

Abstract

Thesis *In the Light of Kabbalah: Jewish Mystique in Polish Literature in the Interwar Period* deals with different models of reflection of Jewish religious and mystical tradition in the Polish interwar literature (on the example of three authors representing different ways of perceiving their own Jewish roots as well as the processing of themes based on the tradition of Jewish mysticism). Aleksander Wat, originally a futurist, was critical of the Jewish religious tradition – but still cannot his own "Jewishness" escape; prose writer Bruno Schulz offers an unique vision of cosmogony and eschatology reminiscent of – besides other things – selected concepts of Kabbalah; Bolesław Leśmian's relationship to this tradition is the looses, but on the other hand his method of working with motives which can interpreted in the context of the Jewish religious tradition is very original. Literary work of all three – as the heirs to the "people of the Book" – is marked by a specific relationship to language and the written word. In addition to this theme we deal with e.g. the Golem motive, the idea of the creation of the world or the idea of God. These analytical chapters are preceded by a theoretical and methodological introduction based on the traditions of literary hermeneutics, but also on selected concepts of traditional Jewish mystical hermeneutics. In the Czech context, this work contributes to better understanding how authors known and translated (B. Leśmian, B. Schulz), so those still rather – wrongfully – neglected (A. Wat).