholar, but Barycz describes him also as an "excellent and splendid geographer of his time" (BARYCZ 1935, p. 274-5). He had a very good knowledge of ancient and contemporary geographical literature, introduced a visual method into teaching how to use maps, provided geographical information concerning contemporary Poland, and was well-informed about Portuguese discoveries. During his lectures, he used a visual method, i.e. showed maps to his students and explained them, he pointed to mountains, to the course of rivers, to the location of cities and spoke [...] about the qualities and singularities of individual regions, considering [...] above all the current situation" (BUJAK 1925, p. 68).

Another lecturer at the University was Filip Kallimach (1437-96). He was one of the first to undertake serious study of the ethnogenesis of the Slavic peoples and in his historical works he took a wide geographical background into account. Having travelled to Bulgaria, he described the physiography of this country.

Let us also mention that in 1503 a small treatise appeared written by a graduate of Kraków Academy, later a diplomat - Mikołaj Rozembarski (c. 1450-c. 1506). This work contained a geographical-historical description of Eastern Europe and Asian countries, and was ordered by the German Emperor, Maximilian I. It was a kind of physiographic and ethnographic description of south-eastern Europe and considered to be one of the first attempts to describe these lands from a geographical point of view.

University chronicles also mention 'visiting professors' of that time who gave lectures on different subjects. In 1517 the Academy was visited by a Swiss geographer, Joachim Vadian, the former rector of the University in Vienna, and a professor in St Gallen. His most famous work was an atlas of the world (1534). During his stay in Kraków, he visited the salt mine in Bochnia and described it in his abundant correspondence. He is considered to be the first 'tourist' visiting this mine.

Many foreigners were members of the University circle, e.g. Konrad Celtis (1459), a German humanist and later a university professor in a number of European countries. In Kraków he studied mathematics, astronomy and natural science (1488), befriended Wawrzyniec Korwin and founded the first literary society, *Sodalitas Litteraria Vistulana*, whose members included Wojciech Brudzewski and Wawrzyniec Korwin. After returning to his country, he published the famous *De navigatione sua Sarmatica* (1492) - a report from his journey on the Vistula from Kraków to Gdańsk. Other writings by this author include reminiscences from his stay in Poland. It is believed that by making his materials available, Celtis inspired Hartmann Schedel to include a beautiful description of Kraków in his *Liber Chronicarum* (1493).

#### 4. 'TREATISE ON THE TWO SARMATIAS' (TRAKTAT O DWOCH SARMACJACH) BY 'MACIEJ Z MIECHOWA' (MIECHOWITA)

In those times Polish geography was made famous by Maciej z Miechowa (also known as *Miechowita*, 1457-1523), a historian, geographer, physician, bibliophile, and from 1501 the rector and vice-chancellor of Kraków Academy. This outstanding scholar and great humanist began to be appreciated in Polish academia relatively late. His role in the development of Polish geography remained forgotten for centuries but today *Miechowita* is being 'rediscovered'.

Small in size, *Miechowita's* 'Treatise on the two Sarmatias' (*Tractatus de duabus Sarmatiis, Asiana et Europiana*)<sup>6</sup> was published in 1517. Translated from Latin in 1535, it was the first geographical book printed in Polish, and at the same time the first modern geography of Eastern Europe in which the author wrote the first systematic description of the land between the Vistula, the Don and the Caspian Sea. For many years it was the main source of information about this part of Europe. *Miechowita's* European Sarmatia spread between the Vistula and the Don Rivers, and the Asiatic Sarmatia - between the Don and the Caspian Sea. The inhabitants of Western Europe were for the first time informed about Sarmatian territory, its terrain, rivers, climate, flora and fauna, as well as the inhabitants of individual countries. The author paid particular attention to political and ethnographic relations. Apart from the lands populated by the Tatars, he focused on the Moscow area and although he never visited this territory personally, he tried to collect credible information from those who knew it:

traders, prisoners of war and fugitives from Moscow, as well as Poles travelling there and to Crimea. He also referred to all available writings. Despite the fact that *Miechowita's* work was not free from mistakes and geographical-historical inaccuracies, it must be said that it was a breakthrough among contemporary views concerning the geographical 'shape' of Eastern Europe. When it was published, all the information the author included was extremely valuable and educational because it was completely new (BUCZEK 1960, p. 153). Maciej z Miechowa was one of the first to negate Ptolemy's perspective.

### 5. THE WORK OF OTHER PROFESSORS AND GRADUATES OF THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

Another person associated with Kraków for many years was Marcin Bielski (1495-1575), the author of *Kroniki wszystkiego świata* ('Chronicles of the World') published in 1551 and considered to be the first general geography written in Polish. It was very important for widening the geographical horizon of future generations of Poles. It contains information about the discovery of America and the Indies written in Polish for the first time.

It is believed that the book was extremely important in the history of Polish awareness of the world because the others did not have such an influence on knowledge in general, let alone geographical knowledge. *Chronicles...* crossed eastern borders and was relatively soon translated into Russian and Belarusian and for a very long time they first learned about newly discovered lands from this book. Despite mistakes and inaccuracies, and sometimes the author's great naiveté and uncritical treatment of the information he received, Bielski's work played a significant role in popularizing general geography. Written in Polish, it was accessible for those who did not know Latin.

Publications also appeared concerning individual regions, and the most outstanding representative of regional geography at that time was Marcin Kromer (1512-89), a former student of the Kraków Academy (1528-30), who continued to work with the University after graduation. The knowledge he gained, and his academic degree, were the basis of his later career. Travelling all over Europe, especially to Germanic countries, he discovered that foreigners lacked knowledge about Poland. Wanting to do something, he wrote *Polska, czyli o położeniu, ludności, obyczajach, urządach i sprawach publicznych Królestwa Polskiego ksiąg dwoje* (*Poland: the Location, People, Customs,*

*Institutions and Public Issues in the Kingdom of Poland* – in two books), which was published in Latin<sup>7</sup>, without his consent in 1575 in Frankfurt, and later with his consent, in 1578 in Cologne. The author showed a good knowledge of the country and society and he evaluated the exploitation of natural resources. Most of the material included came from his own observations, and he knew a large part of what he was describing from his own experience. We are mostly interested in Book One, *O geograficznym położeniu Polski i polskim ludzie* (*About the Geographical Location of Poland and the Polish People*), and in a part of Book Two, concerning the administrative system. They are the first discussions, presented in such detail, of this subject in Polish literature. Reading the book, the great influence of Jan Długosz and his *Chorographia* on Kromer can be noticed. His work was very popular, and it was published many times both in Latin and in translation. From the very beginning its practical aspect was highly appreciated and in 1574, still in handwritten form, it was presented to the new Polish king, Henryk Walezy (who was also Henry III Valois of France). Coming from France, the king had very little knowledge about his future kingdom and Kromer's work was to alleviate this problem. The book was also very important in the promotion of Poland in the West and remained one of Poland's most popular publications there for many years. It is often stressed that Kromer "introduced us to the world". No later description of Poland up to the 18<sup>th</sup> c. was equal to the Kromer's (OLSZEWICZ 1957, p. 29).

It must be added that descriptions of individual places (more often) or regions (less often) sometimes appeared in poetic form. The best known example of this kind of literature is the poem by Grzegorz z Sambora (*Samborczyk*), entitled *Censtochowa* and published in 1568 in Kraków.

A popular 17<sup>th</sup> c. work was *Polska albo opisanie Królestwa Polskiego* (*Polonia nunc denuo recognita – Poland: a Description of the Polish Kingdom*), first published in 1632 in Cologne, and its author was a former student and later a professor of the Kraków Academy, Szymon Starowolski (c. 1587-1656), Poland's first historian of literature. The Polish translation appeared in 1734 and to an extent the book replaced Marcin Kromer's *Poloniae...*, although the latter still had many supporters.

Starowolski's work was a kind of guide for foreigners visiting Poland. Until nearly the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> c. it was the main source of knowledge about Poland in Europe, providing information about geographical location, population, natural resources, 'material culture', political system, army, customs, etc. The book was prepared very conscientiously and presented an objective picture.

## 6. CARTOGRAPHIC WORKS

As geographical literature developed, major cartographic work appeared which helped in the process of forming a spatial geographical awareness for Poles. An author of excellent cartographic works in those times was a former student of the Kraków Academy and Copernicus' friend, Bernard Wapowski (1450 or 70-1535). At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. he was in Rome where in 1506 he probably met an Italian cartographer Marco Beneventano (c. 1465 - after 1523). They co-operated (probably together with Copernicus) on re-drawing the map of Central Europe originally prepared by Mikołaj from Kuza, and included in one of the Roman editions of Ptolemy's *Geography* (1507/ 8). Apart from Ptolemy's charts, these editions also included 'new' (modern) maps of some European countries: Poland, Hungary, Bohemia, Germany, Russia and Lithuania (OLSZEWICZ 1967: 57-8). A clear confirmation such cooperation is the particular care for detail in the part concerning Poland (e.g. correct Polish names, and extended information about the river system), as well as the place names of Radochonice and Wapowice - Wapowski's own homes. After his return to Poland (1515) he pursued his interest in cartography. The first map, printed by Florian Ungler in Kraków (1526), consisted of a few sheets showing Sarmatia, i.e. Eastern Europe, at a scale of 1 : 2 900 000. It was a model used later by Sebastian Munster, Jan Honter, Waclaw Grodecki and Gerard Mercator. The next map published the same year but a few months later, was a detailed cartographic presentation of Poland and the western part of Lithuania, at the scale of 1 : 1 000 000 rarely used at that time. Both maps were genuine achievements in European cartography. "The territories of former Poland and the adjacent countries, almost completely unknown to Ptolemy and other ancient writers, and hardly familiar to Wapowski's western contemporaries, were presented in an admirable way" (OLSZEWICZ 1967, p. 59). It is supposed that the materials concerning the cartography of Pomerania were supplied to him by Copernicus, and Kraków astronomers helped him to calculate the geographic coordinates of many Polish places. Only a small number of countries had as detailed maps as that of Poland and in that respect countries such as England, Denmark or Sweden were behind. The maps were the basis for a further development of cartography and until the 18<sup>th</sup> c. Wapowski was called "the father of Polish cartography", but unfortunately only some fragments of his work have survived to our times. In the fire of Kraków in 1528 the printing blocks and printed copies of maps were destroyed and only the copies

which had been already sold survived (OLSZEWICZ 1967, pp. 62-63). As a result they soon became priceless rarities. Most probably, at the end of his life, Wapowski was working on a map of Northern Europe, but we do not know whether he managed to complete the task.

Another University graduate who became a cartographer was Waclaw Grodecki (*Grodziecki*) (c. 1535-91) who in a sense continued Wapowski's work. He studied in Kraków in 1550-5 and 1561-4 and after worked mainly in Bohemia. During his stay at the university in Leipzig (1556-8?) he drew a well-known map of Poland (c. 1562) which he dedicated to King Sigismund II Augustus. It was a reduced and slightly altered part of Wapowski's map. As nearly all the copies of Wapowski's maps had been burnt, Grodecki's work was long considered to be the best map of Poland and was included in the famous atlas of Abraham Ortelius (*Teatrum Orbis Terrarium*, 1570).

Jan Brożek (1585-1652) an outstanding mathematician and astronomer, a great lover of geography should also be mentioned. He was the founder of the Faculty of Applied Geometry, which was active until Kollataj's university reform in 1778-83 and considered to be the first geodesic-cartographic faculty in the world. In 1618 Brożek made a second attempt (following Wapowski) to produce a cartographic representation of Poland. He also intended to write an outline of Polish geography and fragmentary documents show that it was to be based on strictly mathematical assumptions and the author's experience, i.e. on direct field study. In order to familiarize himself with the Vistula river basin, in 1618 Brożek went on a journey to Warmia, renting a raft and went as far as Gdańsk. Unfortunately, he never managed to write what he had intended (BARYCZ 1957, p. 186).

## 7. TRAVEL LITERATURE

This attempt to review the history of geographical and tourist writing at that time in Kraków would be not be fully successful if we ignored reports from journeys. The basic source of information is the correspondence which has survived until today (e.g. letters by Jan Długosz or Jan Dantyszek). Gradually, written reports or guides appeared, prepared especially with intended journeys in mind.

The most popular direction for journeys was the Middle East (Near East), especially the Holy Land. We have already spoken about Jan Długosz's trip to that region, so let us briefly mention others from Kraków who embarked on such an exhausting

journey. Despite the fact that not all travellers were directly connected with the University, their decision to go on the pilgrimage must have been motivated not only spiritually, but also by their willingness to experience the world which they had learnt about. Early pilgrimages of this kind date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> c., but more reliable information comes from the 14<sup>th</sup> c. (e.g. 1330 – Mikołaj Rusin, 1354 – Mikołaj Wierzynek). At the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> c. the Kraków bishop, Piotr Wysz with a group of companions went on such a pilgrimage while in 1474 the same was done by Jakub z Boksic, known as *Boksica*<sup>8</sup>, in 1478 – by Szymon z Lipnicy, an Academy graduate, a Bernardine canonized in 2007, and in about 1490 – by Krzysztof Szydłowiecki, later the Great Chancellor of the Crown, a Kraków palatine and castellan. At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> c. the Holy Land was visited by Mikołaj Rozembarski who was mentioned earlier.

In the early 16<sup>th</sup> c. Jan Dantyszek set off on such a journey. Due to the many journeys he made all over Europe and the Near East, he is considered to be the most eminent Polish traveller of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. Apart from the Holy Land, he visited Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, England and Belgium. In 1524 King Sigismund I the Old appointed him the first Polish envoy at the court of King Charles V of Spain.

An important person in the history of Polish travel, and especially pilgrimage, is Anzelm Polak, also known as Anzelm Jerozolimczyk or Anzelm Krakowianin. He belonged to the Bernardine Order and most of his life spent in Kraków (until 1513; he died between 1519 and 1522 in Poznań). In 1507–8 he was a confessor in Jerusalem and took the opportunity to visit Palestine. A report from his journeys, entitled *Terre sanctae et urbis Hierusalem*, was published in Kraków in 1512, as an annex to the work by Jan z Stobnicy, *Introductio in Ptolemei Cosmographiam*. It was the first description of Palestine made by a Pole and contains many references to Poland, namely to some places or elements of the natural environment. For instance, the author compares Kraków to Jerusalem, Stary Sącz to Hebron, and the width of the River Warta to that of the Jordan. According to Bujak, it is clearly evident that it was “a guide prepared by a Pole for Polish pilgrims” (BUJAK 1925, p. 143). In 1517 Jerusalem was visited by Jan Amos Tarnowski, a later Kraków castellan and palatine, and a Crown hetman. On his way he also visited Egypt and Cyprus. In 1518 he edited one of the first diaries in Polish literature recording his journey to the Holy Land: *Terminatio et itinerario*. In the Polish version the report was published as *Itinerarium Jana Tarnowskiego z pobytu w Ziemi Świętej z roku 1518 (Jan Tarnowski's Itinerary from His Stay in the Holy Land in 1518)* (1930). Polish rulers increasingly frequently employed

scholars for diplomatic missions, mainly eastbound, to Moscow and Constantinople in particular. Let us mention here a mission of Filip Kallimach, a University professor, who went to Turkey in 1487 as King Kazimierz IV Jagiellon's envoy, and Maciej Strykowski or Andrzej Taranowski travelling with diplomatic missions into Poland. Krzysztof Pawłowski must have had some connection with Kraków, as he had friends there and set off on his overseas journey in 1596 from this city. He travelled around South Asia and was the first Pole to write a description of India, dying in Persia at the end of 1603. Let us mention one more Academy graduate, travelling a little later – Wojciech Męcinski, a Jesuit and a missionary founded a mission in Mozambique, stayed in India, Goa, on the Malayan Peninsula, Formosa, in Vietnam, Macao and Cambodia. In 1642 he arrived in Japan and a year later he died in Nagasaki as a martyr. He left letters behind, most of which were unfortunately lost and one contains a report from his journey to Asia and a description of India.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

This discussion demonstrates how important the Kraków Academy was in the history of Polish geographical writing. In most cases the books were also the oldest examples of Polish tourism literature. The authors were outstanding humanists who, in addition other areas of interest (e.g. mathematics, astronomy, nature, theology and medicine), were also interested in issues related to geography. The works which appeared in the Renaissance period had many things in common. It was very important for the basic research material to come from direct field studies and almost all authors stressed that it was necessary to know a given region or country from experience, and treat other sources only as supplementary materials. Analyzing individual works, we can conclude that the authors had good knowledge of the related literature. The published material often came from interviews, which even then were considered to be a basic research method. The authors understood the necessity to discuss issues which broadened geographical awareness in society and enlarged knowledge. There is one more element clearly visible in nearly all the works of that time: a great love for Poland and this feeling was often the direct inspiration to study a given area. In subsequent centuries geographical writing not only preserved the elements listed above, but also developed them. When modern tourism appeared in

Poland, there was already an abundant literature written during the first phase of Polish geography development.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Pallas or Athena, the goddess of wisdom, art and science.

<sup>2</sup> Luna – the Moon goddess.

<sup>3</sup> In Greek mythology Phoebus is Apollo. The name quoted by Korwin comes rather from Latin poetry, in which it was a name of the Sun God.

<sup>4</sup> Venera – Venus.

<sup>5</sup> In Greek mythology Erebus is the god of darkness, a personification of darkness. Sometimes the word “Erebus” means Hades, the underground world, the darkest deep of the underground world, where the souls of the dead traveled after death.

<sup>6</sup> In the second Kraków issue (1521) the work appeared under a more appropriate title: *Descriptio Sarmatiarum Asianae et Europianae*.

<sup>7</sup> The original title: “*Polonia sive de situ, populis, moribus, magistratibus et Republica Regni Polonici libri duo*”.

<sup>8</sup> Jakub from Boksice was granted permission by the University to travel to Jerusalem, but on the condition that on his way back, in Rome he would do a PhD in medicine (sic!).

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