

Contemporary Writers of Poland

2000 - 2014

Poetry

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From the Editor

This is the newest in an outgoing series dedicated to the courageous people of Poland who fought always to defend and preserve the Polish identity and cultural heritage throughout long periods of oppression - so beautifully represented here in Polish Literature Anthologies.

It is important for us to remember and celebrate those who fought this battle during WW2 and later under Stalin's rule. It was these Polish citizens who were the first to stand up against Hitler as he invaded one country after another across Europe. It was also the Polish citizens who continued to risk their lives throughout the Stalin era by organizing underground schools where they continued teaching Polish Culture to the younger generations growing up under communist rule. Their brave determination once the communist regime fell, left no cultural gap in Poland as was experienced in many other countries.

However, during this period there was little or no exposure to English language writing which is evident in some of these selections.

The first book of the series "Contemporary Writers of Poland" captured the Polish literature at the time of the opening of the borders and the end of communism. It was my pioneer work - to translate and bring to the World the great Polish poets who had had no exposure to English language literature.

The Second Book was enhanced by the meeting of legendary Dr. Leslie Shyman (aka Dr. Leszek Szymanski) - see in this book : *STURM UND DRANG The Young Angry Men of Poland 50 Years Ago*.

"Contemporary Writers of Poland" is an amazing collection. Time is running fast. It adds the

term 1975-2000 to those presented in the first compilation.

The period of 2000 to the present has been and continues to be a period of transition from open borders to the European Union ever increasing globalization.

I am so excited to present “Contemporary Writers of Poland, 2000-2014” to the world Poetry and Essays on Poetry of contemporary Polish authors.

Danuta Błaszak



Poetry & Essays on Poetry

2000-2014

The criteria used to select poems for this book were based on professionalism, style, and message without regard to political views of any group or individual.

The years 2000-2014 in Polish literature are so much different from the previous decades. I met new writers who live in Europe, are active in American internet poetry groups, and have friends around the world. I appreciate their help in translation and sharing information about literary circles.

During this period of 2000-2014: Alexander Nawrocki continued organizing international poetry meetings which included poets from most of the Slavic countries. At the same time Adam Siemieńczyk and others created a London based poetry group called "Poezja Londyn".

A serendipitous encounter between Nawrocki and Siemieńczyk exploded in the most wonderful consequences. The great tradition, education, and familiarity with the literary environment in Poland represented by Nawrocki met the emigrant experience of living and writing in Great Britain.

Another thing characteristic of 2000-2014 is the difference in style and themes in poetry. Recognized poems before 2000 were supposed to mention something of the ancient culture and have some anticommunism message hidden between the lines.

Poets of 2000-2014 are not afraid of private topics. If they mention some humanistic topics, it is not necessary to refer to ancient culture. Poets are

familiar with other nations' heritage - although they do not fully identify with the others yet.

In my opinion, the expectation of including a message against communism in the poetry, even if fair, has some features of collectivism. We sacrifice our private feelings for the country's well being. I think the poetry of 2000-2014 is closer to democracy.

The old styles of writing are still vibrant, as well as strongly patriotic. In response to some political events the writers are mobilized again.

In future editions we will present poetry on many other topics being explored by writers.

Danuta Błaszak



Danuta Błaszak

**About Bożena Helena Mazur-Nowak
a poet living in London.**

She was born in 1958 in Opole, Poland, and moved to Great Britain in 2004, where she lives now and works as a nurse.

We have to look at her background. In Poland during late communism we observed closed borders, still minimal contact with West Europe, and a good level of education.

The 1980s I called in "Contemporary Writers of Poland" the time of opening borders.

We know that moving to Great Britain is not an easy decision, even if from my American perspective it is just a trip about one thousand miles. She was brave building her new life in the very different environment, facing all the challenge, while feeling far from her fatherland.

I consider her poems belonging to a new style of writing. There is a difference between Polish poems of late communism and these written after 2000. Those earlier "good poems" were supposed to root Greco-Roman culture and had to be both political and personal. The political situation impacted development of metaphorical language – there was a lot written beyond lines.

The new style of writing allows private poems to be considered "good" poetry". It does not require any explicit roots of ancient cultures or political digressions.

In Bożena Helena's poetry poems look private or confessional. Still we can see there the new style as progress, as a choice of the style, and a good potential and education for other kinds of writing.

Bożena Helena writes about love, sensitivity, and feelings - combining her experience with empathy and education. It makes her poems not really personal –

reading them we don't know whether the protagonist and the author is the same person.

She creates images, situations, and her characters in the way that make her poetry interesting. We want to read more and often we want to stop reading and think about it, stop for awhile to build connection between her poetry and our feelings or experience.

About Alicja Maria Kuberska

was born in 1960 in Swiebodzin, a town in the midst of woods and lakes, close to Zielona Góra and just one hundred kilometers from Berlin.

She lives in Poland in a well known health resort Inowrocław. She has a government job in a town hall; is active in some charity groups and in a society which goal is to enhance relations between Poland and Germany. An elegant lady, at the same time modest and very honest while following moral rules; shows great empathy.

Her being as a poet is not a secret. It is an integral part of her character, and also an awesome success. Still it looks somehow contrary to her personality that satisfies all standard requirements of the world. Alicja is a recognized poet, published in journals and anthologies. She loves our time of globalization and Internet blessing, enjoys friendships over the world; so often prefers publications in online portals and is proud of membership of societies such as E-literaci, Poezja and E-poezja London, and some American poetry groups.

She has written some poetry books in Polish and in English. Alicja has been working now on a novel with a deep psychological level – about women, Internet, men, and the real World.