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The First Compendium – on the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation of *Tematy i Konteksty*

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Abstract: *A Selection of the Decade* is a special issue of *Tematy i Konteksty*, a literary studies journal which has been published in Poland since 2011. This special issue is a collection of articles that were published in Polish in former issues of the journal and have now been translated into English to reach English-speaking readers.

Keywords: *Tematy i Konteksty*, special issue, selection, literary studies

The special issue of *Tematy i Konteksty*, titled *A Selection of the Decade*,¹ has been prepared in an attempt to make selected articles on Polish literature accessible to English speaking readers. The volume contains 30 articles, interpretations and essays, which were originally published in Polish in former issues of our literary studies journal. Their authors are Polish literary studies scholars, representatives of numerous academic centres in Poland, specialists in old, modern and the most recent literature, both distinguished scholars and researchers at the beginning of their scholarly career.

¹ The special issue titled *A Selection of the Decade* has been prepared within the scientific project “Wsparcie dla Czasopism Naukowych,” carried out by the editors of the journal in 2019 and 2020 and financed by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (contract no. 376/WCN/2019/1).

Tematy i Konteksty is a literary studies journal published annually since 2011,² edited by representatives of the literary studies environment of the University of Rzeszów, Poland. Articles published in our periodical are devoted to literature in its various contexts: institutional, political, cultural, aesthetic, intertextual, etc. *Tematy i Konteksty* is a platform for publication of articles on the theory, anthropology and history of literature, as well as texts focusing on culture studies, translation studies, editing, textology and the history of the book. They concern both Polish artistic writing and literature from other European countries and different parts of the world. Articles published in *Tematy i Konteksty* represent different types of scientific texts: they range from theoretical ones and those concerning the history of literature, to interpretative essays and reviews.

Each issue focuses on a selected problem of contemporary literary studies that is important from the scientific point of view and present in relevant debates in the contemporary humanities. The issues published so far referred thematically to: the literary records of the experience of emigration, the phenomenon of literary archives in Poland and abroad, contemporary poetics and that of the past centuries, Old-Polish religious writing, evolutions of contemporary prose, literary depictions of borderland conflicts, literary records of unification initiatives, the problems of reception and translation of Polish literature; one of the volumes was devoted to a survey of the history of Polish national literature to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Polish independence. The 2021 volume will be devoted to the literary record of the experience of epidemics, a subject that in recent months has become so painfully topical.

Each volume of *Tematy i Konteksty*, besides the articles directly connected with the main theme of a given issue, includes texts taking up various subjects related to literary studies, as well as reviews of important monographs published in the field of literary studies and reports from interesting academic events organised both in Poland and abroad. Most of the articles are published in Polish, but there is also a section including articles in languages other than Polish, most frequently in English, German and Russian.

Since the beginnings, we have paid a lot of attention to the accessibility of the texts published. All volumes appear in print format as well as a free-access on-line publication on the webpage of the journal and in several international databases indexing scientific journals.

In 2019 the Editorial Board of *Tematy i Konteksty* became involved in the scientific project titled “Wsparcie dla Czasopism Naukowych” [Support for Scientific Periodicals], financed by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, whose aim is, among others, to increase the accessibility of articles published in Polish scientific periodicals to foreign recipients.

² *Tematy i Konteksty* is a continuation of another scientific periodical, *Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego. Seria Filologiczna. Historia Literatury*, published by the University of Rzeszów on an irregular basis between 2002 to 2010.

The current, English, issue of *Tematy i Konteksty* has been prepared within this very project. The articles selected for publication herein have been translated from Polish by six translators, faculty members of the Institute of English Studies of the University of Rzeszów: Elżbieta Rokosz, Agnieszka Grząsko, Karolina Puchała-Ladzińska, Edyta Więclawska, Piotr Cymbalista and Łukasz Barciński.

The articles have been divided into three thematic groups.

In Part One, titled *Problems*, there are articles devoted to the problems of contemporary poetics (this subject is taken up by Teresa Kostkiewiczowa, Dorota Korwin-Piotrowska and Elżbieta Winiecka); essays exploring the phenomenon of religious writing in Old-Polish literature (their authors are Andrzej Borowski, Stanisław Siess-Krzyszowski, Bernadetta M. Puchalska-Dąbrowska, Monika Kardasz, Grzegorz Raubo); and literary analyses of the depiction of Polish-Jewish relations in the inter-war period, of experiences of Polish emigration, of independence and of literary records of the Holocaust in women's writing (essays by Eugenia Prokop-Janiec, Ewa Kołodziejczyk, Rafał Moczodan and Natalia Żórawska-Janik). We can also find here presentations of the cultural phenomena of illness as a source of memory and forgetting, as well as of collections and collecting (articles by Bernadetta Darska and Ewa Skorupa). There are also interpretations of literary works of distinguished Polish writers and a translational analysis (the works of Alfred Gall, Jarosław Ławski and Arkadiusz Luboń).

Part Two, *Profiles*, compiles articles of synthetic and comprehensive nature, touching upon the following subjects: the evolution of the subject of Kresy [Easter Borderlands] in Polish literature (Stanisław Uliasz) and of the motif of childhood in 20th-century poetry (Robert Mielhorski), transformations of contemporary women's writing (Dariusz Nowacki), literary depiction of melancholy in contemporary prose (Dariusz Piechota), the presence of the subject of migration in recent Polish prose (Agnieszka Necka) and the forms of autothematic poetry of the past century (Janusz Pasterski).

Part Three, *Portraits*, contains articles presenting selected Polish writers (from the past centuries as well as contemporary ones), and the literary environments of cultural periodicals (the authors are Wiesław Pawlak, Radosław Rusnak, Ewa Głębička, Anna Szawerna-Dyrszka, Elżbieta Dutka, Beata Dorosz and Marian Kisiel). The source materials on which the essays are based include not only literary texts that appeared in print, but also rich archival resources: manuscripts, diaries, epistolography, press publications, etc.

The year 2020 – the tenth year of the functioning of *Tematy i Konteksty* – is an excellent moment for the first compendium. In the present issue, which is a digest of the 10-year output, we have tried to present a live and diverse picture of Polish literary studies and the debates going on in the Polish humanities, being ourselves active members of the literary studies environment.

Bibliographic Information

All the articles published in the present volume appeared in Polish in former issues of *Tematy i Konteksty*. They have been re-edited and in some cases slightly expanded for this issue.

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¹ In the current issue the article is published under the authoress's new name: Monika Kardasz.

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² In the current issue the article is published under the authoress's new name: Natalia Żórawska-Janik.

Editorial Note

The articles presented in the special issue of *Tematy i Konteksty* have been formerly published in Polish in different issues of the journal. To make the present English issue more homogenous, we have had to introduce a number of modifications. We have decided upon the following editing rules and principles:

- all the articles have the same layout;
- some commentaries deemed necessary for an English-language reader have been added;
- all the articles have the same style of providing references (in footnotes and in bibliography);
- the format of bibliographic information has been adjusted to the formats used in scholarly publications in English: titles of monographs and periodicals are in italics, of articles and chapters in monographs – in inverted comas; Latin abbreviations and terms such as *op. cit.*, *ibidem*, *eadem*, and *idem* have been used;
- the Polish literary texts quoted in the articles are either official English translations of them (when available), or have been translated by the translators of individual articles (information about the translator is provided in a relevant footnote); in the case of poetry, the Polish source texts are also provided; translations of the texts made by the translators of the articles are philological;
- proper names (names and surnames, names of towns and cities, etc.) appearing in the body of the text are in most cases provided in their Polish spelling version;
- proper names appearing in bibliography (names of places and publishing houses) have been provided in the form found in the original edition;
- the titles of Polish literary works analysed in the articles have been translated into English and provided in square brackets; in the case of the texts which originally appeared in English, but their Polish editions have been referred to in the articles, the original English titles have been provided in square brackets (in italics in the case of books and in inverted comas in the case of articles); the same rule has been applied to those Polish literary texts, which have official English translations.