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# THE DEVELOPMENT OF LVIV HOTEL BUSINESS IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD (1919–1939)

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### Abstract

The current paper researches and analyses the start and development of the hotel business in Lviv of the interwar period. The main focus is set on the division of accommodation establishments into categories, their structure and location. Much attention is also paid to the description of hotels and their pricing policy depending on their status and venue. Numerous tables help to structure the statistical data, especially their client capacity, number of rooms, location etc.

### Key words

hotel, Lviv, interwar period, tourism, guidebooks to Lviv, categorization.

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## 1. Introduction

The natural curiosity about the world, the need to discover new territories, to meet new people, expansion of knowledge about the world surrounding us, all that since ancient times till now urges people to travel. And that is where hospitality establishments arise. First it was on the trade routes and routes of pilgrims in the Middle East where appeared caravanserais, in the medieval Europe they were first inns and hospices. The word “hospice” came into the English language from old French “hospice”, where it formed from the Latin words “hospes” and “hospitium” meaning “hospitality”. This term was used since the 6th century to denote the places where pilgrims

could rest. The first hospices were usually situated along the roads on the main routes of the Christian pilgrims. These were, in some sense, the houses where the tired, exhausted or ill travelers were taken care of. However hospices also were helpful to the local population. The word came from the English language into other European languages in the 19th century (Мальська et al., 2011).

The standards of services in such establishments show that they were largely different from our today’s image of the comfortable places to sleep and rest, which are the present hotels. Often the guests had to bring with them their own beds and cutlery (as did the wealthy burgers in the 17th century in Europe), and they had to watch out so that the goats

did not eat their pillows at night, as the rooms were shared with all the household. The way from the first documented by historians accommodation establishments to the modern hotels lasted for four thousand years.

Nevertheless, despite the living conditions and the price for the night, all the hospitality establishments were ruled by one principle "hospes hospiti sacer" (the guest is sacred for the host) as the ancient Romans used to say.

When it comes to the hotel business it is not possible not to mention hospitality. Hospitality is the feature that unites all the owners of hotels, it is the "genius loci" – the spirit of the place, which should be present in every hotel without exceptions.

The main reasons for the development of the hotel business in the ancient times are defined as follows:

- trade exchange;
- travelling connected with the visiting of places of religious value;
- expansion of diplomatic relations between the countries;
- travelling to other places (Мальська 2009).

## 2. Analysis

In Ukraine the hotel business started developing extensively only in the second half of the 19th century and it was mainly connected with Kyiv and other large cities.

The opening in 1889 of the regular railway connection caused the growth of number of travelers coming to Kyiv and triggered the building of hotels. Before that in the city stood out the "Green hotel" built in 1803–1805, which belonged to Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra and was the most famous during the 50s of the 19th century (Ганич, 2013).

In the late 19th-early 20th centuries in the Eastern Galicia, which was the part of Austro-Hungary, the hospitality sphere was characterized by high rates of development. Almost every town had its own small hotels, restaurants, cafes. Generally in Galicia (both Eastern and Western) in 1902 there were 935 hotels with the average employment rate of three persons per hotel. The hotels employing more than 20 people constituted only 0.5% of the total hospitality establishments.

Most hotels were characterized by the low level of comfort – simple interior, absence of water supply and sanitation system. Here stayed mostly people with low income, commercial agents. In contrast with that there were large and a few small hotels with rich interior décor, luxury furniture, well-trained

staff, utilities. They corresponded to the style of fashionable European hotels of that time. The large expensive hotels provided the services of restaurants, cafes, baths and shower, so predominantly rich clients stayed there.

Lviv stood out in the Eastern Galicia according to the number of hotels, including the luxury ones. In the early 20th century the city had almost 48 hotels. For comparison: Warsaw had 32 hotels and Krakow only 18. The most famous hotels of Lviv were "George", established in 1796 and called "De la Rus". Later it was renamed after one of its founders George Hoffman. The hotel had 93 rooms: 32 suites with baths, central heating, hot and cold water supply, telephone connection. The price depended on the equipment of the room and was from 6 (single room) to 24 (double room with a bath) zlotys. The hotel included a luxury restaurant, café, an orchestra performed every evening in the marble hall (Мальська, Пандяк, 2009).

In the Western Galicia (included into Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania) hotels were in private ownership, which helped its better financial supply and service organization. An important feature of hotel business was quite a large network of small establishments, aimed at servicing various categories of population.

After the end of World War I and the fall of Austro-Hungarian Empire the territory of Galician Kingdom and Volodymyria again after some short armed riots came under the power of the Polish Republic. Correspondingly, all the state and administrative institutions started working differently. With time changes came in financial and economic sector. Instead of guildens and kronen the currency used was Polish mark till 1924 and later – zloty. But from the prices given below we may see that for a long time the Austro-Hungarian currency had still been used.

The postwar tourist guidebook "Przewodnik po Galicyi" of 1919 (Orłowicz, 1919) characterizes the hotels of Galicia as more expensive but less comfortable, than the accommodation establishments of the Western Europe (4–14 kronen). For the people, who needed somewhere to stay for longer periods of time there were accommodations in guest houses, existing in Lviv, Krakow, Zakopane and Yaremche. The prices were 5–10 kronen for a day of stay. In the smaller towns there were second class hotels, inside which it was quite dirty, very often the travelers stayed at a tavern or a village house.

At that time there was plenty of restaurants in all large cities, spa resorts and hub railway stations. In smaller towns, even in powiat centers, as a rule there were no restaurants, and there was only an opportunity to have a breakfast. Warm meals needed to be

ordered in hospitality establishments several hours in advance. There were also towns with no hotels or restaurants at all. If you went into the countryside or to the mountains, you had to bring your own dinner with you. In small towns all trade was controlled by the Jews, so on Saturday all shops were closed, there was no possibility to buy anything and the towns looked as if they died out.

The cafes in large cities were mostly in Vienna style. There were often held concerts of ballroom or military music. The role of cafes was often taken by confectioneries, predominantly visited by ladies (tab. 1.).

When it comes to Lviv, in 1919 its tourist infrastructure included hotels, guest houses, restaurants, breakfast rooms, milk shops, cafes, confectioneries, wine houses etc.

Tab. 1. Categorization of hotels in Lviv in 1919

Name	Price
First-class hotels (with restaurants)	
"George"	up from 4 kronas
"Europejski"	up from 2,40 kronas.
"Francuski"	up from 3 kronas.
"Imperial"	3–11 kronas
Cheap hotels	
"Austria"	up from 2 kronas
"Victoria"	up from 2 kronas
"City"	up from 2 kronas
"Metropol"	up from 2 kronas
"Grand Hotel"	up from 2 kronas
"Narodna Hostynnia"	up from 2 kronas
"Sans-Souci"	up from 2 kronas
"Warszawski"	up from 2 kronas
"Pod trzema Murzynami"	up from 2 kronas
"Krakowski"	up from 2 kronas

Source: Orłowicz, 1919.

Interesting is the recommendation of "Przewodnik po Galicyi" guidebook, where it is noted that it is better to avoid dirty and neglected Jewish hotels in Zhovkva suburbs and on Horodotska street (Orłowicz, 1919).

The guest houses (daily price 6–10 kronas) where mostly for those, who were staying for longer periods:

- Dom kobiet (House for women);
- Guest house "Anuta";
- Guest house "Goplana";
- Guest house "Grottger";
- Guest house "Litwinka";
- Guest house "Mignon";

- Guest house "Warszawianka".

Later the accommodation establishments started to be characterized according to a new classification. Thus as it is said in "Przewodnik Po Lwowie" guidebook of 1925 (Orłowicz, 1925), this period was determined by a large number of the third-class hotels. The prices varied from 1 to 3 zlotys per day for one person. At the time of "Eastern trade" there is an increase in private dwellings. The situation was a bit different in guest houses, there was a variable tariff – the pay included a room with full accommodation – 5 zlotys per day (Orłowicz, 1925).

The "Polski przemysł i handel" book of 1930 gives the description and characteristics of separate hotels, which were considered the best and the most popular among the visitors of Lviv. Among them are such hotels: "Krakowski", "George", "New-York" and "Bristol".

### "Krakowski" hotel

Location: Bernardynska square, 3. Administrator: P. Orzechowski. Director: S. Lackowski, K. Christman. It was a first-class hotel owned by "Państwowy Zakład Pensyjny". The hotel included 98 stylishly furnished suites with bathrooms. There were rooms for business meetings, a library, a banquet hall and a modern restaurant with exquisite Polish and French cuisine. Correspondence was carried out in Polish, German, French and English.

### "George" hotel

Location: Mariatska square. Administrator: S. Borowski. The hotel is situated in the city center and was one of the most luxury in terms of comfort, it had central heating, telephone connection in every room as well as hot and cold water. There were 32 suites with individual bathrooms and an elevator. There was the service of personal belongings storage. The hotel had its own restaurant, which was famous even abroad for its special cuisine. The hall paved with marble hosted concerts every evening. There were separate rooms for business meetings (similar to the modern conference-halls). Correspondence was held in Polish, German, French, English and Russian.

### "Bristol" and "New-York" hotels

The hotels were situated not far from each other on Legioniv Street. The owner was Z. Zehnegut. Both hotels were established in 1894 in the central part of the city. At that time they were 1st category hotels. They were using innovational technologies – telephone connection in the rooms and individual bathrooms. The location of the hotels made them the venue of the international fairs. The hotels provided

Tab. 2. Information and statistics about the hospitality establishments of Lviv in 1930–1931

Name of hotel, guest house, resort	Address	H – hotel G – guesthouse R – resort	Owner	Total number of rooms	Total capacity	Price of room		Price of a room with bath	Price of guest house		Open S- season All year - Y	Availability						
						1 bed	2 beds		Price during season	Price not during the season		central heating	bath	electrical light	radio	telephone	hot and cold water in the rooms	garage
Astoria	Kazymyryvska, 15	H	Dr. Mayer i Ska	42	51	5–8	8–11				Y	•	•	•		•		
Bristol	Legioniv, 21	H	Zehngut Zyg.	47	62	8–9	11–13				Y		•	•		•		
City–Depend	Syxtynska, 4	H	Fabian Henryk	20	27	6–8	9–12				Y			•		•		
Elite	Legioniv, 27	H	Reich i Perlmutter	19	28	6–7	8–10				Y			•		•		
Europejski	Mariatska square, 4	H	Uwiera Antoni	65	88	6–10	9–14				Y		•	•		•		
Georgé	Mariatska square, 1	H	Borowski Stan.	90	122	8–13	19–21	20			Y	•	•	•		•	•	
Imperial	The 3rd of May, 3	H	Ganz Filip	54	75	7–13	15–18				Y		•	•		•		
Krakowski	Bernardynska square	H		100	124	6–14	19–25	22			Y	•	•	•		•	•	
Metropol	Pilsudskoho	H	Melle Natan	30	45	5–6	9				Y			•		•		
Monopol	Legioniv, 25	H	Horowitz Br.	14	22	5–7	6–8				Y			•		•		
Narodna Hostynnycia	Kostiushka, 1	H	Tow. Spoldzieleze	43	55	6–9	10–13				Y		•	•		•		
New-York	Legioniv, 45	H	Zehngut Zyg.	43	56	7–9	11–13				Y		•	•		•		
Polonja	Batoria, 34	G	Sokolowska M.	10	15				12–15		Y	•	•	•		•		
Salus			R Spka z ogr. odp.	20	20				20–40		Y	•	•	•		•	•	
Sanat. Czerw. Krzyża	Lychakivska, 107		R P. Czerw. Krzyż	39	39				15–40		Y	•	•	•		•	•	•
Saski	Batoria, 20	H	Münzer Ozjasz	19	25	5*50–6	9				Y			•		•		
Savoy	Sobeskoho, 7	H	Przeporski Ant.	30	45	4–7	7–9				Y			•		•		
Warszawski	Bernardynska square	H	Moskowicz Fr.	49	65	8–11	15–28	22			Y	•	•	•		•	•	
Vita	Lystopada, 22		R Schramm i Dr. Schwarc	30	40				16–35		Y	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Zacisze	Zyblikevycha, 52	G	Chorośnicka M.	12	16				11–14		Y		•	•		•		

Source: Skorowidz hotelowy..., 1930–1931.

unobtrusive and diligent service, which contributed to the positive reputation and to meeting all the needs of the clients. Another advantage was closeness to the tram network, which connected the hotels with the main railway station, and almost with any other part of the city. According to the reviews the first-class cuisine was also worth praise. Correspondence was carried out in Polish, German and French (Polski przemysł i handel, 1930).

Another publication of that time “Skorowidz hotelowy Rzeczpospolitej Polskiej 1930–1931” gives

quite detailed information about the hospitality establishments in many cities of that state. Among other data are given the type of the establishment, the price of stay and additional services, there are also included the number of rooms and capacity, which adds to the informativeness (Skorowidz hotelowy, 1930–1931) (tab. 2).

Taking into consideration the information load of the given above table, we can build several diagrams by the main indicators (fig. 1., fig. 2., fig. 3.).

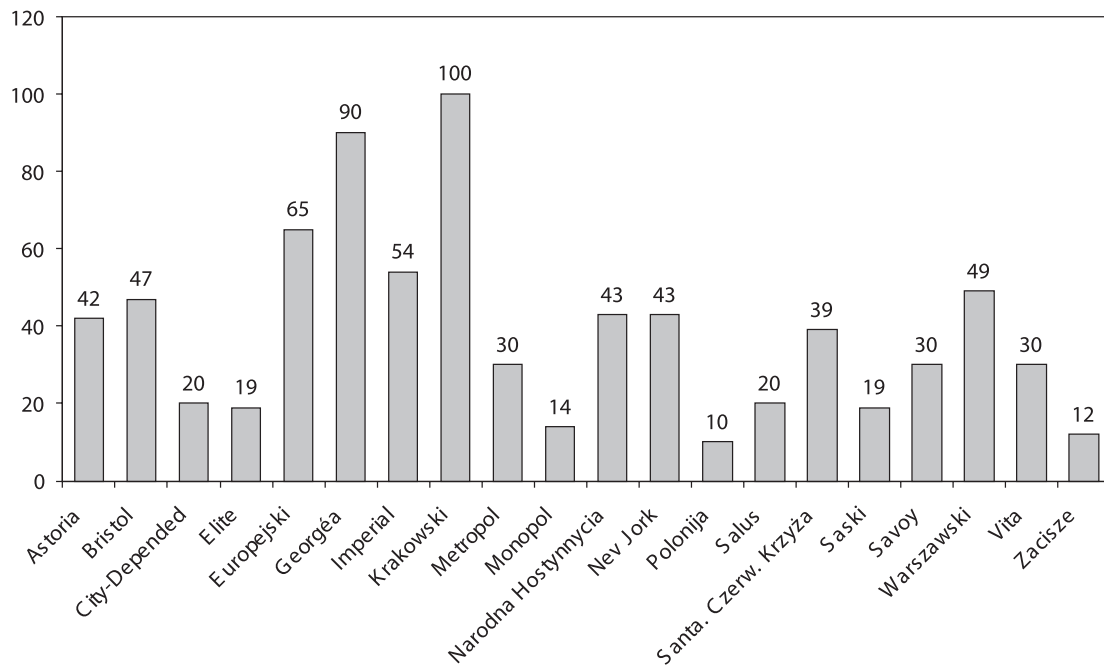


Fig. 1. Total numbers of rooms in 1930

Source: Skorowidz hotelowy..., 1930–1931.

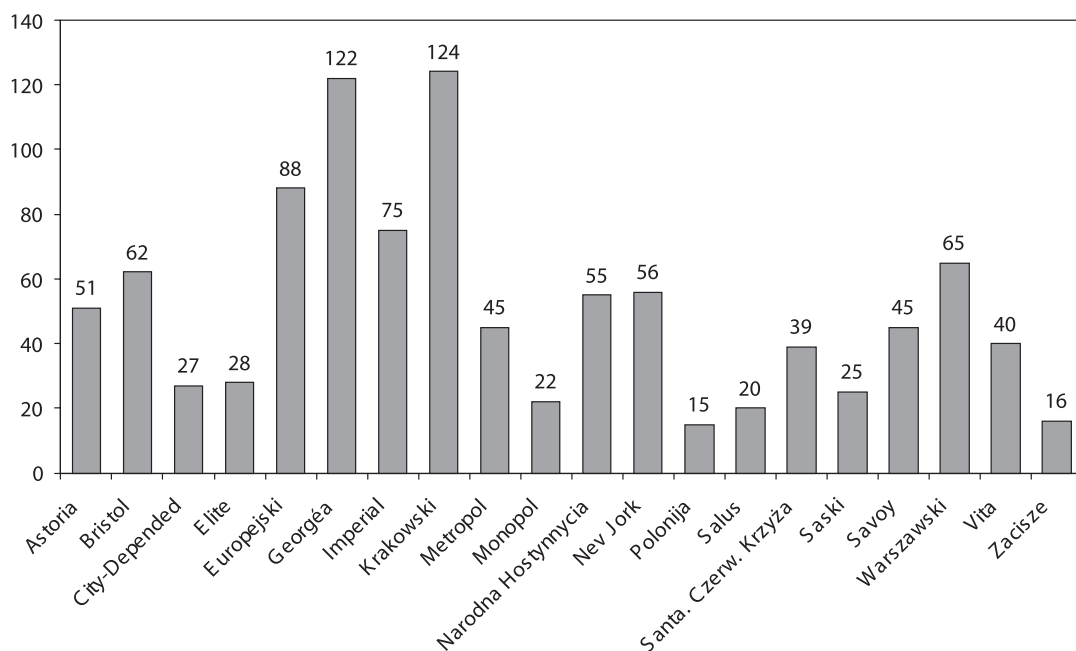


Fig. 2. Total amounts of beds in 1930

Source: Skorowidz hotelowy..., 1930–1931.

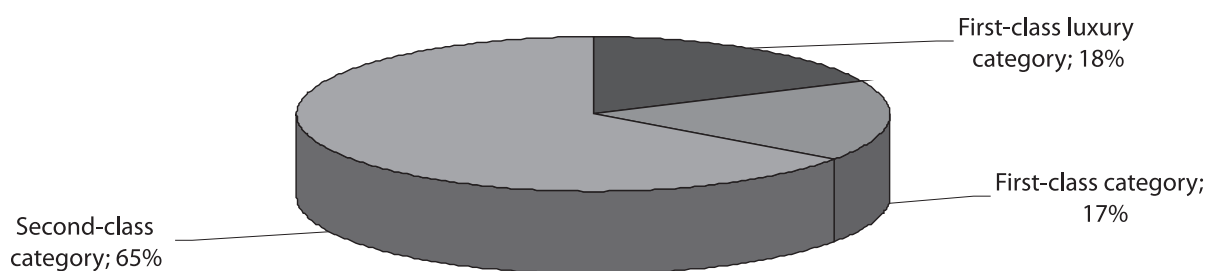


Fig. 3. Percent correlation of establishments of placing in 1925

Source: Skorowidz hotelowy..., 1930–1931.

In 1936 the categorization of accommodation establishments changed. So the categories were (Ilustrowany przewodnik..., 1934) (tab. 3.).

Tab. 3. Categorization of hotels in Lviv in 1936

Luxury hotels	Second-class hotels
George	Amerykanski
Krakowski	Angielski
Warszawski	Continental
<b>Category "A" hotels</b>	Grunberg
Bristol	Metropole
Europejski	Podolski
Grand	Polonja
Imperial	Reunion
Narodna Hostynnycia	Rojal
New-York	Saski
<b>Category "B" hotels</b>	Pod Trzema Murzynami
Astoria	Wenecki
Belweder	Zipper
Elite	
Sans- Soudi	

Source: Ilustrowany przewodnik..., 1934.

The category of second-class hotels was at that time the most numerous one and constituted 60% of all the accommodation establishments. The least popular were the guest houses – there were 8% of them (Lwów z lotu ptaka..., 1938) (fig. 4).

Another guidebook "Lwów z lotu ptaka informator-przewodnik Związku Popierania Turystyki m. Lwowa" gives such information (tab. 4.).

Apart from these hotels there were also a lot of smaller ones, which are not mentioned in the guidebook.

This guidebook to hotels mentions an economic innovation. A tax of 20% was imposed on hotels.

Guest houses:

- "Kasztelanka" – The 3rd of May street, 12
- "Zacisze" – Zublikevycha street, 52

Short-term suites (pl. kwatery dla wycieczek):

- "Szkolne schronisko" – Virmenska street, 4

- "Dom Emigracyjny" – Vyshnevetskykh street, 4
- "Bursa Grunwaldzka" – Sobinskoho street, 15
- "Il-gi Dom Techników" – Abramovychiv street, 5
- "Dom Akademicki" – Lozynskoho street, 6
- "Dom Studentek" – Torosevycha street, 36
- "Klasztoe SS. Sakramentek" – Sakramentok street, 11
- "Dom Z. Z. K." – Kotrynskoho street, 56.

Another guidebook to Lviv "Ilustrowany informator miasta Lwowa: ze spisem miejscowości województwa lwowskiego" (1939), gives a slightly different information about accommodation establishments. In the guidebook these establishments are also divided into four categories, but according to different criteria: first-class luxury, first-class, second-class and guest houses. It should be noted that all first-class luxury and first-class hotels were situated in the city-center. Second-class hotels and guest houses were located a bit further from the downtown. This guidebook mentions an important convenience – the availability in each hotel or guest house of own telephone number, which at that time increased the hotel service. Thus to the first-class luxury hotels belonged only four hotels: "Bristol", "George", "Europejski" and "Warszawski", of which "Warszawski" belonged to second class as early as 1894, while "Bristol" was not mentioned at all, "George" and "Europejski" confirmed their luxury category. To the first-class belonged also four hotels: "Grand", "Imperial", "Narodna Hostynnycia" and "New-York". In this category situation was a bit different, "Grand" and "Imperial" stayed in their category, while the rest two had not been mentioned in the previous edition (Lwów z lotu ptaka..., 1938).

In the end of the second period in 1939 largely increased the number of second-class hotels in Lviv, there were fifteen of them. Among them only "Angielski" stayed in its category, respectively hotels "Wiktoria" and "Metropole" lowered their rating, all the rest twelve hotels: "Astoria", "City-Depend", "Continental", "Edison", "Palas", "Patria", "Podolski", "Reunion", "Saski", "Savoy", "Splendid", "Wenecki" were mentioned in this publication for the first time. There



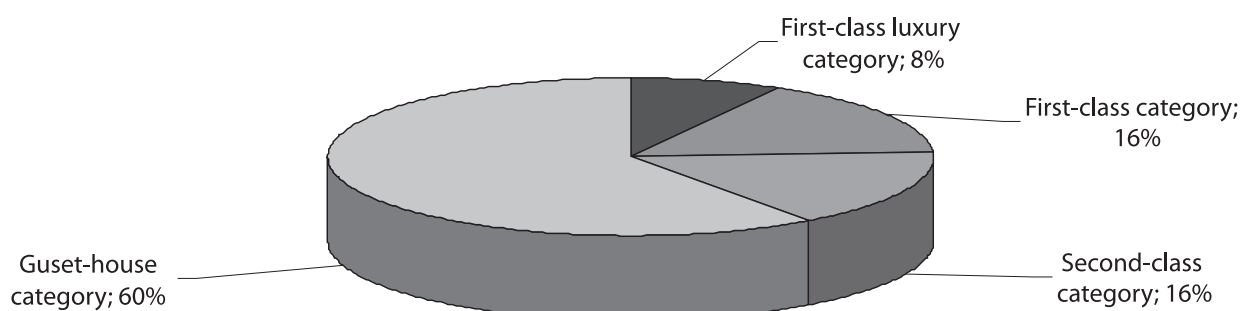


Fig. 4. Percent correlation of establishments of placing in 1925

Source: Lwów z lotu ptaka..., 1938.

Tab. 4. Price List of hotels in Lviv in 1938

Name	Location	Note
George	Marińska square, 1	single room from 6 to 9 zlotys, double room from 13 to 16 zlotys
Krakowski	Bernardyniv square, 8	single room from 5 to 8 zlotys, double room from 8.80 to 14 zlotys
Europejski	Marińska square, 4	single room from 6,50 to 9 zlotys, double room from 11 to 14 zlotys
Warszawski	Bernardyniv square, 5	single room from 4 to 6,50 zlotys, double room from 7 to 10 zlotys
Bristol	Legioniv street, 2	single room from 5 to 7.50 zlotys, double room from 8.50 to 10 zlotys
New-York	Legioniv street, 45	single room from 3.75 to 5 zlotys, double room from 6.50 to 7.50 zlotys

Source: from Lwów z lotu ptaka..., 1938.

were only two typical guest houses in 1939: "Kasztelanka" and "Zacisze" (Ilustrowany informator miasta Lwowa..., 1939).

### 3. Conclusions

Thus we may state, that very popular in Lviv at the beginning of the 20th century were guest houses – furnished apartment-like rooms of Western European type, which were used for long-term stay of the guests. Already in 1910, in Lviv provided services 4 guest house. Guest houses were smaller than hotels, and were aimed at the family-style recreation, they had a separate room for relaxing, and the dining room and living room were shared. The guest houses in the early 20th century set the perspective of establishing in the Eastern Galicia of hotel-apartments. For example, in 1913 there were 11 guest houses in Lviv. However with the fall of Austro-Hungarian Empire and inclusion of Galicia into the Polish Republic the guest houses lost their popularity.

Their number in the range of 1931–1939 years there were only two units.

And with the advent of the Soviet power they disappear absolutely as a separate category of hospital-ity establishments.

The analysis of the development of accommodation establishments development in Lviv in various time periods enables us to evaluate the influence of

historical conditions and events on the quantitative and qualitative indexes of the hotel infrastructure of the city.

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