

The German touristic patterns documented in travelogues and works of fiction

The beginnings of organized mass tourism in Germany coincide with the unification of the German state, accompanied by the rising position of the upper middle class [Bildungsbürgertum] with its values such as predictability, striving for knowledge, market economy and sense of community. The dynamic, enterprising spirit of the time, the educational ideal, and the Bismarckian practical asceticism (Koshar 2000) has soon dominated the travel practices, not least as a result of the prefabricated Baedeker's travel instructions (Enzensberger 1958). These actual tourist practices and their representation in travelogues and works of fiction/arts will be examined with regard to phenomena such as myth hunt and the socially constructed concept of authenticity (Cohen 1988; Spode 2020). Contrasting images of tourists in popular novels of the late 19th century (Julius Stinde's *Mrs. Buchholz in Orient* 1888) and the impressionistic ideal of a traveling artist and his idea of 'World Celebration' [Weltfestlichkeit] (Max Dauthendey) will be compared and deconstructed. Images of tourists implemented in travel diaries and travel guides and the early critical approach to mass tourism (Theodor Fontane, Karl May) will be discussed and an attempt will be made to define a specific German poetics of tourism with its leading motives and motivations and its self-perception in the time of the influential, cohesive and self-confident newly emerged nation on the world stage.

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Exhibition series: Stangen's Party on board of „Die Saale“ to the New World (2014-2018); Latest conference organized at AUS Nysa: (Nov. 2023) - Jacob Böhme – Wirkung, Rezeption, Kontexte. Moderne und Postmoderne / Jacob Böhme: Influence, Reception, and Contexts. Modernity and Postmodernity (www.pans.nysa.pl)
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