

21st Century Polish Australian Writing

Anthologies and Competitions

Recently, the writing of migrants who came to Australia in the 1990s and 2000s has gained visibility through literary competitions, many of which resulted in published bilingual anthologies. These include the competitions and subsequent anthologies *Moja Emigracja/My Emigration* (2012) (Marciniak) and *Jeden Dzień. Polska jaką pamiętam [One Day: Poland as I Remember It]* (2014), both published by Queensland-based independent authors' press Favoryta. The first publication, featuring Australian authors only, aimed to strengthen connections among Polish communities in Australia. The second, which includes the work of twelve authors from Australia, presents the writing of Polish diasporic communities internationally. Following the 13th Australian Festival of Polish Art and Culture 'PolArt' in 2015, two collections of migrant prose and poetry were published by PolArt: *Antologia pisarzy PolArt 2015 Melbourne [Anthology of PolArt 2015 Writers]* and *Ta Ziemia [This Land]* (2015) (Jurewicz).

Marta Zdybicka-Kaczmarek is a theatre actress who trained in Kraków and has lived in Perth since 1982. Hence she is a 'second wave' writer, but we include her here because her major publication is post-2000. A volume of her poems, *Ziemia przybrana [Adopted Land]*, appeared in 2002. The poems often refer to Perth's Swan River. To give readers a taste of the collection, we quote (with our translation) the final verse from an untitled poem concerning 'the past,' which has 'brazenly' crossed 'all borders' to follow the poet to Australia:

jedno jest pewne	one thing is certain
marznie	it must freeze
biedna przeszłość	my poor past
noce w Łabędziej Dolinie	nights in the Swan Valley
bywają chłodne	can be chilly

Robert Panasiewicz, a Krakow-trained hydrogeologist, emigrated from Poland to Australia in 1991 and since then has worked in regional development in Western Australia. His novel, *Saul*, appeared in Perth in 2004. It concerns the experiences of a young man, Tomek, who in the 1980s suspends his university studies to work as a forester in Łemkowina in southern Poland, where he and a colleague discover a seventeenth century Greek Byzantine Catholic shrine containing an ancient icon.

A prolific contemporary poet writing in Polish in Australia is **Jan 'Skarga' Dyduśiak** (b. 1945). Dyduśiak, who co-founded the Polish Literary Society in Australia, has published, among others, the volumes *Spadochroniarze [Parachutists]* (2000), *Sen Szaleńca [Madman's Dream]* (2004) and *Lament Hioba [Job's Lament]* (2009). His poems are characterized equally by a Christian religious sensibility and a self-deprecating sense of humour. He participates regularly in poetry readings and literary gatherings in Poland (e.g. 'Niczym bumerang' ['Like a Boomerang'] in Krakow in 2013)²² as well as in Australia.

Organisations Associated with Polish Literary Production in Australia

Organisations producing literature in Polish in Australia have included the Polish Australian Cultural Society, WA; Polpress in Melbourne, which published Chciuk's *Pamiętnik poetycki* and Janina Marks-Hamulczyk's *Pajeczka nic* and *Przędza wspomnień*; Puma Printing, which

