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## THE FORMAL ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY SCHOOL STUDENTS' SIGHTSEEING CLUBS IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF POLAND (1918–1939)

### INTRODUCTION

Sightseeing and regionalism were considered as one of the most important methods of shaping personalities of students as members of the nation and the state in Poland during the interwar period. The literature on education and upbringing in the Polish school of the Second Republic of Poland as well as on various structural, organizational, program, didactic and educational reforms is extensive and includes the papers by: Feliks Araszkiewicz<sup>1</sup>, Franciszek Bereźnicki<sup>2</sup>, Danuta Drynda<sup>3</sup>, Wanda Garbowska<sup>4</sup>, Leonard Grochowski<sup>5</sup>, Teresa

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<sup>1</sup> F. Araszkiewicz, *Idealy wychowawcze Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej [Educational ideals of the Second Republic of Poland]*, Warszawa, PWN, 1978, p. 295.

<sup>2</sup> F. Bereźnicki, *Hasła „nowej szkoły” w dydaktyce Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej [The slogans of the “new school” in teaching in the Second Republic of Poland]*, Toruń, Wydawnictwo A. Marszałek, 1988, p. 213; Idem, *Innowacje pedagogiczne w Polsce (1918–1939) [Innovations in pedagogy in Poland (1918–1939)]*, Szczecin, WSP in Szczecin, 1984, p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> D. Drynda, *Pedagogika Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej. Warunki – orientacje – kontrowersje [The pedagogy of the Second Republic of Poland. Conditions – orientations – controversies]*, Katowice, UŚ, 1987, p. 183.

<sup>4</sup> W. Garbowska, *Szkolnictwo powszechne w Polsce w latach 1932–1939 [Public education in Poland between 1932–1939]*, Wrocław, Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, 1976, p. 203.

<sup>5</sup> L. Grochowski, *Szkoła polska na tle europejskim 1918–1939 [The Polish school compared with the rest of Europe]*, „Rozprawy z Dziejów Oświaty” 1990, No. 33, p. 219–244.

Hejnicka-Bezwińska<sup>6</sup>, Krzysztof Jakubiak<sup>7</sup>, Danuta Koźmian<sup>8</sup>, Elżbieta Magiera<sup>9</sup>, Stanisław Mauersberg<sup>10</sup>, Stanisław Michalski<sup>11</sup>, Joanna Sadowska<sup>12</sup> etc. However, there are no studies on the activities of school sightseeing clubs in the interwar Polish education, the issues of which were discussed by Danuta Koźmian<sup>13</sup> with regard to the beliefs presented by Aleksander Kazimierz Patkowski and Edyta Wolter<sup>14</sup> concerning the environmental education in the Second Republic of Poland. The latest publication on the purposes and the functioning of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs is the paper by Urszula Wróblewska<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> T. Hejnicka-Bezwińska, *Praktyka edukacyjna w warunkach zmiany kulturowej (w poszukiwaniu logiki zmian)* [An educational practice under conditions of cultural changes (searching for logic of changes)], Warszawa 2015, p. 474.

<sup>7</sup> K. Jakubiak, *Wychowanie państwowe jako ideologia wychowawcza sanacji. Kształtowanie i upowszechnienie w periodycznych wydawnictwach społeczno-kulturalnych i pedagogicznych* [State education as an educational ideology of sanation. Formation and dissemination in social, cultural and pedagogical publications], Bydgoszcz, WSP in Bydgoszcz, 1994, p. 226; Idem, *Współdziałanie rodziny i szkoły w pedagogice II Rzeczypospolitej* [Cooperation of family and school in pedagogy of the Second Republic of Poland], Bydgoszcz, Wydawnictwo Uczelniane WSP in Bydgoszcz, 1997, p. 302.

<sup>8</sup> D. Koźmian, *Samorząd uczniowski w polskiej pedagogice Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej (1918–1939)* [Students' councils in the Polish pedagogy of the Second Republic of Poland (1918–1939)], Szczecin, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 1991, p. 299.

<sup>9</sup> E. Magiera, *Wychowanie państwowe w szkolnictwie powszechnym Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [State upbringing in public education of the Second Republic of Poland], Szczecin, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 2002, p. 226.

<sup>10</sup> S. Mauersberg, *Komu służyła szkoła w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej? Społeczne uwarunkowania dostępu do oświaty* [Whom served the school in the Second Republic of Poland? Social determinants of access to education], Wrocław–Warszawa, Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, 1988; Idem, *Wykonywanie obowiązku szkolnego w niepodległej Polsce (1918–1939)* [Implementation of compulsory education in independent Poland (1918–1939)], „Rozprawy z Dziejów Oświaty” 1996, Vol. 37, p. 155–176.

<sup>11</sup> S. Michalski, *Koncepcje systemu edukacji II Rzeczypospolitej* [The concepts of the system of education in the Second Republic of Poland], Warszawa, WSiP, 1988, p. 295.

<sup>12</sup> J. Sadowska, *Ku szkole na miarę Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej. Geneza, założenia i realizacja reformy jędrzejewiczowskiej* [Towards customized school which meets the requirements of the Second Republic of Poland. The origin, assumptions and the implementation of the Jędrzejewicz reform], Białystok, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku, 2001, p. 295.

<sup>13</sup> D. Koźmian, *Poglądy społeczno-pedagogiczne Aleksandra Kazimierza Patkowskiego (1890–1942)* [Social and pedagogical beliefs of Aleksander Kazimierz Patkowski (1890–1942)], Szczecin, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 1994, p. 79–82.

<sup>14</sup> E. Wolter, *Edukacja ekologiczna w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [Environmental education in the Second Republic of Poland], Warszawa, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, 2013; Idem, *Wychowanie do postaw ekologicznych na łamach „Bezpłatnego Dodatku do Miesięcznika Krajoznawczego Orli Lot Poświęconego Ochronie Przyrody Wydawanego Nakładem Państwowej Rady Ochrony Przyrody”* [Upbringing to ecological attitudes published in a “Free Supplement to the monthly sightseeing journal Orli Lot on the protection of nature published by the National Wildlife Protection Board”, „Kwartalnik Historii Nauki i Techniki” 2015, No. 1, p. 221–230; Idem, *Wychowanie ekologiczne w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [Environmental education in the Second Republic of Poland], „Forum Pedagogiczne” 2011, No. 2, 119–147.

<sup>15</sup> U. Wróblewska, *Cele i organizacja Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej w okresie międzywojennym* [The objectives and organization of the School Students' Sightseeing Clubs in the interwar period], in: *Turystyka w edukacji historycznej i obywatelskiej* [Tourism in historical and civic education], ed. M. Ausz, J. Bugajska-Więclawska, A. Stepnik, D. Szewczuk, Lublin, Wydawnictwo UMCS, 2017, p. 183–196.

School sightseeing clubs, since 1964 referred to as school sightseeing and tourism clubs, have functioned since the 1919–1920 school year up to date<sup>16</sup>. They were created on the initiative of the Polish Sightseeing Society (Pol. Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze, hereinafter referred to as: PSS) founded in 1906, which paid particular attention to the participation of young people in this movement, as well as the educational and didactic benefits related thereto. Ludomir Sawicki took the initiative to establish youth clubs, whose activities were supervised by the Committee (former Section) of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs headed by Leopold Węgrzynowicz, who was considered the most important creator and organizer of school sightseeing clubs in Poland in the interwar period.

The aim hereof is to show formal aspects of the activities of the School Students' Sightseeing Clubs in Poland over the period of 1918–1939, by analyzing the printed sources.

#### THE PERIOD OF PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHOOL SIGHTSEEING CLUBS

The origin of school sightseeing clubs<sup>17</sup> was connected with the activities run PSS, branch in Cracow, which was created in May 1919 on the initiative of Ludomir Sawicki. On June 16, 1919, the management board established the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people<sup>18</sup> and already on June 18, 1919, sent the first circular on their activities and defined their tasks in the following way: *a) regular promotion of sightseeing among young people, b) promoting the idea of independent work among young people, c) regular promotion of independent sightseeing work among young people (creating independent sightseeing and tourism teams, photography, collecting, etc.), c) regular promotion of the principles of protecting natural monuments and outcomes of human work among young people, d) encouraging young people to promote these principles*

<sup>16</sup> K. Denek, *Krajoznawstwo i turystyka w polskiej szkole. Tradycje – współczesność – wyzwania*, [Sightseeing and tourism in the Polish school. Tradition – contemporaneity – challenges], in: *O potrzebie krajoznawstwa w edukacji szkolnej [On the need to educate about sightseeing in the school education]*, ed. K. Denek, L. Drożdżyński, A. Gordon, Warszawa–Poznań, Wydawnictwo PTTK Kraj, 2009; A. Gordon, *Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze w kształtowaniu postaw krajoznawczych i umiejętności turystycznych dzieci i młodzieży [The Polish Tourism and Sightseeing Society in shaping sightseeing attitudes and skills in children and adolescents]*, in: *O potrzebie krajoznawstwa w edukacji szkolnej [On the need to educate about sightseeing in the school education]*, ed. K. Denek, L. Drożdżyński, A. Gordon, Warszawa–Poznań, Wydawnictwo PTTK Kraj, 2009; D. Hyżak, *Działalność krajoznawczo-turystyczna w szkole jako nośnik wartości. Przykłady dobrej praktyki [Sightseeing and tourism activities at school as a carrier of values. Examples of a good practice]*, in: *O potrzebie krajoznawstwa w edukacji szkolnej [On the need to educate about sightseeing in the school education]*, ed. K. Denek, L. Drożdżyński, A. Gordon, Warszawa–Poznań, Wydawnictwo PTTK Kraj, 2009.

<sup>17</sup> In order to avoid linguistic monotony, the term “School Students' Sightseeing Clubs” is used interchangeably with “school sightseeing clubs”.

<sup>18</sup> M. Gotkiewicz, *Nasze XXX-lecie. Fragmenty referatu prof. Mariana Rotkiewicza o kołach krajoznawczych [Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Fragments of the paper by Prof. Marian Rotkiewicz on sightseeing clubs]*, „Orli Lot” 1949, No. 7, p. 98.

among their peers<sup>19</sup>. The Organization Committee of the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people was responsible for creating sightseeing clubs for young people in line with the abovementioned circulars and included: Walery Goetel<sup>20</sup>, Franciszek Fuchs<sup>21</sup>, Bronisław Piątkiewicz, Paweł Sosnowski, P. Nelken, Józef Szado, Leopold Węgrzynowicz and Tadeusz Kołodziejczyk.

A few days later, i.e. on June 27, 1919, the management board of PSS in Cracow held a meeting and invited as well the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people in order to create the Organization Committee of the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people<sup>22</sup>. The invitation was accepted by: P. Sosnowski, F. Fusch, P. Nelken, L. Węgrzynowicz, T. Kołodziejczyk and M. Morecki. At the request of Ludomir Sawicki<sup>23</sup> an obligation was created to establish from 1919–1920 school year sightseeing clubs for different groups of young people: school (except lower classes of elementary school) and out-of-school (young people from working-class and craft families)<sup>24</sup>. Particular groups were to conduct activities independently on the basis of students' councils under the direction of PSS. As it might be concluded from the minutes taken during the meeting which were printed in the journal entitled "Orli Lot", sightseeing clubs for young people were to be created in their own environments, which meant that they functioned in relevant educational institutions, and the groups of young people from working-class families operated in specific unions gathering those people<sup>25</sup>.

At the first meeting of the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people, which took place on June 27, 1919, Węgrzynowicz and Kołodziejczyk were asked to develop a draft curriculum and work regulations for sightseeing clubs for young people,

<sup>19</sup> The circular of June 18, 1919, in: J. B. Twaróg, *Z kart historii Oddziału Krakowskiego Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego 1919–1950 [From the history of the Polish Sightseeing Society in Cracow 1919–1950]*, Kraków 2003, p. 6, (access: 30.06.2018), available at: [https://khit.pttk.pl/index.php?co=tx\\_ptkm\\_3](https://khit.pttk.pl/index.php?co=tx_ptkm_3). Por. K. Staszewski, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej PTK [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of PSS]*, „Ziemia” 1968, No. 2, p. 147; „Orli Lot” 1926, No. 5, p. 75; „Orli Lot” 1949, No. 7, p. 100–101.

<sup>20</sup> Walery Goetel (1889–1972), a geologist, an ecologist, a paleontologist, a social activist, and a professor at the Jagiellonian University.

<sup>21</sup> Franciszek Fusch, Ph.D., a geographer (F. Fuchs, *Szkoła ogólnokształcąca jako zakład wychowawczy [General secondary school as an educational institution]*, „Przegląd Pedagogiczny” 1920, No. 4, p. 141–155).

<sup>22</sup> The Polish Sightseeing Society, the branch in Cracow, was established on the initiative of Ludomir Sawicki (*Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze Oddział w Krakowie [The Polish Sightseeing Society, the branch in Cracow]*), „Orli Lot” 1920, No. 5, p. 50).

<sup>23</sup> Ludomir Sawicki (1884–1928), a prominent Polish geographer, an organizer of scientific life, a co-founder of the Polish Geographical Society and the first editor of „Przegląd Geograficzny”, a professor at the Jagiellonian University.

<sup>24</sup> C. Skopowski, *Rys historii i pracy Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej [An outline of the history of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, in: *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej. Idea – Organizacja – Historia – Pieśni [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs. Idea – Organization – History – Hymns]*, Kraków, Published by Komisja Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej Rady Głównej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego, 1934, p. 17; Idem, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, „Przyjaciel Szkoły” 1933, No. 10, p. 291.

<sup>25</sup> *Protokół pierwszego posiedzenia Sekcji Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży, Początki organizacji kół krajoznawczych młodzieży [The minutes of the first meeting of the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people, the beginnings of the organization of sightseeing clubs for young people]*, „Orli Lot” 1949, No. 7, p. 101; „Orli Lot” 1926, No. 5, p. 75.



Sosnowski was responsible for finding club coordinators among teachers, and Nelken for finding club coordinators for young people from working-class and craft families. The task of Szado was supposed to win the support of the organizers of school sightseeing clubs in department schools. Apart from the above mentioned members, the Committee responsible for the curriculum and regulations consisted of: L. Sawicki, B. Piątkiewicz and W. Goetel. The Committee started its work at the beginning of September 1919 from discussing the draft curriculum and work regulations of sightseeing clubs for young people developed by Węgrzynowicz and Kołodziejczyk. As a result of the meeting held by the Committee, they elected the executive committee, developed the work regulations of the School Students' Sightseeing Clubs, adopted them on November 27, 1919<sup>26</sup>, and published in "Orli Lot".

On October 22, 1919, the management board of PSS, branch in Cracow, entrusted Leopold Węgrzynowicz with the leadership of the Section of Sightseeing Clubs for young people who at first commenced to organize clubs in Cracow, especially in secondary schools<sup>27</sup> and then expanded this activity to the whole country. The Section of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs was responsible for contacting secondary schools in the region of Cracow, which encouraged other educational institutions in the country to establish sightseeing clubs, organize courses for club coordinators, and hold meetings and lectures with people of science: Władysław Szafer, a botanist and a professor at the Jagiellonian University, Walerym Goetl, a geologist and a paleontologist, a professor at the Jagiellonian University, Seweryn Udziela, an ethnographer and a co-founder of the Ethnographic Museum of Kraków and an author of works on ethnographic issues, Władysław Semkowicz, a historian and a professor at the Jagiellonian University, Kazimierz Nitsch, a linguist and a historian of the Polish language, a professor at the Jagiellonian University.

The works on sightseeing issues were sped up and spread across the country, when the press body of the school sightseeing clubs "Orli Lot" was set up in Cracow, which later became the main centre of sightseeing for young people. Leopold Węgrzynowicz was responsible for the edition thereof.

#### THE UNION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS' SIGHTSEEING CLUBS

At the beginning of 1927, at the request of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society, their leading motto, along with museums, included the sightseeing clubs for young people. On February 4, 1927, the meeting was held, during which they noticed the need to form an association of guardians of Sightseeing Clubs for young people, who together with their members formed the Union of Sightseeing Clubs

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> *Z życia organizacji krajoznawczych [From the life of sightseeing organizations]*, „Orli Lot” 1920, No. 1–2, p. 14–15; *Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze Oddział w Krakowie [The Polish Sightseeing Society, the branch in Cracow]*, „Orli Lot” 1920, No. 5, p. 51.

for young people. It was suggested to establish the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs to be appointed by the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society from all guardians of the school sightseeing clubs. Every guardian of this organization became a member of the Committee<sup>28</sup>. Such actions meant that the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society became the leader in organizing the school sightseeing movement. On March 19, 1927, the Central Council approved the regulations of the Committee and appointed L. Węgrzynowicz, a prominent ethnographer, an organizer of the sightseeing movement, and a methodologist as chairman<sup>29</sup>. Piotr Golas was deputy chairman, Józefa Berggruenówna – became the secretary, Maria Medwecka – the treasurer, and Hanna Sonnoburg-Habenstret – the deputy treasurer<sup>30</sup>.

The Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society functioned on the basis of the regulations accepted and approved by the Central Council of PSS in 1927. Its *task was to promote the passion for learning about the country among young people and to develop the sightseeing movement in Poland*<sup>31</sup>. As a consequence, the Committee initiated a network of school sightseeing clubs, registered them, their activities and curricula. It made sure that the activities of school sightseeing clubs concentrated on the press body of school sightseeing clubs "Orli Lot", which provided them with an ideological direction of work in their curricula. It collected materials confirming the activities of the school sightseeing movement in Poland and abroad, while maintaining contact with sightseeing organizations of young people abroad, and organized tours of school clubs in Poland and abroad, providing assistance of the Sightseeing Center of the Central Council of PSS. Moreover, it published sightseeing materials collected by young people, held contests, awarded prizes, organized exhibitions, and contributed to popularizing the sightseeing movement among students. In order to coordinate sightseeing activities, it established contacts with other sightseeing, tourism and sports associations, and cooperated with the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, which provided the Committee with support and cooperation<sup>32</sup>.

The Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs was maintained thanks to voluntary contributions made by individual school sightseeing

<sup>28</sup> *Sprawy organizacyjne. Komisja Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej Rady Głównej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego* [Organizational issues. The Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society], „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 3, p. 58–59.

<sup>29</sup> A. Czarnowski, *Leopold Węgrzynowicz. Organizator krajoznawstwa wśród młodzieży* [Leopold Węgrzynowicz organizing sightseeing tours among young people], Warszawa, Wydawnictwo PTTK, 1987, p. 49.

<sup>30</sup> *Sprawy organizacyjne I-ego Zjazdu Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży w Krakowie* [Organizational issues of the First Congress of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs in Cracow], „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 6, p. 123.

<sup>31</sup> „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 4, p. 80; *Sprawy organizacyjne. Regulamin Komisji Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej Rady Głównej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego* [Organizational issues. The regulations of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society], „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 5, p. 98–100; J. B. Twaróg, *Z kart historii Oddziału...*, p. 7.

<sup>32</sup> *Regulamin Komisji Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej Rady Głównej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego* [The regulations of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society], Kraków, Drukarnia „Orbis”, 1929, p. 1.

organizations, subsidies awarded by the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society, and income derived from lectures, publications and other undertakings of the Committee. As it was stated before – the Committee was composed of all guardians of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs and other people interested in the school sightseeing movement. As far as the internal organization of the Committee is concerned, in places where several students' sightseeing clubs functioned, their guardians formed a club of guardians, whose chairman belonged to the management board of the branch of PSS. Such clubs operated on the basis of regulations approved by the branch management board and subsequently sent to the Presidium of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs. The local club of guardians supervised a uniform direction of sightseeing operation of the clubs for young people, by organizing exhibitions, readings, trips and other forms of activity. In the voivodship, all guardians of the clubs formed a district club of guardians, chairman of which belonged to the management board of the Regional District of PSS which were established i.a. in Bydgoszcz, Cracow, Poznan, Warsaw and Vilnius<sup>33</sup>.

The authorities of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs included: the chairman, the secretary, the treasurer, the general meeting held once a year, and the presidium, the meetings of which were organized on a monthly basis. Many professionally active teachers with a doctor's degree and headmasters of these schools, who worked at high schools and teachers' seminars collaborated with L. Węgrzynowicz, who headed the Committee. These include i.a.: Jerzy Berggruen, Maria Dobrowolska, Zofia Richter-Pawłowska, R. Mochnacki, J. Stanucha, Stanisława Niemcówna, Tadeusz Seweryn and others<sup>34</sup>. The Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs developed and issued ID cards and badges for members of sightseeing clubs for young people, regulations for clubs for young people, regulations for district guardians, regulations for congresses held by clubs for young people<sup>35</sup>. In order to integrate teachers involved in the development of school sightseeing movement, the Committee launched as well the initiative to found the Teachers' Sightseeing Club in Cracow in 1931, which gave methodical advice, organized courses, trips and provided assistance to teachers involved in running sightseeing activities with young people<sup>36</sup>.

The public could read about the decisions of the Central Council of PSS in the journal "Orli Lot", which announced that all school sightseeing organizations formed the Union of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs, whose purpose was *to facilitate and make trips for the club members more convenient by seeking and*

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid., p. 2; *Regulamin Komisji Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej Rady Głównej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego* [The regulations of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society], „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 5, p. 98–100.

<sup>34</sup> M. Gotkiewicz, *Nasze XXX-lecie*..., p. 98.

<sup>35</sup> A. Janowski, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży* [Sightseeing Clubs for young people], Kraków, Drukarnia „Orbis”, 1933, p. 6.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., p. 6–7.

applying for discounts in shelters, museums, and at train operators – cooperation of clubs in terms of sightseeing activities by publishing them and awarding prizes – arranging sightseeing exhibitions – organizing trips for their members around Poland<sup>37</sup>. In order to join the Union, it was obligatory to send a declaration of the school sightseeing club to Leopold Węgrzynowicz. The editorial staff of “Orli Lot” announced its intention to organize the Congress of Clubs’ Representatives in order to elect the union council and adopt the regulations. The congress was accompanied by an exhibition of the works prepared by young people<sup>38</sup>. According to the information provided by the editors of “Orli Lot”, in 1927 36 clubs joined the Union of School Students’ Sightseeing Clubs<sup>39</sup>.

On June 5–6, 1927, the first general meeting of the Committee members and the first congress of School Students’ Sightseeing Clubs took place in Cracow, which was attended by 200 representatives of 34 clubs. Its character was mainly organizational and instructive. During the congress, they staged an exhibition of works by young ethnographers from 15 school sightseeing clubs<sup>40</sup>. Apart from the first congress in the interwar period, eight national meetings of Sightseeing Clubs for young people were held. The second congress took place in 1928 in Vilnius; the third – in 1929 in Poznań; the fourth – in 1930 in Krzemieniec; the fifth – 1932 in Warsaw; the sixth – in 1933 in Bydgoszcz; the seventh – 1936 in Cracow; the eighth – in 1937 in Pińsk, and the ninth – in 1938 in Lviv<sup>41</sup>. Nationwide meetings of School Students’ Sightseeing Clubs gave an opportunity to meet their members, guardians, organizers, ideologues of sightseeing, as well as the representatives of educational authorities and other people interested in tourism and sightseeing. They were perceived as fora for exchanging sightseeing ideas, thoughts and experiences as well as presenting the achievements of young ethnographers.

#### THE STANCE OF THE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF SCHOOL SIGHTSEEING CLUBS AND THEIR QUANTITATIVE DEVELOPMENT

In the first years after the regaining of independence, both the central educational authorities, and the local school authorities, expressed moderate support for the school sightseeing movement, which was still in the initial stage of organization and was anchoring in schools, mainly high schools and teachers’ seminars. However, it did not mean that the educational authorities did not notice the educational values of the sightseeing movement. In 1921, the Ministry

<sup>37</sup> *Sprawy organizacyjne. Związek Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej [Organizational issues. The Union of School Students’ Sightseeing Clubs]*, „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 1, p. 21.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> *Spis Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży, które zgłosiły przystąpienie do Związku Kół [A list of Sightseeing Clubs for young people which joined the Union of Clubs]*, „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 7, p. 136.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.; J. Klimaszewska, *Echa Zjazdu [The echoes of the congress]*, „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 6, p. 122–123.

<sup>41</sup> K. Staszewski, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej PTK [School Students’ Sightseeing Clubs of PSS]*, „Ziemia” 1968, No. 2, p. 155–158.

of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment issued a circular directed to the management of secondary schools, which stated: *The headmasters will also encourage young people to create Sightseeing Clubs, the aim of which is to get acquainted with the geography and the culture of various regions of our country, and to awaken a sincere love of native things*<sup>42</sup>. With regard to this stance presented by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, the local educational authorities, i.a. the school district board in Lviv, Poznań, Toruń and Cracow also expressed their support for this initiative. Only after the May coup, the ministry of education increased its interest in the sightseeing movement which was meant to be a place of education for future state citizens. Taking account of high scientific and educational values of the sightseeing movement among young people and *for the sake of education of future citizens of the Republic of Poland*, the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment in 1927 drew attention to the significance of school sightseeing trips, which *strengthen [...] health of young people, give the necessary sense of beauty and wealth of their homeland, arouse patriotic feelings and state-forming instincts*<sup>43</sup>.

Much greater interest of the school authorities in the sightseeing movement among children and teenagers might be noticed in the second decade of the interwar period, which was the time of implementing the ideology of educational sanitation. The Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment appreciated the importance of the school sightseeing movement in terms of the implementation of the ideology of state education and took account of its educational values, and in 1935 instructed school managers and headmasters to create school sightseeing clubs, approved their regulations, and normalized the cooperation of the Committees of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Management Board of the Polish Sightseeing Society with the school authorities<sup>44</sup>. Primarily it was stressed that the sightseeing clubs for children and teenagers are school organizations, therefore, the school managers or headmasters had to grant permissions for their establishment. A club guardian was a teacher who led such clubs in line with the regulations approved by the ministry. His/her duty was to report his/her accession to the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Management Board of PSS in order to register the club, and establish cooperation with the Committee<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>42</sup> L. Węgrzynowicz, *Nasze dziesięciolecie [Our decade]*, „Orli Lot” 1929, No. 6, p. 99; K. Staszewski, *Koła Krajoznawcze Młodzieży...*, p. 149.

<sup>43</sup> *Okólnik Ministerstwa WRiOP w sprawie wycieczek turystyczno-krajoznawczych z dnia 21 maja 1927 roku [The circular issued by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment regarding school sightseeing trips dated May 21, 1927]*, Dz. U. MWRiOP 1927, No. 9, p. 274.

<sup>44</sup> *Okólnik Ministerstwa WRiOP z dnia 22 października 1935 w sprawie Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej [The circular issued by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment regarding School Students' Sightseeing Clubs dated October 22, 1935]*, Dz. U. KOS Brzeskiego 1936, No. 2, p. 34.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.



In the 1930's, the central school authorities drew attention to the role of school supervisors of sightseeing clubs and wrote that *the impact of school sightseeing clubs on society in terms of civic and national awareness provided unexpected results in those places, where a teacher could establish bonds and connections between the club, the young people who graduated from this school, as well their parents*<sup>46</sup>. The central and local school authorities more often supported the activities of school sightseeing clubs operating in educational institutions, initiated their establishment in high schools, vocational schools, teachers' training centers, as well as higher levels of organized public schools. Participation in those clubs was perceived as a manifestation of young people's *respect to their country, a love of its beauty of nature, and the richness of culture*<sup>47</sup>. School districts' boards published more circulars in their official journals, and drew attention to *high scientific and educational values of the sightseeing movement of young people*<sup>48</sup>. They recommended subscribing to "Orli Lot", which could come in handy and provide assistance in working with children and young people, and focused attention on the need to *consider the sightseeing movement in school work plans in a proper manner*<sup>49</sup>.

In order to encourage teachers to the idea of sightseeing and regionalism, articles in the pedagogical periodicals were published which promoted school sightseeing clubs and provided information on establishing and running such clubs. The unofficial parts of the board official journals of the school districts contained texts on school sightseeing clubs which, aiming to achieve their educational goals, organized trips, courses, camps, sightseeing congresses, readings, exhibitions, held contests, established community centers, libraries and collections<sup>50</sup>.

<sup>46</sup> *Okólnik Ministerstwa WRIOP z dnia 8 lipca 1937 r. w sprawie ruchu krajoznawczego [The circular issued by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment regarding sightseeing movement dated July 8, 1937]*, Dz. U. MWRIOP 1937, No. 8, p. 336.

<sup>47</sup> *Okólnik Kuratorium Okręgu Szkolnego Poznańskiego z dnia 8 października 1937 roku w sprawie ruchu krajoznawczego wśród młodzieży szkolnej [The circular issued by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment regarding sightseeing movement among school students dated October 8, 1937]*, Dz. U. KOS Poznańskiego 1937, No. 8, p. 206.

<sup>48</sup> *Pismo okólne z dnia 11 września 1937 roku w sprawie ruchu krajoznawczego młodzieży szkolnej [The circular issued by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment regarding sightseeing movement among school students dated September 11, 1937]*, Dz. U. KOS Lubelskiego 1937, No. 3, p. 64.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid, p. 65.

<sup>50</sup> *Kola krajoznawcze młodzieży szkolnej [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, Dz. U. KOS Lubelskiego 1930, No. 2, p. 55; L. Węgrzynowicz, Berggruenówna J., *Informacje o prawach i obowiązkach kół krajoznawczych młodzieży szkolnej, organizowanych przez Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze [Information on the rights and duties of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs, organized by the Polish Sightseeing Society]*, Dz. U. KOS Lubelskiego 1930, No. 2, p. 57; K. Mączka, *Kola krajoznawcze w szkołach jako czynnik wychowawczy [Sightseeing clubs at schools as an educational factor]*, Dz. U. KOS Wołyńskiego 1932, No. 5, p. 185–188; A. Kosiba, *O konieczności pracy krajoznawczej [About the necessity of a sightseeing activity]*, Dz. U. KOS Lubelskiego 1932, No. 6, p. 182–183; M. Czekańska, *Jak prowadzić Kolo Krajoznawcze Młodzieży [How to run Sightseeing Clubs for young people]*, Dz. U. KOS Poznańskiego 1930, No. 20–21, p. 353–354; *Krajoznawstwo a nauczyciel [Sightseeing vs. a teacher]*, „Głos Nauczycielski” 1932, No. 15–16, p. 255.

As far as the number of school sightseeing clubs is concerned, initially they were founded in Cracow, their seedbed – in real schools, gymnasiums, and teachers seminars. *Later* – as Janina B. Twaróg wrote – *high school graduates, academics, Jewish, industrial and handicraft young people became interested in sightseeing and in forming clubs*<sup>51</sup>. The author demonstrated that in 1920 there were 11 School Students' Sightseeing Clubs in Cracow with a total number of 548 members<sup>52</sup>, and in 1932 there were already 32 clubs operating in Cracow<sup>53</sup>. In 1919, each high school in Cracow had a sightseeing club, and, according to the report of PSS, the branch in Cracow, for the period 1919/1920, they planned to organize them in all public schools and among young people coming from craft families<sup>54</sup>.

The number of reports sent by these organizations to the editors of "Orli Lot" was a measure of the number of existing school sightseeing clubs. Mieczysław Woźnowski wrote that over the period of 1920–1926, approximately 100 school sightseeing clubs included their reports, to which mainly students from gymnasiums and teachers' seminars belonged<sup>55</sup>. During the Congress of the Sightseeing Club which was held on June 5, 1927, in Cracow, the author claimed that *this complete lack of clubs among adolescents at vocational and craft schools is striking*<sup>56</sup>. It should be added that the school sightseeing clubs were not evenly located throughout the country. The majority of them were established in the central and western part of Poland, and the least in the eastern part of the country<sup>57</sup>.

Worth highlighting is the fact that together with the support of the central and local educational authorities, the number of school clubs was regularly increasing. This increase can be observed especially in the 1930's, as their growth was influenced by the ideology of state education, which took advantage of school organizations as a means to achieve the ideal of raising an employee-fighter that had been formulated by Sławomir Czerwiński. The excessive number of school organizations existing in the Polish education in the second decade of the interwar period, their diversification, and their educational values supported the process of education and upbringing of young state citizens as they *prepared students to participate in the economic life of the country, developed cooperative abilities, teamwork and organizational skills, as well as social responsibility*<sup>58</sup>.

<sup>51</sup> Internet, (access: 30. 06. 2018), available at: [https://khit.pttk.pl/index.php?co=tx\\_ptkm\\_7](https://khit.pttk.pl/index.php?co=tx_ptkm_7)

<sup>52</sup> Such data is given in: *Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze, Oddział w Krakowie. I sprawozdanie rocznej działalności za rok 1919/20 [The Polish Sightseeing Society, the Branch in Cracow. The First annual activity report for 1919/1920]*, „Orli Lot” 1920, No. 5, p. 52.

<sup>53</sup> J. B. Twaróg, *Z kart historii Oddziału...*, p. 7.

<sup>54</sup> „Orli Lot” 1920, No. 5, p. 52.

<sup>55</sup> M. Woźnowski, *Koła Krajoznawcze Młodzieży w Polsce. Referat wygłoszony na I. Zjeździe Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży w Krakowie dnia 5 czerwca 1927 r. [Sightseeing Clubs for young people in Poland. The paper delivered during the First Congress of Sightseeing Clubs for young people in Cracow on June 5, 1927]*, „Orli Lot” 1927, No. 7, p. 130–135.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 132.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> E. Magiera, *Wychowanie państwowe w szkolnictwie...*, p. 207.

Students' organizations became a place which prepared them to fulfill civic duties and acquire habits of living in a community. Therefore, since 1927, there was a systematic increase in the number of sightseeing clubs in the Polish education.

In 1925 there were 72 clubs, including 48 in high schools, 2 in elementary schools, 16 in secondary schools of other types, and 6 in other schools<sup>59</sup>. In 1927, only 47 clubs in Poland belonged to the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs, however, one year later, this number increased to 56. In 1929 there were 96 school sightseeing clubs, in 1930 130 school sightseeing organizations, in 1931 there was an increase of about 1 club in comparison with the previous year, and in 1932 there were 366 school sightseeing clubs, which attracted 15,000 students<sup>60</sup>. In the 1930's, the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs also associated the sightseeing sections of the Polish Scouting Association, clubs for rural youth and clubs at vocational schools.

It should be noted that according to M. Woźnowski, on the threshold of implementing the idea of sightseeing among school students and the slow development of tourism in the 1920's, public school remained uninfluenced by this idea and its implementation. According to him, over the period of 1920 to 1926 only four clubs were active in public schools<sup>61</sup>. After the May coup, as Ludomir Sawicki wrote, it was encouraged to develop the idea of sightseeing at this educational level in particular. He claimed that *sightseeing clubs can and should be established in public schools, in which young, classified people supporting each other, in co-operation with a larger group, could find strength and means to exceed the narrow frames which had been prepared for individuals*<sup>62</sup>. Therefore, in the middle of 1932 there were 130 clubs operating in already mentioned public schools out of 366 school sightseeing clubs, which means that they constituted 35% of the total number of clubs<sup>63</sup>. According to the studies by B. Pisarska, in 1939 there were over 500 school sightseeing clubs gathering about 200,000 young people<sup>64</sup>.

<sup>59</sup> *Reskrypt Ministerstwa WROIP [The rescript of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment]*, „Orli Lot” 1921, No. 3, p. 47; K. Staszewski, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej PTK [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of PSS]*, „Ziemia” 1968, No. 2, p. 149–150.

<sup>60</sup> C. Skopowski, *Rys historii i pracy Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej [An outline of the history of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, in: *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej. Idea...*, p. 24; K. Zawistowicz, *Kola Krajoznawcza Młodzieży. Wrażenia i refleksje z wystawy Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży [Sightseeing clubs for young people. Impressions and reflections from the exhibition by the Sightseeing clubs for young people]*, „Ziemia” 1932, No. 6, p. 165; A. Janowski, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży...*, p. 6.

<sup>61</sup> M. Woźnowski, *Kola Krajoznawcze Młodzieży w Polsce...*, p. 130–135.

<sup>62</sup> L. Sawicki, *Idea i organizacja krajoznawstwa w Polsce [The idea and organization of sightseeing in Poland]*, Kraków, Published by Księgarnia Geograficzna „Orbis” (Biblioteka „Orlego Lotu” No. 12), 1928, p. 6.

<sup>63</sup> A. Janowski, *Kola krajoznawcze młodzieży. Odczyt dla młodzieży wygłoszony przez radio [Sightseeing Clubs for young people. A radio broadcast for teenagers]*, print, Warszawa 1932, p. 6; A. Janowski, *Młodzi krajoznawcy na Bielanych [Young ethnographers in Bielany]*, „Ziemia” 1932, No. 6, p. 164.

<sup>64</sup> B. Pisarska, *W poszukiwaniu idei rozwoju turystyki. Przeszłość – przyszłość [Searching for the idea of developing tourism. The past – the future]*, in: *Przeszłość, teraźniejszość i przyszłość turystyki. Warsztaty z Geografii Turystyki [The past, the present and the future of tourism. Workshops on Tourism Geography]*, Vol. 5, ed. B. Krakowiak, J. Latosińska, Łódź, Wydawnictwo UE, 2014, p. 131–144.

Along with the increase in the number of school sightseeing clubs, guardian teachers of these students' organizations were prepared. Węgrzynowicz as chairman of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs reached an agreement with the School District Board in Cracow and organized summer sightseeing courses for teachers from all over Poland. In 1931 they run a nationwide four-week course for public school teachers. The school sightseeing movement required not only trained guardian teachers, but also youth animators and managers. Therefore, since 1932 they organized summer holiday camps where the representatives of clubs for young people could learn sightseeing activities and acquire practical knowledge about their methods. The brochure published by the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs entitled *Koła Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego (School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Polish Sightseeing Society)*, with its three editions issued in the interwar period, provided valuable assistance in terms of sightseeing activities at schools<sup>65</sup>. These initiatives taken by the Committee, which involved organizing courses for guardian teachers and practical summer training for young people, but above all, the support provided by the central and local educational authorities contributed to the increase in the number of school sightseeing clubs.

#### THE REGULATIONS OF SCHOOL STUDENTS' SIGHTSEEING CLUBS

Until 1935, the regulations of each school sightseeing club had been approved by the Central Council of PSS. The objective of the club was to: *a) promote sightseeing among young people, b) promote the idea of independent sightseeing work among young people, c) take care and protect natural monuments and outcomes of human work*<sup>66</sup>. Each club had to: *1) prepare at least one questionnaire, which the Committee designated as mandatory; 2) subscribe to "Orli Lot" and quote it during meetings; 3) keep chronicles and minutes of meetings, which should be referred to the Presidium of the Committee if the club is dissolved; 4) pay contributions to the League for Protection of Nature; 5) maintain correspondence and provide assistance to Poles living abroad; 6) pay the Committee a tithe*<sup>67</sup>. If the club lacked funds, its task was to organize, e.g. an enterprise (even in the form of a student co-operative) and pay due contributions from the income it generated.

<sup>65</sup> *Koła Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej Polskiego Towarzystwa Krajoznawczego [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Polish Sightseeing Society]*, Kraków, Published by Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze, 1937. (Biblioteka „Orlego Lotu” No. 14).

<sup>66</sup> *Koła krajoznawcze młodzieży szkolnej [School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, Dz. U. KOS Lubelskiego 1930, No. 2, p. 58–59.

<sup>67</sup> *Organizacja Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej [The organization of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, in: *Koła Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej. Idea...*, p. 6–7.

Since 1935, the regulations of the school sightseeing clubs were approved by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment<sup>68</sup>. The rules were more precise and normalized the following areas of activity of these organizations: name, objectives, means, funds, members, their rights and duties, management board and its rights and duties, care for the club, work organization, sightseeing area, sections and brigades, club bodies and the club's dissolution.

According to these regulations, each school sightseeing club had its name, which included the first name (e.g. the Stanisław Staszic Sightseeing Club) and the name of the school which it operated in. The main goal of school sightseeing clubs was to *educate young citizens who know their country and its needs, are attached to the Polish state, and care for its size and power*<sup>69</sup>. In order to implement it, it was necessary to formulate specific objectives, which included: *a) awakening the passion to travel across the country and developing self-esteem; b) getting to know the outcomes of human work, awakening the cult of work, and self-confidence; c) learning and assessing the values brought in to the community by particular social classes and ethnic groups; d) learning about the history of the Earth and culture; e) collecting sightseeing materials and cooperating with scientific institutions; f) protecting native objects, historical monuments and nature; g) awakening the initiative of thought and actions towards strengthening the size and power of the Polish country; h) establishing and maintaining contact with Poles living abroad; i) spreading the cult of greatness of prominent Poles; j) promoting the most vital interests of the country, such as border defense, access to the sea, development of aviation, etc.; k) awakening responsibility for welfare and power of Poland*<sup>70</sup>. By comparing this main purpose, the specific objectives with the goals presented above that had been in force until 1935, it can be noted that apart from learning about the country and its history, geography, nature, culture and other elements, the rules approved by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment clearly lined school sightseeing clubs with the implementation of the ideology of state education.

The implementation of the main objective and the specific objectives of the school sightseeing clubs required specific activities, such as i.a. the preparation and organization of trips, courses, camps, sightseeing congresses, readings and discussions, exhibitions and competitions, shelters, and publishing magazines and books. The main forms of work of club members included meetings, lectures and trips<sup>71</sup>.

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<sup>68</sup> O. Kotula, P. Tłuczek. *Podręczny poradnik dla kierowników i nauczycieli szkół powszechnych, wydanie piąte rozszerzone [A guidebook for managers and teachers at public schools, the fifth extended edition]*, Łódź, Wydawnictwo Drukarni Państwowej in Łódź, 1936, p. 205–206.

<sup>69</sup> *Regulamin Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży*, no place of publication 1934, p. 1.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.



Each student accepted by the management board and approved by the club guardian could belong to the school sightseeing clubs – as an ordinary member, an active member or a guide. An ordinary member was a student who was accepted by the management board and who paid monthly contributions. An active member was a student participating in the activities run by the club. A student who passed a qualification test of guides received the status of a guide-member. The Regulations of Sightseeing Clubs for young people specified the rights and duties of students belonging to this organization, i.e. the right to participate in meetings, scientific meetings and trips, using the club library, wearing badges, and taking advantage of benefits related thereto. Each club member had a passive and active right to choose the management board and the audit committee. Each member was obliged to regularly pay the fees adopted by the general meeting, achieve the goals set by the club, collect sightseeing materials (press cuttings, photographs, drawings, postcards, etc.), protect and take care of monuments, folk art and customs, and subscribe to “Orli Lot”<sup>72</sup>.

The management board consisted of: the chairman, the treasurer, the secretary, the librarian, their deputies and the section chairman. Due to the conferred rights, the management board could accept new members, remove members who did not comply with the regulations, and call the general meeting. Its duty was to ensure that the goals and tasks of the club were fulfilled, and to organize readings, meetings, school museums and trips. The management board took care of acquiring new members and paid ten-percent contributions to the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Management Board of PSS<sup>73</sup>.

An important role was played by a club guardian, who was one of the teachers at the school where the club was founded. He/she acted as an intermediary between the club members, the school authorities, and the Polish Sightseeing Society, was an external representative of the club, took care of its interests, cared about the organization of all club activities, granted permissions for trips and other events. In conjunction with the audit committee, the guardian controlled the books and accounts of the club, acted as a judge, conducted guide examinations, and appointed active members and guides<sup>74</sup>. The guardian also provided reports to the Presidium of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs and declared the desire to join the Committee. The application included basic information such as: date the club was formed, number of members, tours, courses, readings, books, collections and a description of other activities<sup>75</sup>.

The rules of work organization specified by the regulations indicated that the club operation was divided into two areas: a general one which covered the

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., p. 2–3.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>75</sup> *Organizacja Kół Krajoznawczych Młodzieży Szkolnej [The organization of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs]*, in: *Koła Krajoznawcze Młodzieży Szkolnej. Idea...*, p. 11.

entire territory of Poland, and a detailed one, to which a selected, limited area of the country belonged. By implementing both areas, on the one hand, the club members learned about the whole country, especially the regions they wanted to visit, using atlases or textbooks for this purpose, and arranging readings and discussions, and on the other hand, they had to learn about the part of Poland they had selected before, collect sightseeing materials, and prepare for research. The sightseeing area of the club was a county or a school circuit that made it possible to implement the specific objective. Taking account of the urban environment in which more than one school sightseeing club could function, it was necessary to choose a common area or share it adequately to the assigned research issues<sup>76</sup>.

School sightseeing clubs could have an internal structure divided into sections, which were responsible for detailed separate issues and conducted research in this area, such as ethnological, geological, faunistic, touristic, museum, photographic sections or others (geographic, natural, historical, literary, and touristic)<sup>77</sup>. Each section was divided into sightseeing brigades, the operation of which was coordinated. On a certain day, the brigades went to various villages. Their work consisted in collecting sightseeing materials related to the studied issues<sup>78</sup>.

The task of the club was to archive its activities, which included the work of their members, posters, programs of organized events, photographs and reports on activities<sup>79</sup>. The clubs also collected documentation of sightseeing tours, which later was transferred to school collections or museums and scientific institutions, and collected correspondence with the aim to establish contacts with others, exchange works and sightsee collections. It was mandatory to maintain contact with Poles living abroad, who were provided with Polish books, postcards, and magazines.

The funds for maintaining school sightseeing clubs came from membership fees, voluntary donations, and generated income. In the event of the club dissolution, its property was transferred to the ownership of the school in which the club operated, and the club archives to the collections of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Management Board of PSS. School Students' Sightseeing Clubs had their own badges with the image of a bird flying out of the nest against the background of the sun, a symbol of freedom. The call: *Learn about your country and serve your homeland!* and *Poland, for you and your glory!* became the slogans.

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<sup>76</sup> *Dodatek do regulaminu kół krajoznawczych młodzieży [A supplement to the regulations of sightseeing clubs for young people]*, „Orli Lot” 1922, No. 5, p. 78–79.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> *Regulamin Kół Krajoznawczych...*, p. 4.

<sup>79</sup> *Dodatek do regulaminu kół...*, p. 78–79.

## CONCLUSIONS

As a consequence of the determination of the activists representing the Polish Sightseeing Society in Cracow, especially Leopold Węgrzynowicz, it was possible to establish School Students' Sightseeing Clubs in 1919 and to construct structures which made their development and inspection possible. The activities of the school sightseeing movement were based on the Union of Sightseeing Clubs for young people, which gathered both members of the school sightseeing clubs, as well as their guardians, who formed the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of the Polish Sightseeing Society, functioning in accordance with the regulations approved by the Central Management Board of PSS. Thanks to the support provided by the central and local educational authorities, especially during the implementation of the ideology of state education, the sightseeing movement of school students improved and started booming. School sightseeing clubs initially functioned under the supervision of the Central Management Board of PSS, and as part of the regulations approved by the authorities of PSS, fell subsequently under the direction of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment, which in 1935 approved the new Regulations of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs, and allowed them to be included in the system of state education.

In the interwar period in Poland, the sightseeing among children and young people was developing thanks to one, entirely committed person, namely Leopold Węgrzynowicz, the editor-in-chief of the press body of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs entitled "Orli Lot" and chairman of the Committee of School Students' Sightseeing Clubs of the Central Council of PSS. His enthusiasm, diligence and dedication to the idea of sightseeing attracted not only coworkers, but also young tour guides who were gathered around the magazine he run, representing progress and shaping the work of sightseeing clubs for children and young people. The club activities were different and rich in terms of its substantive and methodological aspects. Its characteristic features included: a variety of students' activities, diversity of actions, original methods of didactic, educational and organizational work, which were aimed not only at communicating or teaching specific skills, but also at developing moral education in children and young people, and shaping patriotic, civic and state attitudes based on "homeland" and "state". School sightseeing and tourism clubs have functioned in the Polish education system to date, enriching the existing offer of interest groups.

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[https://khit.pttk.pl/index.php?co=tx\\_ptkm\\_7](https://khit.pttk.pl/index.php?co=tx_ptkm_7)

### ***The formal aspects of the activities conducted by School Students' Sightseeing Clubs in the Second Republic of Poland (1918–1939)***

#### **Summary**

The article concerns the issues of school students' sightseeing clubs in the Polish education in the Second Republic of Poland (1918–1939). It comprises the content about the origins of school sightseeing clubs, their organization, quantitative development, and the stance of the educational authorities towards school sightseeing clubs. The article also presents an analysis regarding the regulations of school sightseeing clubs and their didactic values in the Polish education in the interwar period.

**Keywords:** school sightseeing clubs, the history of education in interwar Poland, regulations of school sightseeing clubs, the origin of school sightseeing clubs.