

## Laces Inspired by the Art of Podhale. The National School of Lacemaking in Zakopane and Its Impact on Fashion in the First Half Century of Its Existence

### Summary

In 1883–1933, the National School of Lacemaking in Zakopane developed a highly original style of lacework inspired by vernacular ornamentation and the nature of the Tatras. The postulate to create a style steeped in the local tradition was critical for upholding the national identity both in the times of partitions and right after Poland regained independence.

Zakopane laces were top-class artworks. Józefa Neužilowa's and Stanisław Witkiewicz's designs made lacemaking yet another craft in which the Zakopane style could come to the fore. Completely different were the laces designed by Karol Kłosowski, produced in the 1920s. Their naturalistic rendering of motifs drawn from the Tatras' lavish wildlife revealed the artist's emotional attitude to nature.

The founding of the National School of Lacemaking in Zakopane was initiated by the actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska), whose taste for fashion was widely admired and imitated. We know for a fact that she was a keen client for Zakopane-style laces. The actress is said to have vastly contributed to the promotion of a vogue for Zakopane lacework.