

KARDYNI-PELIKÁNOVÁ, Krystyna. *Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki. Problematyka tożsamości, recepcji oraz dialogu międzykulturowego*. Warszawa, Neriton, 2023. 506 pp.

Professor Krystyna Kardyni-Pelikánová (*1930), author of the reviewed work, undoubtedly ranks among the most significant contemporary Polish, or rather Polish-Czech female literary and comparative scholars. As a matter of fact, this researcher into the Polish and Czech literatures and their mutual interactions has been strongly connected professionally and privately with the Moravian city of Brno where she has lived ever since the mid-1950s.

The author of the presented publication *Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki. Problematyka tożsamości, recepcji oraz dialogu międzykulturowego* [Czech-Polish Literary Kaleidoscope. Its Identity, Reception and Inter-Cultural Dialogue] comes from Łódź. She studied the Polish Studies at Łódź University (until 1953), then at Kraków University. At Jagiellonian University, she attended lectures given by leading Polish scholars, namely Juliusz Kleiner, Stanisław Pigoń, Kazimierz Wyka and Henryk Markiewicz. In 1955, she defended her thesis *Zasadnicze idee polskiej krytyki literackiej 1822–1830* [Fundamental Ideas of the Polish Literary Criticism 1822–1830] and subsequently became acquainted with Jarmil Pelikán (1928–2017), a student of Brno University and later renowned expert and professor of Polish literature, who was undergoing a study residence at the oldest Polish university at that time. She married him in 1956 and followed him to Brno, Czechoslovakia. Her subsequent long and fruitful pedagogical-didactic and research activity was closely related to the Moravian metropolis. In the 1960s (1963–1966), she commuted to the city of Olomouc where she gave lectures as an external lecturer at Palacký University until the end of the academic year 1970/71, when her lectures on the history of Polish literature took place there. After that, she became a researcher in Brno branch of the Institute of Czech and World Literatures of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (ÚČSL ČSAV) where she worked for long 20 years, i.e. until 1991. From 1959, she also simultaneously cooperated with Brno University where she gave lectures and participated in the scholarly growth of many local students of the Polish Studies. Kardyni-Pelikánová defended her doctoral dissertation at a university in her native Łódź (1969). Her work entitled *Kontakty literackie polsko-czeskie w dobie powstania styczniowego* [Polish-Czech Literary Contacts at the Time of the January Uprising] was followed by a book of the same name published several years later in 1975 by the prestigious Polish Academy of Sciences Publishers, which became the first work in a long series of the author's books published in Brno, Warsaw and Wrocław.

In 1988, she completed her habilitation at the University of Warsaw, based on a dissertation *Karel Havlíček-Borovský w kręgu literatury polskiej* [Karel Havlíček-Borovský in the Circle of Polish Literature], which was printed

as a book by the Wrocław Ossolineum publishing house in 1986. Six years later, in 1992, she was appointed Professor of the History of Polish Literature at Masaryk University in Brno. The professor's qualitatively and quantitatively impressive scientific heritage amounts to 300 publications, which comprise books, scientific articles and papers, reviews, dictionary entries, translations and necrologies, as well as contributions in literary journals and printed media. She kept in touch with the scientific community and colleagues through several dozen scientific conferences, which she personally attended.

She was awarded high distinctions of the Polish Republic for her valuable work in the field of science and university teaching. First, in 1997, she received the National Education Committee Medal (Medal Komisji Edukacji Narodowej) and in 2015, jointly with her husband Professor Jarmil Pelikán, she received an Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (Order Zasługi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej) from the hands of Professor Grażyna Bernatowicz, a Polish ambassador to the Czech Republic.

Despite her advanced age (she was born 95 years ago), the Polish–Czech literary scholar is still exceptionally active. She not only monitors the current affairs in literary science, new books, articles or reviews, but she is still publishing professional and popular scientific works including her own books. Her most recent work, the presented book, was published at the end of 2023 by the prestigious Neriton Publishers in Warsaw. The author entitled it *Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki* [Czech–Polish Literary Kaleidoscope] because she was concerned with various aspects of Czech–Polish literary contacts mainly in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The annotated publication is the 16th volume in the series *Nauka o Literaturze Polskiej za Granicą* [Foreign Literary Science on Polish Literature]. This series "presents the Polish readers with papers on the Polish literature and culture of researchers living abroad. It was created and edited by Alina Nowicka-Jeżowa and Krystyna Wierzbicka-Trwoga in the scientific Neriton publishing house. The already published volumes present works by leading Italian, French, German, Swiss, Swedish and Russian scholars who have not yet been published in the Polish language. They interpret Polish literature from a different angle compared with the Polish science. They cast a new light on issues of our culture, mirroring methodological approaches of the current humanities." The authors of the existing publications in this series include many leading, internationally acclaimed and respected European experts in Polish literature. Let us mention the French literary researcher Maria Delaperrière, Italian researcher Luigi Marinelli or German Slavic scholar Jörg Schulte.

The book conceptually evades a classic book monograph in the sense of a thematically unified text. Besides the completely new discourses, it contains essays and articles that Professor Kardyni-Pelikánová has already published earlier. In this case, we can always find detailed bibliographic information referring to the first edition at the end of the respective article. A dominant position in this respect is occupied by the Warsaw *Twórczość* [Creativeness],

which the author announced in the preface on page 27. It is the oldest but still running Polish literary and literary-scientific periodical, which was established in Krakow in 1945. The author has cooperated with this journal for the past two decades. Besides these texts, we can discover individual papers that were originally published in the Brno journal *Slavica litteraria*, in the Warsaw periodical *Przegląd Humanistyczny* [Overview of the Humanities], the London journal *Pamiętnik Literacki* [Literary diary] or in a Wrocław journal of the same name. The relatively large preface (pages 9 to 30) was introduced by Professor Kardyni-Pelikánová by two quotes that provide a key to the understanding of the book's fundamental message. In the first, the author cites an excerpt from a poem by the famous Polish writer Leopold Staff, who was of Czech origin on his father's side. In the second, she offers an opinion of the Polish literary scientist Henryk Markiewicz who argued that foreign researchers were only rarely aware of Polish professional publications while in the Polish professional publications, we can find almost no traces of foreign researchers' findings. This gap is then filled by foreign Polonists such as our representative of the Brno Polish Studies.

In the other "pole" (pages 484 to 493), we can find a portrait dedicated to the author by a long-time researcher and linguist Dr. Roman Madecki (*1969), head of the Brno University Polish Studies department. Madecki provides a well-conceived overview of the existing scholarly career of the author of *Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki*. The comprehensive characteristics would not be complete without an overview of the author's main titles that span her long personal bibliography, complemented with brief concise depictions of the contents and contributions of the individual published works. He also comments on her activities on the particular academic and scientific-research sites, the achieved academic degrees and state distinctions that the Polish government has awarded her over the years. Madecki's description of Kardyni-Pelikánová's childhood experiences from World War II is no less interesting. It documents the close relations between these two Polonists that are manifested by a rather personal nature of information provided in the portrait. We can even regard it as a full-fledged afterword not much different from those that introduced us to authors of numerous translations of Polish belles-lettres during an increased interest in Poland and its literary heritage after World War II.

The current contribution is not the first one that has responded to a most recent book written by the renowned Brno Polonist. Up to now, three reviews by female Polish–Czech scholars have already been published. The first appeared in last-year's first issue of the Brno *Opera Slavica* into which the author of the reviewed publication has also contributed. Just like the second, which we will discuss below, it is the work of Dr. Monika Válková Maciejewska, an experienced Polish teacher and author of many certified materials and tests for foreign applicants for professional language examinations in Polish (Válková Maciejewska, M. (2024). *Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki. Opera Slavica*, 34(1), 175–178. <https://doi.org/10.5817/OS2024-1-22>). Dr. Válková

Maciejewska, who had strong, long-lasting working connections with Poznań University, also worked for several years as a Polish language teacher at Masaryk University in Brno where, in 2012, she wrote and defended her dissertation to which Professor Kardyni-Pelikánová contributed with valuable insights and assistance. The former Brno lecturer also introduced Kardyni-Pelikánová's latest book in her second (also in the sense of chronology) review in the London emigration periodical *Pamiętnik Literacki*, in which Kardyni-Pelikánová also previously published her articles, reviews and papers (Válková Maciejewska, M. (2024). Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki – recenzja. *Pamiętnik Literacki (Londyn)*, 67, 193–197.). The most recent review from September 2024, issued in the *Bohemistyka* journal, which is published by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, was written by Renata Rusin-Dybalska (*1973). This experienced female linguist has worked in the Prague Polish Studies department (currently under the Institute of Ethnology and Central European and Balkan Studies of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University) for more than two decades (Rusin Dybalska, R. (2024). Czesko-polski kalejdoskop literacki. *Bohemistyka*, 24(2), 305–309. <https://doi.org/10.14746/bo.2024.2.11>).

To end this annotation, we should point out that presented publication has greatly contributed to the spreading and popularizing of outcomes on the wealth of the Polish and Czech literatures in the world and its universal values. The huge range of knowledge and the lightness with which the author-comparatist can interconnect the individual items into larger thematic units, thus creating her own original map of mutual Czech-Polish literary influences, reactions and receptions of one author, one group or national literature in another, different cultural milieu, creates a combination that makes this book suitable as a handbook and a treasure chest of knowledge for literary scientists and comparatists as well as persons from the professional public pursuing the given issue. The author pays great attention not only to the actual authors, the leading Czech and Polish writers (e.g. Gombrowicz, Havlíček Borovský, Hašek, Mickiewicz, Norwid, Reymont, Słowacki, Żeromski), but also to their "Czech-Polish" researchers who have in numerous cases dedicated many years of their fruitful scientific and pedagogical careers to them (e.g. Ingarden, Krejčí, Máchal, Pelikán, Skwarczyńska, Szykowski, Wollman, Wyka).

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