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and The Literary and Artistic Association „Fraza”

would like to invite you to participate in an International Conference titled:

**“Ziemię” – the life and work of Bogdan Czaykowski
on the 85th anniversary of his birth and the 10th anniversary of his death**

to be held on 15-16 November 2017 at the University of Rzeszów, Poland

Bogdan Czaykowski, who was born on 10 February 1932 in Równe, Volhynia, and died on 16 August 2007 in Vancouver, was one of the most interesting Polish twentieth-century poets, with a rich, dramatic biography, which included: a childhood spent on the Eastern Borderlands of Poland, two years (1940–1942) of deportation with his family into the interior of Russia, the arrest and death of his father, and later, during wanderings with General Anders’ Army, the death of his younger brother Jerzy, followed by a six-year (1942–1948) stay with his mother in Polish orphanages in India, years of study in England and Ireland, his first literary publications, the co-founding and editing in London of the periodicals “Życie Akademickie”, “Merkuriusz Polski”, and “Kontynenty” (1956-1962); in 1962 the move with his family to the West Coast of Canada, many years of academic work at the University of British Columbia, teaching, research, administrative duties, social activities, especially popularizing Polish culture in the Anglo-American world. In spite of the interest that his work has generated among academics (Bożena Szałasta-Rogawska has written a monograph about him, he is one of the main figures in books by Janusz Pasterski, Justyna Budzik and Rev. Jerzy Sikora, and there are important studies devoted to his poetry by, among others, Julian Przyboś, Jacek Łukasiewicz, Adam Czerniawski, Andrzej Busza, Wojciech Ligęza, Krzysztof Karasek, Kazimierz Brakoniecki, Marian Kisiel, Stanisław Dłuski, Robert Mielhorski), Czaykowski continues to be a writer whose work is not familiar to the general reader and yet whose literary legacy deserves to be re-discovered, re-examined and reappraised on the basis of currently available materials.

Bogdan Czaykowski is the author of eleven volumes of poetry: *Trzciny czcionek* (London 1957); *Reductio ad absurdum i przewyciężenie (dialektyka wiersza)* (London 1958); *Sura* (London 1961); *Spór z granicami* (Paris 1964); *Point-no-Point (1953–1970)* (Paris 1971); *Wiatr z innej strony. Wiersze zebrane z lat 1953-1989* (Kraków 1990); *Okanagańskie sady* (Wrocław 1998); *Superkontynentalny Toronto-Vancouver. Tryptyk* (Berlin – Toronto 2001); *Jakieś ogromne szczęście. Wiersze wybrane z lat 1956-2006* (Toronto – Kraków 2007); *Ziemieskłon* (Toronto 2007); as well as with Andrzej Busza the bilingual *Pełnia i przesilenie/ Full Moon and Summer Solstice* (Toronto – Rzeszów 2008). With Adam Czerniawski, he published a series of conversations entitled *O poezji, nostalgii, krytykach i kryteriach rozmawiają Bogdan Czaykowski i*

Adam Czerniawski (Bogdan Czaykowski and Adam Czerniawski talk about poetry, nostalgia, critics and criteria) (Toronto – Rzeszów). Czaykowski compiled and edited *Antologia polskiej poezji na obczyźnie 1939–1996* (*Anthology of Polish Poetry Abroad 1939–1996*) (Warsaw – Toronto 2002). He is the author of numerous translations of Polish poetry into English, including (together with Andrzej Busza) a selection of the poetry of Miron Białoszewski, *The Revolution of Things* (Washington D.C. 1974) and *Gathering Time: Five Modern Polish Elegies* (Mission B.C. 1983). Conversely, he translated into Polish two volumes of Andrzej Busza's poems *Glosy i refrakcje* (Berlin – Toronto 2001) and *Obrazy z życia Laquedema / Scenes from the Life of Laquedem* (Berlin – Toronto, 2008), as well as poems by English, Canadian, Russian, Chinese and Japanese poets. He also translated into Polish a book by Władysław J. Stankiewicz a Polish-Canadian political philosopher, entitled *Niezbędność teorii politycznej. Klasyczne pojęcia w dobie relatywizmu* (Wrocław 2003). In his own right, Czaykowski published sociological studies: *Polacy w Wielkiej Brytanii* (co-authored with Bolesław Sulik) (Paris 1961) and *Polish Writing in Canada. A Preliminary Survey*. (Ottawa 1988). He was the main editor of the Polish issue of "Modern Poetry In Translation" 23/24 (1975) and was the author of numerous entries on Polish literature in American dictionaries of literature. Finally, he published both in Polish and English numerous articles and studies on literary subjects. The conference aims to cover the entire range of Czaykowski's creative activities: his poetry, prose, scholarly and critical writings, translations and editorial work, as well as his epistolary legacy.

We suggest a variety of approaches: **thematic** (for instance, the exploration of such motifs in his poetry as issues of identity, rootedness and deracination, relocation and the erotic); **biographical** (for example, his role as a leading figure of the so-called *Kontynety* group, his relationship with Jerzy Giedroyc and the *Kultura* milieu, with Czesław Miłosz, Kazimierz Wierzyński, Maria Danilewicz Zielińska, and Adam Czerniawski; his activities in the Polish, Canadian and American literary and scholarly environments; his work at the University of British Columbia and participation in the life of the Polish community in Vancouver); **comparative** (the reception of Czaykowski's work in Poland and abroad); and **analytic** (close readings and interpretations of specific texts).

We also encourage a critical examination of archival materials deposited in the special collections of the libraries of the Universities of Warsaw and Rzeszów, as well as in the private archive of Bogdan Czaykowski and Adam Czerniawski in the home of Anna Lubicz-Łuba in Lyons Bay near Vancouver. Similarly, there are various unpublished texts which deserve attention (e.g. Czaykowski's M.A. dissertation submitted to the University of London; the volume of poems entitled *Thea*, the memoir *Ocalone przez bociany. Autosekwencje*; and the various aphoristic sequences *Uczucia, zdania, sekwencje* which appeared in the magazine *Fraza* between the years 2004 and 2007. Finally, we are interested in all kinds of documentation (particularly, less familiar materials) relating to the rich poetic legacy, dramatic life, and colourful personality of Bogdan Czaykowski.

The papers, which may be written either in Polish or English, should be about 20 minutes in length. An abstract of the proposed paper, accompanying the completed registration form, should be submitted electronically by 15 July 2017 to one of the following addresses: magdarabizo@o2.pl or bozenarogowska@poczta.onet.pl. The organizers reserve the right to make a selection from the submitted proposals. A decision regarding papers that have been selected will be communicated to the participants by 31 August 2017.

The conference fee, payable by September 30, 2017 upon confirmation of paper acceptance, is 500 PLN, and covers accommodation for two nights, meals (including a formal banquet),

conference materials and the cost of publication of selected papers in a reviewed post-conference volume.

Further details about the conference, together with a preliminary programme, will be made available in October 2017.

Scientific committee:

Professor Marian Kisiel – University of Silesia
Professor Magdalena Rabizo-Birek – University of Rzeszów
Bożena Szalasta-Rogowska, Ph.D. – University of Silesia

Organizing committee:

Karolina Kumka, M.A. – University of Rzeszów
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