

English summaries

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ENGLISH SUMMARIES

PIERRE DUBUIS, "TWO HALF-SISTERS IN BRIEF: THE VALAIS AND THE AOSTA VALLEY"

At that point where the Alpine bend in the West begins there are on its northern and southern sides the massive valley channels of the Rhone and Dora Baltea – the Valais and Aosta Valley, each one almost resembling the other like two sisters. The two mountain regions are linked by the age-old frequented pass of the Great Saint Bernard. But from the Central Medieval Age political paths have taken different directions: the Aosta Valley becomes one of the nuclear territories of the House of Savoy, becomes part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861 and enjoys from 1948 onwards the status of an Autonomous Region in the Republic of Italy. In early modern times the Valais separates into a dominating and a subject area, ruled over mutually by the prince-bishop of Sion and the Landrat; in 1815 it joins the Swiss Federation as a new canton. If one considers both the similarities and divergencies between these two extensive alpine valleys it becomes obvious that the Valais and the Aosta Valley together form a fascinating laboratory for long-term historical comparative research.

ANTONINA MARIA CAVALLARO, "PUBLIC SPHERES AND URBAN ORDER OF AOSTA BETWEEN ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL TIMES"

Central to this study are certain constitutive elements of the *forma urbis* of Aosta in Roman times and the Middle Ages. They are considered within a perspective that takes into account their peculiarities and metamorphoses of structural and functional type bound up with historical times. Simulta-

neously, however, it is intended to overcome an approach restricted to single periods and regions in favour of a comprehensive approach to the theme of urban-centre development. While rejecting all qualitative judgement of postulated optimal models, the following aspects are particularly dealt with: the problem, just hinted at, of the various periods of the locality to which a Roman theatre has long since been attributed; the relation between urban context and the sites of secular and religious power; and the evident continuity of urban functions north of the tribunal site.

**BRUNO ORLANDONI, "CASTLES: FRAGMENTS CONTRIBUTING
TO A HISTORY OF LATE-MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE
IN THE AOSTA VALLEY"**

After an initial phase of synthesis in the early 1970's research in the castles of the Aosta Valley is at present receiving new impulses from the collection and editing of hitherto unknown contemporary documents. Especially with respect to the 14th and 15th centuries a picture of complex relations and connections is being revealed. On the building sites of the Valley one comes across petty noblemen as commissioners, officials of the Savoyard government, notaries and administrators, in addition to stone-masons, carpenters, masons, architects, suppliers of raw and building materials, carters. It is a complete chapter of the socio-economic history of the region that one is beginning to reconstruct, step by step, all around its most important historical buildings.

**GABRIEL IMBODEN, "THE GREAT STOCKALPER
IN THE SOUTHERN ALPINE REGION"**

The importance of the Valaisan enterpriser and politician Kaspar Jodok Stockalper vom Thurm (1609–1691) can be discerned already from the extent of his economic sphere. The latter extended from his place of residence in Brig along the axis of Geneva–Lyons to Paris and along the Burgundian axis to the Channel Coast, with Antwerp as its centre. The axis southwards

forked off after the Simplon Pass towards Milan and Genoa. This article deals with the varying relations of Stockalper with the southerly neighbouring regions. Whereas the Aosta Valley did not count among his spheres of interest, the more easterly Ossola was of utmost importance. These close connections with the Ossolian area can only be explained by the traffic over the Simplon Pass, which Stockalper seized control of from 1634 onwards with the help of a semi-state administration. When, in 1678, he was expelled from his political offices in the Valais and retired to exile in Domodossola, he disposed there, too, of a vast landed property.

**STÉPHANE ANDEREGGEN, "ANDRÉ LUISIER – AN INSTITUTION.
THE COMBINATION OF SPORTS, POLITICS AND THE PRESS
IN THE LOWER VALAIS OF POST-WAR YEARS"**

André Luisier (1924–1998) exercised, as a journalist of conservative values, a publisher and sports tycoon, great influence in the Lower Valais of the post-war. Above all he achieved power as the champion of the interests of the dominating groups, who could count upon him and his newspaper *Nouveliste* to keep them at the top. It was well known who belonged to Luisier's crowd. He liked to talk of "his" politicians, judges, state prosecutors, whom he spoke of in public as "friends of the newspaper". Among them, too, he counted well-known European representatives of the political "far right". By means of his support of the cantonal football-club he finally gained wide recognition – at his death there was talk of the "end of a Valaisan Era". The article supports the thesis that Luisier succeeded in combining sports, politics and the press into a power-structure that for three whole decades exercised in that region a downright institutional, normative character.

**EZIO EMERICO GERBORE, "ALPS AND STOCK-FARMING
IN THE AOSTA VALLEY IN THE MIDDLE AGES. AN ATTEMPT
AT CLARIFICATION"**

This contribution attempts to clarify specific, less well-known aspects of stock-farming in Medieval Aosta Valley. After a general introduction the study concentrates on a small number of postmortem inventories from the period between the outgoing 14th century and the outgoing 15th century. The aim of the analysis is to obtain information on the size and constitution of the various animal herds and the wealth of implements and livestock products that have been met with in the homes of animal-keepers. The study reveals that these keepers sometimes own a considerable number of livestock and that their economy is not so scanty as one might suppose. Furthermore the stock consists of a large proportion of sheep and goats making up together more than 60 per cent of the total animal population. This is in contrast to the traditional opinion according to which, in the Aosta Valley since the 15th century, cattle rearing had attained the highest proportion.

**PETER KAISER, "LAND IRRIGATION IN THE VALAIS
OF EARLY MODERN TIMES"**

By investigating the effects on the social structures of communities and the economic set-up in general, irrigation agriculture appears in a new light. Land irrigation as a supporting technique in the local and regional agro-system is subject, from one case to another, to dynamic developments. The extant regional studies point the way to future research and to a possible agro-historical synthesis that is not achievable by statistical presentations alone. The disputes concerning irrigation, frequently revealed by sources, document a lengthy, continuous, contested search for an optimal exploitation of natural resources and thus forms an integrated productive investigative theme in agrarian history.

**CLAUDINE REMACLE, "RURAL HOUSING AND LANDSCAPES
IN THE AOSTA VALLEY. RESEARCH PRACTICE"**

In view of the diversity of rural building traditions in the Aosta Valley the supervisory office of cultural heritage distinguishes in its inventories the single closely-built houses. The object-related "reading" of building transformations precedes the preparation of the registers in which the peculiarities of all buildings are analysed. It thus takes into account the transformation in dwelling and construction from the Late Middle Age up to the beginning of the 20th century. The mountain environment with its constraints has certainly played a role in structuring the habitat. But the houses, built under similar geographical conditions in various neighbouring valleys, do not seem to resemble one another. In addition, the rural building tradition has, in the course of time, developed locally into diverse models. The cadastral surveys of the 18th and 19th centuries give information concerning the builders. On the other hand only intensive research into notarial archives could possibly reveal the architectural influences deriving either from local customs or from non-local itinerant tradesmen.

**WERNER BELLWALD, THOMAS ANTONIETTI, "MUSEUMS AND
TOURISM AS EXAMPLED BY THE VALAIS. ANTAGONISMS,
SYMBIOSES, OR NO SUCH RELATIONSHIPS?"**

The Valais nowadays possesses 70 museum-like institutions. A great part of them have sprung up in the past 15 years. Only in single cases can a direct connection between tourism and museums be proved. Slight, too, is the material support of the museums through tourism and direct institutional inter-connections between the two spheres. On the whole the development of museums in the Valais seems rather to correspond to the general Swiss trend. A closer inspection, however, reveals indirect influences of tourism on the Valais museum structure. The latter, by the way, differs strikingly from that in the Aosta Valley.

GISÈLE PANNATIER, "WAY OVER THE ALPS: DIALECT, A FACTOR OF CULTURAL IDENTITY"

To the factors binding the Aosta Valley and the Valais and contributing to a cultural alpine identity there belongs the use of franco-provençal dialect. Various parameters contribute to the identity-producing function of dialect, whereby mental representations play a dominant role. The factors associated with dialect merge to form an definite view of life and may set in motion a genuine linguistic policy.

ISABELLE RABOUD-SCHÜLE, "SEARCHING FOR SPECIAL DISHES IN SAVOY, THE AOSTA VALLEY AND IN THE VALAIS"

When inquiring in consciously regionally run inns along the roads within the vicinity of Mont Blanc one discovers how regional cooking is invented. It is especially the human, economic and technical conditions that lead to the creation, transformation and elaboration of dishes that acquire the status of a "speciality" of the Valais, the Aosta Valley or of Savoy. A "speciality" comes about less from the commodity or the existence of a historical recipe. It derives much rather from the meeting of two viewpoints: from the view of the innkeeper who is aware of his resources and has an idea of his county, the which it pleases him to defend; as well as from the angle of the customer as he is viewed by the innkeeper, with his desires and a longing for a change up in the mountains.

JOSEPH-GABRIEL RIVOLIN, "SOURCES OF HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE AOSTA VALLEY"

The historiography of the Aosta Valley has its roots in the 15th century and obtained a definite framework with the foundation of an academy in the 19th century. Since the Second World War and the "Statute of Autonomy", studies on regional civilizaion have experienced a strong upsurge. The numerous historical publications of late are a proof of the vitality of this

research. Not to be overlooked either is the differentiation into several streams: One tendency underlines the political, legal and institutional peculiarities of the history of the Aosta Valley, whilst another tendency, on the contrary, stresses the parallels between local and general history. The article offers an overall view of cultural administration, archive structure and libraries in the region. On the whole there emerges the picture of an exceedingly rich and diverse supply of sources.

ANTOINE LUGON, "RESOURCES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN THE VALAIS"

The history of the Valais is a huge building-site upon which lie, side by side, undealt-with and already dealt-with materials. If one draws up a brief balance of research over the past three decades it becomes evident that some fields and periods have attracted more attention than others. The most attention has been devoted to the 19th and 20th centuries, whilst earlier periods, despite certain pioneer studies, have definitely been the subject of less research. Surprisingly great for an economically weak canton appear the extent and variety of the documentation available in various institutions cited in the article. Paradoxically it is the poorer regions that frequently possess a rich historical and cultural heritage, since they had not, early enough, the possibility and the will to dispose of them. All the more does this wealth of cultural resources point to the necessity of additional exertions.

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