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A History of Polish Literature

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Na okładce wykorzystano rysunek Edwarda Okunia, ilustrację do poematu Jana Kasprowicza "Salve Regina", publikowany w piśmie "Chimera" w 1901 roku.

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"To write literary history is, of course, much more than to establish correlations between writers' biographies and the themes of their works. But how to synthesize a vast amount of material and engage readers' attention at the same time? Anna Nasitowska's *A History of Polish Literature* constitutes a master class in the art of writing literary history for the twenty-first century. This stylish book is rich in scholarship without being pedantic, immensely readable without being simplistic. It takes us on a journey exploring Polish literature's complex, multicultural, and tumultuous past. It offers fresh readings of canonical works, while also enabling us to appreciate historically neglected writers, texts, and traditions. It combines a richly contextualized commentary with an incisive reflection on the place of literature in Poland's culture and politics. Compelling and thought-provoking, it deepens our sense of what literary history means."

—Halina Filipowicz, Professor Emerita, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and author of *Taking Liberties: Gender, Transgressive Patriotism, and Polish Drama, 1786-1989*

"Anna Nasitowska's *A History of Polish Literature* is a wise and beautiful book that introduces the reader into the Polish literary world and at the same time paints a comprehensive picture of Polish culture. The author writes with talent and passion that might prove infectious to both Polish and foreign readers. The former shall find here a refreshing reflection of their own identity and the latter a source of confrontation with their own culture. For both of them this shall be a critical book forcing them to think."

—Maria Delaperrière, author of *La littérature polonaise à l'épreuve de la modernité*



Anna Nasitowska is a Polish professor, scholar, poet, novelist, and literary critic. Her works include several biographical studies, featuring subjects such as the French couple Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre; the Polish female poet Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska; the Japanese father-son-duo Ryochu and Yoshiho Umeda; and, most recently, the Polish playwright Sławomir Mrożek. She currently works at the Institute of Literary Research in Warsaw, Poland, and is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Teksty Drugie*, as well as a member of the "Archives of Women: Writing" project team. She has been the President of the Association of Polish Writers since 2017.

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