

## Summary of professional accomplishments

1. **Name:** Maria Obrusznik-Partyka

2. **Diplomas, degrees held:**

- 1995: magister of Polish philology, diploma with grade ‘bardzo dobry’ [very good] issued by the Faculty of Philology and History of the University of Opole (diploma no.: 9017) on the basis of thesis entitled: *O powieściach Stanisława Przybyszewskiego* [*On the Novels by Stanisław Przybyszewski*], supervised by dr hab. Leokadia Pośpiech, reviewed by dr hab. Adela Pryszczewska-Kozołub;
- 1999: doctor of humanities in the field of literary studies, diploma issued by the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Opole on the basis of thesis entitled: *Litteraria na łamach „Biesiady Literackiej”* [*Litteraria Published in “Biesiada Literacka”*] written under supervision of prof. dr hab. Wiesław Olkusz; reviewers: dr hab. prof. UO Władysław Hendzel, prof. dr hab. Lech Ludorowski;

3. **Information on employment in scientific units:**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – assistant professor in the Institute of Polish Studies of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Branch in Piotrków Trybunalski (former names: Świętokrzyska Academy, University of Humanities and Natural Sciences);

4. **Achievement as defined in Article 16.2 of the Act of 14th March 2003 on scientific degrees and scientific title and on degrees and title in the field of arts (Journal of Laws of 2016, item 882 as amended in Journal of Laws of 2016, item 1311.):**

a). Title: *Józef Ignacy Kraszewski w świetle korespondencji z Władysławem Belzą* [*Józef Ignacy Kraszewski in the Light of His Correspondence with Władysław Belza*]

b). Author, title, year of publication, publishing house:

Maria Obrusznik-Partyka, *Józef Ignacy Kraszewski w świetle korespondencji z Władysławem Belzą* [*Józef Ignacy Kraszewski in the Light of His Correspondence with Władysław Belza*], Institute of History and International Relations, Piotrków Trybunalski 2016, pp.375.

Editorial reviewers: prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Budrewicz; dr hab. Pelagia Bojko

c).Description of the scientific achievement:

The literary output of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski enjoys a constant interest from literary scholars. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, several interesting monographs and collective studies have been written, in which the researchers tried to face the phenomenon of the doyen of Polish novel writing. Analysis of the current state of research into “Kraszewskology” reveals two basic directions of scientists’ interest. The first one describes Kraszewski’s work within a broad context of literature, art and culture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The other is related to the tendency to “modernise” the literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to seek sources of the 20<sup>th</sup> century or to apply contemporary methodologies to literature of previous periods.

The writer’s correspondence incurs a relatively lower interest, though researchers have frequently noted that it constitutes an important source of knowledge on Kraszewski’s life and work. The abundance of factual material is confirmed by editions of his letters to the family and Teofil Lenartowicz, initiated by Wincenty Danek, as well as later editions of letters to Władysław Chodźkiewicz and Władysław Maleszewski. Letters found in manuscripts, written both by and to Kraszewski, are almost completely unused.

Of the preserved collections, the correspondence with Władysław Bełza stands out, as it includes unknown facts related to Kraszewski and Bełza’s daily affairs in the years 1868-1887, their ideas and literary plans, the founding and activities of the *Macierz Polska* and the general social life in Galicia. The set provides a material basis for the scientific achievement entitled *Józef Ignacy Kraszewski w świetle korespondencji z Władysławem Bełzą [Józef Ignacy Kraszewski in the Light of His Correspondence with Władysław Bełza]*. The work consists of two parts. The first is a monographic presentation of the issues addressed in the title. The second part is the *Appendix*, including 426 letters (206 letters by Kraszewski, 220 letters by Bełza) with a commentary.

The aim of the work is to make Kraszewski’s biography more complete. The writer interests me both as a public figure and a human being. Both Wincenty Danek, the author of the most comprehensive biography of the loner from Dresden, and Tadeusz Budrewicz or Stanisław Burkot pay attention to his activity in the public sphere. Invitations to cooperate or become a member, requests to provide patronage for various initiatives, requests for advice, bibliographic hints, opinions on the literary attempts sent to him, or for material assistance and protection occur in letters from various people. Sadly, there are relatively few preserved replies from Kraszewski,

which makes the dialogue with Bełza all the more valuable, as it illustrates the social roles attributed to the writer as well as his mode of operation. Reading the letters allowed me to present a broad range of matters consulted with Kraszewski, his way of looking at particular problems and the principal criterion – the usefulness for the development of science, for national culture or education among the lowermost social classes. On the basis of the correspondence, it is possible to speak of a specific one-man consulting company which provided consultancy, mediation, protection and advertising services – the «Kraszewski. Non profit» company.

The year 1879 was important in the writer's biography. The anniversary of his literary work confirmed his high social position and authority, but also activated critics and ideological adversaries. An outcome of the celebration was the formation of *Macierz Polska* in 1882 with the seat in Lviv. The correspondence with Bełza reveals the inside story of forming this institution and its activities until 1887 – unknown details on the work on the statute, organisational structure, staffing of the management of *Macierz Polska*, problems with getting texts for printing or with distribution of the publications. On the basis of this set of letters, it is clear how difficult it was to coordinate organisational works from Dresden and what the real influence of Kraszewski as a curator was on the decisions made by the authorities of the institution (the question of the popular periodical “*Niedziela*” or announcing a competition related to the Jewish question).

Not only do letters to Bełza complement Kraszewski's biography as a writer and public figure, but also allow for his features of character and personality to be reconstructed. An image of a modest person, sensitive to other people's fate, who is willing to help others emerges. He is a workaholic and home bird type, for whom travelling is either a chore or a necessity, which he compensates to himself by admiring beautiful scenery and meeting new people. It is also a portrait of an ailing, aging man, lonely and alienated. Kraszewski from his letters to Bełza has a slightly different face than that known from his letters to the family, Teofil Lenartowicz, Władysław Chodźkiewicz or Władysław Maleszewski, and reminds more of the figure from the photographs taken in 1879 – a serious, old and sad man.

The *Appendix* includes all the preserved letters from the dialogue between Kraszewski and Bełza. They constitute a supplement for the evidence for the interpretative part and provide context for the discussed problems and mutual relations between the correspondents. In preparing the commentary, both the published letters

and manuscripts were referred to. The little known Belza's correspondence and press from that period were also highly informative. Reading magazines published in Lviv, Cracow, Warsaw or Poznań made it possible for matters addressed by the authors of letters to be explained and placed against the background of the social life of the Polish people under the rule of the three partitioners. The letters presented in the *Appendix* can be used by literary scholars and historians.

##### **5. Description of other scientific and research achievements:**

The work on the doctoral thesis (modified printed version entitled *Literatura i krytyka na łamach „Biesiady Literackiej”* [*Literature and critique published in “Biesiada Literacka”*], 2002) directed my attention to two ranges of issues.

The first one is related to the literature of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I am interested in topics, genres and aesthetic categories present in the post-January-Uprising literature. Effects of these interests include sketches on the nocturnal motifs in the Polish realist literature (*Oswajanie nocy (na przykładzie wybranych utworów z epoki pozytywizmu)* [*Taming the Night (Illustrated with Selected Works of the Period of Positivism)*]; *Cmentarne pejzaże w prozie polskiej epoki pozytywizmu* [*Cemetery Landscapes in the Polish Positivist Prose*]) and a text on the image of the Southern Slav Lands in the literature of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A review of the literary implementations of the motif of the night or cemetery made it possible to show how topics which had been popular in the period of Romanticism changed under the influence of the positivist philosophical outlook and mimesis.

Questions of aesthetics and outlook of the period of Positivism were also of interest to me while considering the drama. The conviction, preserved in the literature of this subject, that historical tragedy and drama after 1864 are of little artistic value and are epigonic resulted in lack of researchers' attention to dramatic genres. However, reading the press from that period, which systematically published reviews of performances and book publications of drama works, convinced me that it is worthwhile examining the presence of historical tragedy and drama in the period dominated by prose. I included the preliminary findings and directions for further research in sketches entitled *Pozytywistyczne wydziedziczenie tragizmu. Problem tragedii w pozytywizmie. Rekonesans* [*Positivist Disinheritance of Tragedy. The Issue of Tragedy in Positivism. Reconnaissance*] and *Małe historie „wielkich” ludzi. (Uwagi o dramacie historycznym w epoce pozytywizmu)* [*Little Stories of “Great”*

*People. (Notes on Historical Drama in the Period of Positivism)*]. An analysis of critical statements formulated by different kinds of critics of various ideological and aesthetical orientation revealed, among other things, what the genre awareness was and how the development of historical novel or drama related to contemporary subject matter influenced the expectations from authors. Although some monographs which were published later (e.g.: M. Dybizbański *Tragedia polska drugiej połowy XIX wieku – wzorce i odstępstwa [Tragedy of the Second Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – Models and Departures]*, Poznań 2009; I. Gosik-Kapelińska *Historia dramatem pisana. Dramat historyczny w epoce pozytywizmu [History Written in Drama. Historical Drama in the Period of Positivism]*, Cracow 2011) describe issues which I am interested in, historical drama of the period of Positivism remains one of my scientific objectives.

Contemporary literary studies offer considerable possibilities for analysing texts. In relation to post-January-Uprising literature, important to me are anthropologic and cultural perspectives. I used such a way to interpret texts in my study of the old age in Kraszewski and Bolesław Prus, and in the sketches aimed at reconstructing the “male world” in selected works by Henryk Sienkiewicz and the emancipation utopias in *Nad Niemnem* by Eliza Orzeszkowa (*Starego człowieka portret własny – Józef Ignacy Kraszewski [The Old Man’s Own Portrait – Józef Ignacy Kraszewski]; Problem starości w utworach literackich i «Kronikach» Bolesława Prusa [The Issue of Old Age in the Literary Works and «Chronicles» by Bolesław Prus]; Męski świat w wybranych utworach Henryka Sienkiewicza [Male World in Selected Works by Henryk Sienkiewicz]; Kobiety w „krajnie nigdzie”. Rzecz o emancypacji kobiet w twórczości E. Orzeszkowej [Women in “the Land of Nowhere”. The Emancipation of Women in the Literary Output of E. Orzeszkowa]*).

The other range of interesting issues is related to the broad cultural life of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Memoirs, press or private correspondence from that period make it possible to reconstruct the daily life of the Poles as well as various forms of their public activity. An effect of these interests is the preparation of about 100 biographical entries for *Słownik elit dawnych ziem wschodnich Rzeczypospolitej [Dictionary of Elites of Former Eastern Lands of the Republic of Poland]* and two biographical entries for *Polskiego słownika biograficznego [Polish Biographical Dictionary]* (details can be found in the list of publications). Besides, for several years I have been dealing with Kraszewski’s correspondence. My studies so far have resulted in preparing elaborations of his letters to Władysław Maleszewski and

Władysław Bełza (used in the monograph which constitutes the scientific achievement) and a sketch on Macierz Polska in Lviv. Forthcoming are subsequent, more interesting sets of letters and articles on the cultural life in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6. Educational and popularising activity

In the years 2000-2016, I held classes and lectures in principal and specialist subjects (Polish literature of the period of Positivism; didactics of literature and Polish language) as well as non-compulsory subjects for students of Polish philology and history (Historical novel: truth and fiction; Depiction of daily life in literature). Besides, in the years 2006-2015 I ran magister diploma seminars and, after the Bologna System was introduced, also licencjat diploma seminars in the Polish literature of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (25 supervised magisters; 14 supervised licencjats).

In the years 2012-2016, I conducted activities for popularising knowledge in the local environment: lectures for the students of the Third Age University in Piotrków Trybunalski and Radomsko; lectures and workshops for students of senior secondary schools in Radomsko, Bełchatów and Tomaszów Mazowiecki.

In 2009 and 2011, I was invited by the Association of Teachers of the Polish Language to give lectures during conferences for teachers of the Polish language, which were organised in Świnoujście. In 2013, the Head Office of the State Archives in Warsaw and the State Archive in Piotrków Trybunalski invited me to participate in a project related to the Year of Julian Tuwim, which concluded in a publication of a popularising book containing unknown archival materials related to the poet (*Twórczość Juliana Tuwima [The Literary Output of Julian Tuwim]* in: „*A może byśmy tak...*” *porozmawiali o Tuwimie [“Why don't we...” talk about Tuwim]*, prepared by T. Matuszak, L. Pacan-Bonarek, M. Obrusznik-Partyka, Warsaw-Piotrków Trybunalski 2013; my contribution: 30%).

## 7. Organisational activity

Apart from scientific and educational work, I have actively participated in organisational activities of the Institute of Polish Studies and the Faculty of Philology and History of the Piotrków Branch of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce:

- 2002-2008 – I was the Institute Co-ordinator of the European Credit Transfer System; each academic year I prepared the *ECTS information pack for students* within the Erasmus-Socrates programme; I took part in works on introducing the Bologna System
- 2008-2012 – I was a member of the Council of the Faculty of Philology and History, as a representative of junior scientific staff
- 2012-2016 – I held the functions of: deputy dean for general issues of the Faculty of Philology and History, chairperson of the Faculty Commission for the Quality of Education, chairperson (or deputy chairperson) of the Faculty Enrolment Commission. I was a member of the Senate of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce (I took part in the activities of three commissions of the Senate);
- In May 2016, I was elected to be the deputy dean for student issues of the Faculty of Philology and History and a member of the Senate of Jan Kochanowski University and I fulfilled these functions from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. During this period, I also chaired the Faculty Commission for the Quality of Education and the Faculty Enrolment Commission.

Maia Obresnik-Petryko