
SUMMARY, No. 10 (73), 2008

The issue is thematically dedicated to **Zbigniew Herbert**, an influential Polish poet, essayist, author of plays, and moralist, who died in Warsaw in 1998. Zbigniew Herbert was one of the best known and the most translated post-war Polish writers. The Polish government proclaimed 2008 a Herbert year.

But the issue opens with quite a different preface by ARCHE founder **Andrzej Dyńko** about ARCHE confiscations on the Belarusian border by customs officers. It happened many times. This time the officer Renata Jurjeŭna Niadbajeva confiscated at once 10 copies of ARCHE 7—8/2008 issue. According to Andrzej Dyńko, the fact puts present day Belarus in the same line with Myanmar and 'allied' Uzbekistan. In Europe there is no other country where the custom officers play the roles of censors. Andrzej Dyńko claims it became possible because any independent media outlets in Belarus provoke paranoid suspicion. Millions of Belarusians don't meet any publications in their native language for the years excluding school textbooks due to the draconian cleansings of the domestic media space.

A Polish historian and publicist, professor of Jagiellonian University **Andrzej Nowak** suggests in his essay «Partnership for Peace» that Western reaction to the Russian-Georgian war was too languid and hence favorable for the aggressor. According to him, Western community must deter the hegemonic ambitions of the new Russian empire, otherwise the similar incidents will be inevitable in the future.

The issue contains various poems, essays and one play written by **Zbigniew Herbert**, as well as several essays and reflections by Belarusian and Polish authors on his works. Apart from the poems, ARCHE presents the essays from the book *Barbarzyńca w ogrodzie* (*Barbarian in the Garden*), (first publication: Warszawa, Czytelnik, 1962), «*Martwa natura z wędzidłem*» (*Still Life with Bridle*), (first publication: Wrocław 1993), posthumously published '*Labirynt nad morzem*' (*Labyrinth on the Sea-Shore*, Warsaw 2000), and his early drama «*Rekonstrukcja poety*» (*The Reconstruction of the Poet*), originally published in 'Więzi', 1960, # 11/12.

Critical part of Zbigniew Herbert publication opens with an essay by **Stanisław Barańczak**, the author of famous book on Zbigniew Herbert works «Imponderabilia. In Fugitive from Utopia: The Poetry of Zbigniew Herbert», (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1987) from the volume of essays «*Tablica z Macondo. Osiemnaście prób wytłumaczenia, po co i dlaczego się pisze*» (*A License Plate from Macondo: Eighteen Attempts at Explaining Why One Writes*), Aneks, London 1990. The Belarusian **Maryna Kazłoŭskaja** dedicates to the writer her essay «You Can't Forget, or the

SUMMARY, No. 10 (73), 2008

Conjectures on the Subject of Mr. Herbert' and the Russian **Vladimir Britanishsky** writes «On Herbert's Historicism». The chapter ends with **Radosław Kaleta** essay «Herbert Dying. A Monologue on *Epilogue to a Storm*».

The literature section of the issue continues with the poems of the Belarusian poet **Dźmitry Dźmitryjeŭ, Andrej Chadanovič, Viktor Žybul and Taciana Kirylenka**, a story by **Maryja Vajciašonak**. It includes also the Belarusian renditions of **Vasyl Makhno** and **Serhy Zhadan** lyrics.

Siarhiej Dubaviec publishes an essay «About my Father», Mahiloŭ-based **Vasil Aŭramienka** writes about a kind of caesura in the Belarusian national movement history, when 20 years ago the first mass attended anticommunist rally was conducted in Minsk. Critic **Maryja Martysievič** claims that the Belarusian literature has two souls. Kyiv-based philosopher **Vitaliy Ponomaryov** opposes her stating that the concept is improper for the Belarusian cultural and political realities explanation.

The issue ends with short reviews. **Andranik Antanian** reads the Belarusian rendition of Bohumil Hrabal's «Dancing Lessons for the Advanced in Age». **Pavał Barkoŭski** reviews a special issue of the Bialystok based journal «Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric». And **Aleś Hełahajeŭ** criticizes the special ARCHE issue on Belarus under German occupation (5/2008).