

Editors' Preface

The present volume is a thematic issue of *Litteraria Copernicana* on *Microliteratures*.

We are proud to have been able to invite about a dozen of Poland's possibly most prominent specialists on microlanguages, communities where microlanguages are spoken and cultures which microlanguages partake of, to write their contributions concerning the literatures written in microlanguages: a concept which is understood here generally as involving languages with relatively small populations, minority languages, regional languages and/or minorized languages.

These topics revolve in a broad and varied manner around the concept of microliteratures, the themes they take on, their contexts and case studies.

Some of our authors are at the same time representatives of both academia and the minority communities themselves, and so they can be referred to as "ethnic researchers of/in ethnic literary studies".

The volume's introduction is Helena Duć-Fajfer's "Literary minorities – an (un)feasibility study", which is an overview of literatures produced by small to very small language communities of Poland's minorities, discussed from the perspective of literary studies, and involving elements of a sociolinguistic analysis of literary works. The collection is tied down by Zbigniew Kadłubek's "Languageless: essay on the Uper-Silesian literature".

The volume includes also papers on specificities of the following microliteratures: Rusyn Lemko (by Marta Watral), Kashubian (papers by Adela Kuik-Kalinowska and Artur Jabłoński), Upper Sorbian (by Nicole Dołowy-Rybińska), Wymysiöryś of Wilamowice (by Tomasz Wicherkiewicz, and a special essay on a minority writer's self-discovery by Tymoteusz Król), Aranese and Mirandese (by Alfons Gregori; the latter also in a monograph article by Maria Boguszewicz & Michał Belina), Welsh (by Karolina Rosiak, on bards' poetry, and by Marta Listewnik, on modern prose). Asian microliteratures are accounted in the paper on Sui (by Kamil Burkiewicz) and a review (by Aleksandra Jarosz) of a publication on the microlanguages of Okinawa. Finally, Alfred F. Majewicz's text is devoted to remembering Professor Jerzy Treder, a renown specialist on Kashubian, esteemed as its researcher, editor and historian.

Aleksandra Jarosz, Tomasz Wicherkiewicz