

## From the editors of *Tekstualia*:

The following translated essays are the results of the first part of the translation project Index Plus, which is financed by the MNiSW (the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education). The aim of the project is to extend the international range of the periodical *Tekstualia – Palimpsesty Literackie Artystyczne Naukowe* (which has been published since 2005 by Dom Kultury Śródmieście in Warsaw) by bringing out two English-language editions of the quarterly both in a paper and an electronic version over the period 2012–2014.

The selected texts were all published in *Tekstualia* between 2007 and 2012. At present, the translations are available only on-line, but all 27 essays will soon be available in a printed version. Our purpose is to present a set of texts, written by Polish scholars belonging to different generations (among them, **Prof. dr hab. Edward Kasperski, Prof. dr hab. Joanna Papuzińska-Beksiak, Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Zgorzelski, Dr hab. Brygida Pawłowska-Jądrzyk, Dr hab. Witold Sadowski, Dr hab. Ewa Łukaszuk, Dr Żaneta Nalewajk, Dr Wojciech Kruszelnicki, Dr Agnieszka Wnuk, Dr Tomasz Mackiewicz, Dr Maciej Adamski, Dr Bartłomiej Starnawski, Maria Wacławek, and Marian Pilot**), texts that best reveal the guiding principles of the editors of *Tekstualia*.

The articles are presented in the following thematic groups:

- 1) poetics and worldview;
- 2) problems of interdisciplinary and comparative studies;
- 3) problems of metatheory and metahistory (in relation to literary studies);
- 4) problems of the theory and history of folklore.

Texts were chosen by the editorial team (Editor-in-chief Dr Żaneta Nalewajk, and two co-editors, Dr Tomasz Mackiewicz and Dr Agnieszka Wnuk), based on the following criteria:

- 1) the originality of the texts chosen;
- 2) the importance of the topic discussed for non-Polish-speaking readers interested in theoretical issues and in comparative literature;
- 3) the selected essays' focus on Polish literature and culture from perspectives that are not merely fashionable in other parts of the world, but ones that evince a genuinely Polish approach to the subject; and

4) the openness of the articles not only to relations between literature and philosophy, but also to intersemiotic approaches (the poetics of culture).

The selection aims to bring not only the work of established Polish scholars to international attention, but also that of younger Polish scholars.

The first set of articles – “Poetics and Worldview” – discusses contemporary changes in culture and philosophy apparent not only in the poetics of literary texts, but also in the intersemiotic poetics of advertisements and social spectacle, and in an interdisciplinary poetics manifested in modern literature and philosophical texts that deal with epistemological matters.

The second group of essays – “Problems of Comparative Studies” – focusses on the subject of research methods in interdisciplinary comparative studies. Articles in this section deal with such questions as the border between literary studies and philosophy, or between literary studies and anthropology and sociology.

The third group of essays deals with “Problems of Metatheory and Metahistory”, diagnosing the present condition of literary history, and the status of the exact sciences in the humanities and literary theory over recent decades.

The fourth section – “Problems of the Theory and History of Folklore” – discusses Polish folklore, starting from the reception of folklore in Romanticism, through to the twentieth century, when it occurred in two versions, in literature and in children’s folklore. In the contemporary world, a disappearing folklore can be seen in the form of folklorism. The essays here are relevant both to literary and folklore studies.

This project would have been impossible without cooperation between *Tekstualia* and the Faculty of Languages and Literature of the University of Gdańsk. The translators of articles all work or study in the Institute of English and American Studies of the University of Gdańsk. They are: **Prof. dr hab. David Malcolm, Dr Tomasz Wiśniewski, Dr Monika Szuba, Miłosz Wojtyna MA, Marta Aleksandrowicz-Wojtyna MA, Bartosz Lutostański MA, and Justyna Burzyńska MA. Dr Wiśniewski was responsible for coordinating the work of the translators, and the final editing of translations was done by Professor Malcolm.**

The editorial staff of *Tekstualia* would also like to thank the quarterly’s interns, **Marta Buława, Marcin Czardybon, Karolina Gendek, Katarzyna Górzyńska, and Łukasz Żurek**, for all their help during the implementation of the project.

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