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Roberto Leggero, Pluriactivity, Identity and Commons in southern-alpine areas (13th–15th century)

The author considers multi-activity to be a stable aspect of the world of work in the Middle Ages. It was practised by almost all social categories, from aristocrats to day labourers. He also argues that earnings from the renting out of property cannot be considered as pure and simple income, but should be subsumed under work activities because of the commitment that this entails. Furthermore, he analyses the relationship between multi-activity, public identity and the farming of commons. Finally, he interprets multi-activity as a marker of the economic potential present in society, highlighting the wealth of a habitat well suited for hunting, fishing, wild fruits picking, and wood gathering.

Werner Drobesh, 'Pluriactivity' in the south-eastern alpine region. The transition from proto-industry to industry, 1750–1850

From about 1750, a period of socio-economic modernisation began in the south-eastern alpine countries as a result of government reforms. Consequently, the traditional forms of employment changed. Rural areas were particularly affected. Besides agricultural production, proto-industrialisation provided the rural population with new income opportunities. The heyday of the mining industry reinforced this trend. The cartage business and the charcoal industry became an important source of income. This was lost with the advent of railways and new mining industrial technologies. The scope for pluriactivity narrowed. This was the starting point for a secular social change.

Augusto Ciuffetti, Itinerant pluriactivity in the central Apennines in the Modern and Contemporary Age

The essay describes the different forms of pluriactivity and proto-industry present in the inland areas of the central Apennines during the modern age. In particular, it focuses on the continuous mobility of the population and therefore on the practice of seasonal emigration, which helped supplement the scarce resources available at home. In this way, the Apennine communities managed to resist their decline and contain the process of massive depopulation, at least until the beginning of the 20th century. Trades, jobs and production processes are described on the basis of case studies and analyses focused on specific communities, family groups and individuals. Taken together, these reconstructions enable us to define a valid framework for the entire mountain area of central Italy.

254

Alessio Fornasin, Claudio Lorenzini, Pluriactivity in the mountains. The resources-work ratio in Friuli during the Modern Age

In the alpine area, labour pluriactivity in the Modern Age has been interpreted as a natural constraint. Scarce crop lands and meagre yields meant that food autarky was hard to achieve. These conditions would have forced the populations to resort to new and integrated strategies for survival: primarily, male emigration. Research into the work activities of those (male and female) who were left behind has been conducted mostly in the light of the principal natural resources: woods, pastureland, mines. This pattern has been radically re-interpreted in terms of the role of emigration. The relation between labour and resources, on the other hand, continues to be regarded in deterministic terms. From the standpoint of an integrated farming economy, the article illustrates the context of the Friuli Alps in the Modern Age: it identifies the different forms of intra-alpine mobility, the specialisation and incorporation of labour in relation to natural resources.

Gilles Della-Vedova, Pluriactivity in the French Alps (19th–21st century)

A paradox affects the notion of pluriactivity: while it anticipates the opening and proliferation of situations, in the French Alps it is quite often reduced to a merely economic interpretation and as an archaism, even to the point of caricature. Now, the time has come for a review of this interpretation, underlining its

significance at the crossroads of several issues. A subtle social approach, within a precise environment, shows its crucial contribution to rural development by local social groups. Indeed, as a source of additional revenues helping to consolidate the family farming business, it dovetails with the migratory phenomenon, and together they make up a stock of useful experiences. The different local actors may thus jointly develop the rural spaces of the French Alps of yesterday and of tomorrow.

**Fabio Carminati, Andrea Mariani, Crossing the Rhaetian Alps in late Antiquity.
The Tabula Peutingeriana and the Viae Militares**

In this study, we consider the historical road network in the Late Roman to the Early Mediaeval Period, focusing on the routes between the Lombardy Plains and the Rhaetian province. More specifically, we have analysed the Tabula Peutingeriana, a copy of a Roman map made in 1265 by a monk in Colmar. Our objective is to put forward a new reconstruction of the routes between Milan and Chur. At the same time, we want to suggest a new interpretation of the document as a whole and of the staging posts it features.

255

**Marco Bettassa, Coexistence and identity.
The Waldensian exiles in Württemberg in the 18th century**

The aim of this article is to investigate the process of religious tolerance and the ‘discovery of the Other’ in pre-industrial world, focusing on the Waldensian religious minority expelled from Piedmont to the Duchy of Württemberg. The essay underlines the strong, deep-seated tension between one’s own traditions and the stubborn resistance to assimilation within the host community. Hence, conflicts and practices of social conduct emerge which will mark forever the way people interact with diversity.

**Matteo Tacca, From deforestation to land enfranchisement.
Forms of ownership and construction of the territory in Savoy (18th–19th century)**

In Savoy, until the late 18th century, the term *défricher* carried a negative connotation. Tillage was seen as an encroachment over common woodlands, a possessory action whereby an individual violated the legal status of the territory. From the 19th century, the Savoyard state administration openly promoted the selling,

tilling and monoculture of the land, which encouraged individualistic and capitalistic intensive monocultures. Forest clearing is associated to the concept of land enfranchisement from ancient feudal and collective rights. The comparative study of land registration and documentation produced by different social actors will lead to a re-interpretation of the various meanings enclosed in the symbolic gesture of forest clearance.

Luigi Lorenzetti, Agropastoral economy and settlement systems.

Ticino, Grisons, Valais, 16th–19th century

The article re-examines a few cruxes that stand out in historical research on the relation between agropastoral economy and the variety of settlement patterns in the Alpine areas of three Swiss Cantons. After reviewing the main lines of interpretation put forward by ethnologists, geographers, and historians since the end of the 19th century, the article reconsiders the relation between the strategies of work organisation and local settlement patterns. Finally, the author emphasizes that approaches designed to stress the historical mutability of the latter are particularly fruitful. Indeed, these forms are far from consistently in tune with the transformations affecting the agropastoral economy.

Vincent Arpin, Discovery and practices of skiing by the military in France before its institutionalisation (1878–1900)

The nineteenth century was the golden age of mountaineering. It was also the moment when mountain peaks asserted their role as political and military frontiers. Mastery of snow-riding techniques became essential to a year-round military presence. People were able to learn these skills once snowshoes and skis were imported by mountaineer Henry Duhamel. While snowshoes were soon integrated into military organisation, it was not quite the same with skis. In the early 1890s, those were first used by troops stationed in altitude locations along the border. The French army accepted the constant development of the use of skis, availing themselves of different options to do so.

Pascal Guknecht, Jon Mathieu, 'Sublime mountains'. A corpus-linguistic study of the Swiss Alpine Club Journals 1864–2014

The paper examines the use of the German term *erhaben* and its English and French counterpart, *sublime*, first within the learned debates in the transition to modern times, then focusing on the periodic publications of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) from 1864 to 2014. How *erhaben/sublime* were mountains in these Journals over time, and what were the connotations of their 'sublimity'? The 18th century rise of the discourse on the sublime drew considerable attention, but its decline since the 19th century has prompted scarce research. Statistical analyses of the SAC corpus help us detect semantic references and signs of change. While in the 1860s these lofty terms were still part of the Alpinists' vocabulary, from the 1990s they vanished from the SAC Journals, and a new perception of mountains arose, separate from the Enlightenment and Romanticism.

257

Rolande Bonnain-Dulon, Growing old in a village in the Pyrenees at the turn of the 20th century

Ageing and care for the elderly have always been a concern in peasant societies. Different solutions have been found depending on the form of the family. The stem family, where three generations lived together under the same roof, seemed to cope with everyday life despite tensions and resentment caused by the land inequality highlighted by anthropologists today. These issues are tackled through a micro-analysis (based on population censuses) of the composition of households and their geographical and social environment in a village in the Pyrenean foothills. The village lost a third of its population between 1872 and 1911, and saw an increase in the number of single households. As a result, measures included celibacy of the eldest son and cultivating neighbourly relations. Though the stem family remained the norm, its concern was now less with perpetuating the household than with safeguarding its existing members.