

Title: The Music of the Tatra Mountains in Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer's *In the Rocky Podhale*

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The Tatra Mountains are situated on the south border of Poland and Slovakia. They form the central and the highest section of the Carpathian Mountain crescent. The distinctive folklore of the Tatras reflected in the old traditions, songs, dances, and art have been a source of inspiration for many artists, among them Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer who became a bard of the Tatra Mountains, an initiator and a spiritual leader of the Tatra School.

Tetmajer composed the most captivating Tatra verses of the Young Poland literature included in the collections of *Poems*. His stunning Tatra and Highland lyrics constitute a prelude to his neo-romantic prose masterpieces entitled *In the Rocky Podhale* and *The Legend of the Tatras*. In his literary work, Tetmajer created the myth of the Tatras and the Tatra Highlanders. The poet introduced to the Polish literature new Tatra themes, historical figures of the highlands, the Tatra folklore and music.

The Tatras were Tetmajer's home. It was a special place where, as a child, he learned tales, legends, beliefs, folklore, and music of the Tatra Mountains. The poet knew the highland dialect and music so well that he wrote his own songs and intertwined them in his masterpiece *In the Rocky Podhale*.

This paper will examine some of Tetmajer's tales from his work *In the Rocky Podhale*, which include highland songs and motifs on highland music and legendary Mountaineer musicians. Tetmajer interwove many highland expressions and songs to the Polish literary language to stylize his work, to offer the character of his native Tatra region, and to enrich and refresh his artistic language. The Highland dialect and songs are the source of power, freshness, and individuality making Tetmajer's literary language more beautiful and original.