

# Kornel Makuszyński

He was born on January 8, 1884 in Stryj, and died on July 31, 1953 in Zakopane. He was buried in Zakopane Pęksowy Brzyzku, Old Cemetery.

He was a novelist, columnist, theatre critic, poet and author of numerous books for children and youth. He is the author of such works as: *The Two Who Stole the Moon* (1928), *The Friend of the Merry Devil* (1930), *The Virgin with the Wet Head* (1932), *The Broken Sword* (1936), *The Brawl about Basia* (1937), *Satan from the Seventh Grade* (1937), *Miss Eve's Madness* (1940). He created the literary character of Koziółek Matołek and monkey Fiki-Miki.

## LVIV - KIEV - WARSAW - ZAKOPANE

Before the First World War he lived in Lviv. There he graduated from the gymnasium and in the years 1904-1908 he studied Polish and Roman studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Lviv. At that time (1902) he made his debut as a poet and with the support of Jan Kasprówicz and Wincenty Lutosławski became the secretary of the editorial office of "Słowa Polskiego" and a permanent theatre reviewer. In 1914 he was the head of the literary theatre in Lviv. He spent the First World War in Kiev, where he was the president of the Union of Polish Writers and Journalists. In 1918, he settled in Warsaw (he worked here as a literary and theatre reviewer, wrote columns). He had been coming to Zakopane since 1906, and in 1911 he was a member of the Podhale Exhibition in Lviv. After 1918, he spent a lot of time in the town near the Tatras and became one of the most popular characters there. With his columns he contributed to the popularization of Zakopane. After the Warsaw Uprising, in 1944, he settled there permanently, taking active part in the cultural life of the town. He died on July 31, 1953. The coffin with his body was carried out from the villa "Opolanka" dressed up by highlanders, and was transported to the cemetery on a wagon decorated with a dwarf pine and a fir tree. The procession was accompanied by highlander music played by the family band, Obrochtów. At the funeral of the honorary citizen of Zakopane, the town authorities of that time were not present.

## ZAKOPANE AND TATRA CREATIONS

At the beginning of Makuszyński's work, a romantic poem *The Lonely Peak* (1906), perhaps inspired by the Tatra Mountains, was created. In addition, Makuszyński published numerous columns and stories of a mostly humorous and satirical character concerning various issues of Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains and people associated with this region. They appeared in magazines, including *Letters from Zakopane* (from 1921) or *My Letters*.

Some of these columns and stories were also published in books, such as *The Horrible Adventures* (1922), *My Letters* (1923), *Orlice* (1925), *Collected Letters* (1929), *Calendar Cards* (1939), *Nine Lovers of Bachelor Dorna* and other stories (1983).

Zakopane and Tatra topics also appear in some works for children and youth, such as the poem *Friends* (1927), *The Second Book of Adventures of Koziółek Matołek* (1933), the novel *Miss with a Wet Head* (1933), *My beloved Guys* (1929, about Mieczysław Świerż), *Because He Went to the Mountains to Look for Beauty* (1929), *The Tatras in Full Glory* (1932).

## DECORATIONS AND SOUVENIRS

Kornel Makuszyński was appointed an honorary citizen of Zakopane on March 6, 1931, and a few months later also the Highlanders' Union. He also became an honorary member (1930) and honorary president (1933) of the Zakopane Sport Association, "Wisła".

In the interwar years, he initiated the handing out of skis for Zakopane children and organizing ski competitions for them, which are still organized as the Memorial to them. Kornel Makuszyński "Koziołek Matołek".

In Zakopane and Warsaw there are streets called Kornel Makuszyński. Many schools in Poland have been given his name. In 1966, it opened in the Zakopane "Opolanka" villa, the house where he lived with his second wife - Janina Gluzińska, the Museum of Kornel Makuszyński (a branch of the Tatra Museum).

Prepared by Agnieszka Jurczyńska-Kłosok based on:

A. Hutnikiewicz *Makuszyński Kornel : Polish Biographical Dictionary*, edited by E. Rostworowski, vol. XIX, Wrocław - Warsaw - Kraków - Gdańsk, 1974, pp. 262-264.

Z. Radwańska-Paryska, W. H. Paryski, *The Great Tatra Encyclopedia*, Poronin 2004, pp. 707-708.

M. Urbanek *Makuszyński. One of Those Who Stole the Sun*, Wołowiec 2017.

Fragments of compositions can be listened to in the bench:

- Koziołek Matołek
- To Ludwik Soliski, The Second Letter was Frozen
- "Black-eyed Ruffian"
- Paragraphs included in the book "Gniazdo słońca" and other paragraphs. Publisher of the Tatra Museum Dr. Tytus Chałubiński in Zakopane

Texts read by: Andrzej Bienias - Actor of the St. I. Witkiewicz Theatre

Music: Jerzy Chruściński - St. I. Witkiewicz Theatre

Recording: Natalia Sosna

Bench project: sculptor Marek Szala

Biographical Museum of Kornel Makuszyński- The branch of the Tatra Museum Dr. Tytus Chałubiński - ul. Tetmajer 15

<http://muzeumtatrzańskie.pl/?venue=muzeum-kornelm-akuszynskiego>

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