

Summary of the doctoral dissertation

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Subject: Zdzisław Antolski's Literary Output: an Attempt at a Monograph

Zdzisław Antolski - a Kielce poet, prose writer, and columnist - was born in 1953 in Skalbierz, Ponidzie. The future poet spent the first fifteen years of his life surrounded by the Nida River landscapes, all due to the professional work of the parents (Tadeusz and Władysława) of the author of *Okolica Józefa* poem, who often changed their place of residence. In performing their teaching duties, the Antolscy family lived first in Baranów (1952-1954), then Złota Pińczowska (1954-1960) and Pełczyska (1960-1968). Staying in the area of Adolf Dygasiński influenced the poet who recognised the traditions, customs and rituals observed in a peasant's life as his own.

The rural idyll was interrupted by his father's decision to move to the provincial city, where the only son was to receive a thorough education in secondary school, while the parents intended to continue their teaching careers. The stay in Kielce quickly transformed for the author of *Sejsmograf* into an endless series of problems and failures. The boy, accustomed to peasant heartiness, could not come to terms with the loss of his beloved village, adapt to bourgeois morality and the way of living. He sought refuge from progressing suffering only in reading books, and later literary creation. Zdzisław Antolski's first poetic attempts arise from existential pain, unfulfilled love and longing for abandoned Ponidzie. Thanks to the help of his Polish teacher from Stefan Żeromski High School in Kielce - Helena Wolny, Ph.D. - a young poet made his debut in the school magazine "Młodzi idą" (Young People Go) (1972), and then continued fruitfully to work on following poems. A breakthrough in the career that began for him was the publication of the poem entitled *Senna Inkwizycja*, which was included in the Poetic *Bazaar* published by the Municipal Office in Kielce (1974). Since that day, Zdzisław Antolski has been continuing his creative work, which is confirmed by further poetry volumes (thirteen) and sets of short stories (six).

The mentioned remarks allow one to understand the essence of the work of the author of *Józefy*. This poetry is dominated by reminiscences from childhood and adolescence, which makes it possible to include Antolski in the group of poets of memory. Among the characters he describes, there are mainly family members: parents, grandfather,

grandmother, and uncles. Zdzisław Antolski scrupulously creates the poetics of home and relatives, allowing the reader to get to know other than the traditional approach to the mentioned subject.

Equally veristic descriptions include works devoted to the two worlds of the poet, namely: the village and the city. They are another dominant of the poetics of the author of *Walka stulecia* - a village is a friendly place, full of peace and life harmony. It is contrasted with the city reflecting evil, anxiety and social decline. An attempt to overcome his weaknesses is included in a desperate struggle to accustom with the city, get used to it and recognize it as its own. Antolski, realizing the poetics of authenticity, depicts the internal dilemmas of lyrical I coming from the author himself (later narrator) who struggles with the world and his weaknesses.

The goal of the doctoral dissertation is to create a literary biography of the author of *Maszyna metafizyczna*, presenting the poet's life so far, along with discussing the subsequent publications. For this purpose, the ergocentric methodology was used, which emphasizes the combination of the writer's work with his biography. The dissertation was divided into three parts: *Biography of the Authenticist*, *Creativity*, and *Matters Left Unsaid*.

The chapters included in the first part (*The Nida River Peregrinations*, *Homo Kielcensis?*, *Under the Banner of "Poetic Bazaar"*) show the life of Zdzisław Antolski from his birth to 2019. It is a detailed sketch of the history of the poet, his relatives and friends who later became a creative inspiration. All issues discussed are exemplified using excerpts from poetry and memoir prose.

The second part is a chronologically carried out analysis and interpretation of poetry volumes published since 1978, and from 1994 also prose collections. The individual pieces were commented on, and these comments concerned their expression, circumstances of creation, and archetypes. As in the case of the first part, the conclusions drawn in the second part are exemplified with the help of selected excerpts from the literature. An additional element that allows one to learn about the author's motivations is obtained in the course of the *inedita* archival query.

The monograph on the life and work of Zdzisław Antolski is complemented and ended by the *Matters Left Unsaid* part. It is a record of an interview with a poet who raises motifs he failed to mention before, which are essential for the entire biography.

Keywords: small homeland, regional literature, the poetry of the Świętokrzyskie region