

Zeitschrift: Histoire des Alpes = Storia delle Alpi = Geschichte der Alpen
Herausgeber: Association Internationale pour l'Histoire des Alpes
Band: 22 (2017)

Rubrik: English summaries

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 07.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

English Summaries

Michaël Attali, Sports and leisure in the Alps.

Directions to follow toward an integrated history

There is an inextricable association between sport (and by extension free-time activities) and the Alps. Sports activities have contributed not only to changing lifestyles and territories, but also to structuring the way these spaces have been represented. Sport has equally been transformed by the extrinsic circumstances of the environment itself, and practices had to be adapted or changed. Thus, regions have promoted the development of new activities as much as they themselves were shaped by investment in sports. These are the dynamics this issue refers to, through the study of several contexts and multiples activities, by exploring air, land, and underground spaces.

Annette R. Hofmann, Vera Martinelli, Constanze N. Pomp, The beginnings of women's skiing in Germany. The example of the Black Forest (1890–1914)

This paper concentrates on the general socio-cultural circumstances and contemporary discussions surrounding the beginnings of women's skiing in the Black Forest. It looks into questions of socialising as well as women's skiwear, but also into women's skiing competitions. By analysing the journals and photographic albums of the daughters of the Gruber family, residents of Freiburg im Breisgau, we show to what extent skiing was one of their leisure time activities. Finally, we reflect on the way, at the end of the 19th century, skiing contributed to the individual mobility of women, widening their sphere of action.

Andrea Macchiavelli, Ski resorts in the Italian Alps. Their rise, development and evolution

While not claiming to be a historically exhaustive study, the article traces the birth and development of ski resorts in the Italian Alps from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. It aims to focus on the most significant phenomena surrounding skiing as a leisure activity and the problems that have characterized its evolution, especially its territorial implications. The interpretative key is based on a historical journey that began when the first tourist resorts of the latter part of the 19th century were built, soon to be followed by the first ski resorts. Yet it was not until World War II ended that the whole infrastructure of facilities, hotels and second homes took off: a model of sport tourism offer which today signals a considerable change in the market, manifest in the search for alternatives to traditional alpine skiing and especially for more efficient management models.

Luc Robène, Crossing the Alps by air. Between aeronautical daring and sporting feat (1849–1914)

On 23 September 1910, Jorge Chávez took off from Brig (Switzerland), flew over the Simplon, and was preparing to land triumphantly at Domodossola (Italy) when his plane crashed. He died four days later. This heroic drama, etched in people's memories also through countless narratives, began as a sport challenge launched a few weeks earlier at Milan's aeronautical meeting. It is a marker in the history of the way aeronauts and aviators related to "crossing the Alps" in the 19th century, up to the eve of the Great War. Beginning in 1849, when Francisque Arban crossed the Alps in a balloon from Marseille to Stubini, mountains and adventure fed the popular imagination behind mastering air travel and the alpine range: the latter being seen first as an awe-inspiring, inhospitable, all-threatening setting; later as the setting for sky explorations, finally as a gauge of progress in technical and sports performance.

Stefano Morosini, Alpine clubs at the time of World War I: neutrality, interventionism and international relations

The paper presents some initial findings about the political and military role played in support or against the conflict during World War I by the most important alpine clubs in Europe and elsewhere – namely, the Alpine Club, Appalachian

Mountain Club, Club Alpin Français, Club Alpino Italiano, Deutscher und Österreichischer Alpenverein, Österreichischer Alpenklub, Planinska zveza Slovenije, Schweizer Alpen Club, Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, Touristenverein Die Naturfreunde. After introducing the relationship between mountaineering and the national dimension, the article describes the direct participation of alpine clubs in a propaganda that promoted intervention, collaboration and logistic support provided to the different armies, as well as the international exchange between allied alpine clubs.

Gianni Haver, Mountaineering and skiing. The image of mountain sports in Swiss iconography in the interwar period

Reviewing and comparing pictures related to skiing and mountain climbing, promoted by the different media in the 1920s and 1930s, the paper addresses a number of issues, such as landscape, leisure time, competition, and militarisation. A close look at postcards, illustrated magazines, posters, and films reveals that the image of a majestic and bucolic mountain popularised in the previous century and characterised by identity, religious and landscape connotations, came to be integrated with new representations. These, indeed, gained ground as the two sports took off and spread, and became increasingly associated with tourism and modernity.

Grégory Quin, From air therapy to white gold. «Interassociation Suisse pour le Ski» facing the challenges of the rise of skiing in Switzerland (1920s–1960s)

The history of mountain sports depends broadly on topography. So, between the 1920s and the 1960s, the Swiss Alps constituted, more than a landscape, a real stage where Scandinavian skiing was progressively transformed into a sport based on sliding and which would soon lead to the creation of teaching methods for “learning” the new technique. In Switzerland, the creation of “alpine skiing” gave rise to a singular institution (the *Interassociation Suisse pour le Ski*) whose mission is to promote a learning method standardised for the whole country. The article specifically aims to analyse the establishment of this institution and to observe its first decades of existence, in order to understand how skiing slowly grew into a national issue in the context of the transition from “air therapy” to “white gold rush”.

Dominique Jorand, André Suchet, The rise of paragliding in the North-Western Alps in the mid-1980s. A sports innovation in the French mountains

Considering innovation as a socially adopted and disseminated invention, this article deals with the birth of paragliding as a sport, which emerged in Europe during the 1980s. Materially derived from the parachute, paragliding was technically invented on the East Coast of the United States. But it became an innovation through its use in Europe, more precisely on the northern slopes of the Western Alps in France. The French pioneers were inspired by the practicality of the hang glider, which culminated in the creation of paragliding as a *free activity*. Paragliding is now completely separate from parachuting, allowing the paraglider to walk off a mountain. It is considered one of the two major “light air sports”.

Pierre-Olaf Schut, The caves of the Vercors Massif. A territorial resource enhanced by speleologists

From the end of the 19th century, speleologists have brought to light a wealth of resources that boosted the reputation of the Vercors region. Besides the caves equipped for tourism and those dedicated to sports, the speleologists' savoir-faire and initiative took on a broader role in the economic development of the region. Their skills were made the most of by the new entrepreneurial spirit animating sport equipment manufacturers and distributors, as well as those public works that require mastering the techniques of alpine speleology. The underground wealth of the Vercors is an attractive “territorial resource” for speleology lovers, who manage to bring out its value, directly or indirectly, to the benefit of the economic development of the Massif.

Hitomi Sato, Notaries, registers and court ledgers in Merano in the 14th and 15th centuries

The paper aims to study the relation between notary registers and court ledgers in Merano (14th and 15th centuries) focusing on their respective functions in judicial and contractual procedures. The register written in Latin and German of Jacobus de Lasa, notary public in the Venosta Valley, sheds light on the *modus operandi* of a notary public providing judicial and documentary services in the border area. Compared to such registers, the court ledgers of the 14th century had limited functions in procedural terms. Yet, around the middle of the 14th century,

they began to record the detailed transcript of depositions and in 1458 also began recording *Urfehde*, namely “oaths of truce”. This is evidence of the role played by court ledgers, in normal legal practice, as “stores of memory”, at the very time when the city of Merano was in the process of consolidating its civic independence.

Roberto Leggero, Three concepts for analysing the collective management of common assets in Mediaeval Italian-speaking Switzerland

Creating a community and building a sense of territorial identity depends, among other things, on the collective use of resources. Clearing forests, producing food, grazing livestock, negotiating contracts, safeguarding one's rights, migrating: these are all needs and experiences based on, connected with, and supporting, local and supra-local political projects and organizations. The author studies collective resource stewardship through the lens of three concepts: complexity (the variety of resources and of the processes of exploitation); elasticity (the possibility of converting goods from collective to private and vice-versa); relevance (how crucial those goods were for the economic budget of the rural communities). As the constitution of a community is a political act, all this implies a ‘political’ evaluation of the common management of resources. But not only: it also involves a process of variation in the collectively-held assets over time, in relation to the variation in the structure of the local society.

Domenico Nisi, Marta Villa, Transhumance corridors and Marian devotional itineraries along the Monte Baldo-Oetztal route.

An archaeological and anthropological interpretation

In the Alpine area of Trentino and Tyrol, there are found collective devotional itineraries based on the cult of the “Black Virgin”. They evolved in the Modern era, but retrace very ancient paths. The Palaeo-Mesolithic archeological finds overlap with the different paths of faith today, still trodden by communities of the faithful, and along the course of which may be seen remarkable sanctuaries. This research highlights an innovative hypothesis, namely the link between pastoral and Marian itineraries. In particular, the focus will be on the transhumance route still being used today between Schnalstal (Italy) and Oetztal (Austria),

protected by this typology of Madonna. The specific cult reminds us once more that intra-community identity co-exists with differentiation from other border communities.

Yoshihisa Hattori, Common Resources, Labour, and Communication in the Upper Inn Valley in the late Middle Ages and early Modern Age

The provincial jurisdiction (*Landgericht*) of Tyrol's Upper Inn Valley represented a significant spatial framework in the life of the Alpine peasantry. There, they periodically drove their cattle herds between their villages and the common pasturelands scattered across the valley. Focusing on the Laudegg jurisdiction, this paper sheds lights on two aspects of the daily activity of peasants during the Late Middle Ages: first, pasturing as a regular occupation and, secondly, cooperation for conflict resolution and management of the use of pastureland. Although each of three sub-divisions of this district tended to act as a self-sufficient pastoral community, the two aspects of peasant activity occurred over wide areas of the jurisdictional district until the 16th century and after. These aspects, promoting a peaceful pasturing life, necessitated a strong network of communication between peasant communities, which presumably promoted the identity and awareness of public interests locally. This became apparent in the reform movement in Tyrol in the age of the Peasants' War.