

RECEPCJA LITERATURY ANGIELSKIEJ W POLSCE W OKRESIE MODERNIZMU (1887–1918): INFORMACJE, SĄDY, PRZEKŁADY. By *Wanda Krajewska*. Polska Akademia Nauk, Komitet Neofilologiczny. Wrocław: Ossolineum, 1972. 292 pp. 55 zł., paper.

The author describes in detail the reception of English literature in Poland during the era of Modernism (1887–1918) and supplements the already existing evaluations of the influence of certain major writers, for example, Shakespeare and Byron. She rightly states that after the outburst of interest in English literature in the Romantic period, Polish translators and publishers limited their efforts to Shakespeare and Dickens. Krajewska's aim is to analyze and describe the awakening of a new wave of "Anglomania" in Poland at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century—the period roughly corresponding to the so-called Young Poland movement. One of the main features of this new trend was the demand for "Europeanization" of Polish culture and for expanded literary contacts with countries other than France and Germany.

The author suggests, convincingly, that the response to these demands was immediate. English literature became an important part of general outlines and anthologies of world literature, and valuable studies and essays concerning English writers (such as "Hamlet, król wic duński" by Władysław Matlakowski; "The Tragicall Historie of Hamlet" by Stanisław Wyspiański; and "Byron i jego wiek" by Marian Zdziechowski) were being published. Increased numbers of press reviews and translations of newly published works (often in fragments) were also published in an attempt to widen the picture of English literature beyond the systematic translations from Chaucer, Milton, eighteenth-century writers, Romantics other than Byron, Robert Browning, and so forth. The works translated ranged from those of leading English authors like Rudyard Kipling and Oscar Wilde to contemporary English novels, detective stories (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and popular fiction addressed to women and youth. As might be expected, the enormous influx of English literature exerted strong influence on Polish modernist poets and art critics.

At the end of the study an extensive bibliography of Polish translations from English literature lists 995 titles divided into four sections: poems, fiction, drama, and essays. In spite of this rather impressive number of translations, very few meet currently accepted standards. The most prolific of the translators, Jan Kasprówicz, a prominent poet, in most cases produced versions deviating considerably from the originals. The author stresses the fact that "Young Poland" writers broadened the interest in English literature and prepared the way for its current domination, but she also acknowledges that their lack of first-hand information concerning English literature often hampered their choice of titles for translation.

The author seems to be well acquainted both with the Polish and English literary scene of the period and her classification of material is clear and logical. There is a ten-page summary in English at the end of the volume.

MARIA DANILEWICZ ZIELIŃSKA
Feijó, Portugal