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Travel Journalism, Communication and Social Media

Module 2: The history of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism

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The history of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism

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Travel Journalism

- Travel Journalism has many styles and forms.
- It combines discourses from a number of genres.
- It is more about reporting on travel for entertainment and information purposes.
- It is defined as the signed accounts of individuals who have visited destinations and distributed their impressions to potential travelers through the mass media as printed, broadcast or online articles (McGaurr, 2010).



Travel Writing & Travel Journalism

- Is a travel writer also travel journalist?
- Can a travel journalist be called travel writer?
- What are the differences?



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (1)

- Travel in antiquity and the first travel stories.
- Odyssey from 8B.C. by Homer: An example of ancient travel writing
- Greek writer Xenophone wrote ‘Anabasis’ (431-355 BC), the story of Greek mercenaries in the Persian Empire
- Hecataeus of Miletus (550 BC – 476 BC) wrote [Ges Periodos](#) (“tour of the world”)



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (2)

- Pausanias (AD 110 – AD 180) a Greek traveler and geographer wrote '[Hellados Periegesis](#)'
- Herodotus, a Greek historian who lived in the fifth century BC (c. 484–425 BC) and is known as "The Father of History" provides us many geographical and ethnographical information
- Xenophon (c. 430 – 354 BC) another Greek historian describes in his book 'Anabasis' Cyrus expedition against the Persians and Greek mercenaries journey home.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (3)

- Marco Polo , (1254- 1324) the famous Italian traveler from Venice who traveled to Asia left a detailed chronicle of his experiences.
- In the late middle years we have great geographical discoveries. Travel seems to be a necessity at these times.
- Travel stories inform people about the different nature and culture of inhabitants.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (4)

- Along with true stories, imaginary travel stories started to appear, or travel stories based on actual journeys with fictional elements of exoticism and phantasy.
- In the 18th century, travel writing was known under the name 'Book of Travels'. Usually these were maritime .James Cook's diaries (1784) reached the status of a modern day international best-seller.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (5)

- The Grand Tour (17th-19th century) was a traditional trip undertaken by young European aristocrats for educational purpose. Many travel stories appear that time.
- In 1782 we have a travel magazine in Hamburg in Germany under the title 'Der Reisende'
- The appearance of the first Baedeker travel guide in 1835 broadens the field of travel writing.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (6)



Figure 1

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Travel_magazines#mediaviewer/File:1898_Cooks_Excursionist.png



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (7)

- Since 19th century we have also examples of mixed types of travel writing e.g. Verlag Hoffman und Campe in 1948 published the travel and culture magazine ‘Merian’.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (8)



Figure 2



Figure 3

The invention of photography (1820s) influences the travel journalism.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (9)

- In the 20th and 21st century we have many important travel writers who publish travel books, as well as travel articles in newspapers and magazines.
- There are also travel journalists who are devoted to travel reporting. However some of them publish travelogues and fiction travel stories.



A short History of Travel Writing and Travel Journalism (10)

- TODAY, new communication tools, internet and social media have broaden the field of travel journalism.
- The appearance of Travel bloggers.



Figure 4



On line Discussion Topics

1. Travel Bloggers:

Is it a Hobby or a Profession?

Do you like reading travel blogs? Why? Or why not?

Which is your favourite one and why?

2. Travel Writing and Travel Journalism

Good Practices and Excellent examples!!!



References (figures)

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End of Module 2

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