

Summary

The title of the work *History of Polish literature 1864–1914* is large enough to present all complexity of problems concerning: the writing about literature; the literature's examination; the attempt of synthesis of its development and variability; the comprehension and definition of literature in the second half of 19th century; the relations between history of literature (the reconstruction or popularization) and the biographies of its authors. We invited to common work concerning these questions the authors from different generations and scientific circles, because we were sure that in this period of time (1864–1914) the interesting changes took place. These changes concerning developing and popularization of historico-literary reflection, methodological consciousness and competitions of researches were connected with the development of different fields of sciences and the changes of political conditions.

We decided to concentrate our attention on synthetic presentations and the works concerning the individual experience of researcher analyzing diversity of each “case” of study of history of literature. We were interested in:

- biographical, cultural and political contexts of writing the history of literature; signification of differences in the period of Partitions, dissimilarity of academic centre, individual or circle's motivations; place of historico-literary work in the achievements of its author; diversity of historico-literary narration;
- the history of publication, reissue and reception of historico-literary synthesis;
- sources of inspiration, continuation, compilation, negation, anachronistic nature and innovative character, ideology of historico-literary conceptions;
- ranking of literary historians in 1864–1914; forgotten authorities and authors; reasons of recognition, rejection and oblivion;
- history of Polish literature written in foreign languages / written by women / dedicated to children and young people;
- research postulates and their realisation; the “methodology” of history of literature and problem and methodological profile of different kinds of “history” of Polish literature; synthesis as problem and methodological declaration;
- the independence of historico-literary practices, their abilities and restrictions, dependence / independence on critical discourses;
- the definition of subject of historico-literary research, criteria of competence's organizing.

We put also the question about “the image of Polish literature” in 1864–1914 in late historico-literary reflection and about the influence of 19th century historiography conceptions on synthetic perspective of literature in next periods.

The articles in this volume increased the majority of research fields, confirming their value to the knowledge of 19th century consciousness. The concentration of our attention on historico-literary synthesis is impossible or nonsufficient, because other problems are more important. The representation of history and outline of: Leonard Sowiński, Michał Wiszniewski, Piotr Chmielowski, Stanisław Tarnowski, Bronisław Chlebowski, Antoni Potocki and Marian Szykowski in our work, don't present all authors' works and a lot of authors are forgotten.

The spread of time of different synthesis presented in the work permits to describe all problems which take place in this type of work. From the point of view of authors of second half of 19th century and the beginning of 20th century, the historico-literary synthesis is rather difficult to describe and to define. It is curious that the writing of Stanisław Tarnowski is the subject of interest not only in articles concerning his works but also in the articles about Sienkiewicz or Chlebowski.

In light of the articles presented in this work, the historico-literary reflection on 19th century literature is one of the most important tasks of history of literature done by the generation of second half of 19th century and the beginning of 20th century. The possibility of organization and comprehension of the nearest past or the present times is associated to the historico-literary description. The relation with romantic tradition takes important place in our work. The question of research gap is essential – we can obtain it from the synthesis, but at the same time this research gap is essential for the synthesis. The answer to the question about the division of competence between the literary historian and literary critic is rather difficult, because the subject of their interest is the same.

The complication of the relations between literary history and literary criticism in the 1864–1914 is known, but at the same time we don't know everything about different aspects of their activities like: dissimilarity of their competitions, attitude to the subject of description, the range of influence or the reasons of opposition.

The interesting correlation between the comprehensive perspective of the history of literature and the arrangement of historico-literary reflexions in: monographs, research and critical texts and in the works for general public was made by the authors of this volume. We can observe it in the articles concerning the works of Julia Dickstein-Wieleżyńska, Korneli Juliusz Heck, the activity of Maria Ilnicka, the texts of Eliza Orzeszkowa and Aleksander Tyszyński, the lectures of Wincenty Pol, the critics of “Przegląd Powszechny” and *Złota przędza*. In our work the 19th century literary historian may be: poet, critic, university professor, teacher or editor of journal.

There were a lot of doubts concerning the historico-literary practice of the time, for example on the relation between detailed research arrangement and historico-literary synthesis. The next question was if the monographs could be the material for history of literature.

We presented also in this work the articles researching the correlation between the specification and the quality of historico-literary reflection and educative and pedagogical aims in books dedicated to young people (for example: Antoni and Mikołaj Mazanowski, Antoni Bądzkiewicz, Emilia Cyfrowiczówna).

The first article in our volume is dedicated to the activity of censorship, which made hard the intellectual work. Some articles about Polish literature and its development are written by foreigners – Georg Brandes and William Richard Morfill. They can show the importance of the comparative strategies of the time. The texts presented the different problems of literature after 1864 from the point of view of time have separate place in this volume.

The reflection concerning the historico-literary discourse on Polish literature 1864–1914 is the work “in progress”, because there are many questions to think over, to check, to discover and to understand.