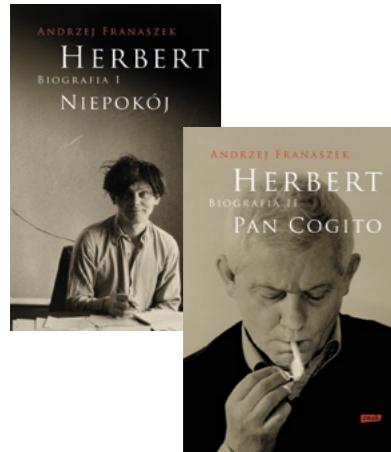


# Biography: a trend to watch

In the last two years, Polish authors, publishers and readers have fallen in love with biographies, especially those of famous writers. Never before in such a short time have so many celebrated titles been published, which is a phenomenon on the book market. Appreciated by readers, noted by critics, passionately debated by experts, and sometimes controversial... below we present some of them.



## Herbert. A Biography

Andrzej Franaszek's monumental biography of Zbigniew Herbert, one of the greatest Polish contemporary poets, is an engaging story about the fate and attitude of the artist. The author does not omit difficult or controversial topics, reading deeply into correspondence and private, previously unknown notes, to illuminate Herbert's work anew. He inscribes the poet's complicated fortunes into the historical panorama of the 20th century. (Another book by Franaszek, entitled *Milosz. A Biography*, has been published abroad).

**Author:** Andrzej Franaszek

**Publisher:** Znak Publishers, 2017

ISBN: 9788324053766

**Translation rights:** Znak Publishers, bolinska@znak.com.pl



## Gombrowicz. Me, A Genius

This is the first full biography of a writer whose life and work continues to fascinate each new generation. Klementyna Suchanow has been collecting materials for years, having talks and travelling in the footsteps of Gombrowicz. The result is a monumental work which reflects not only Itek/Witold, but also the cultural fermentation and complicated historical events of 20th century Europe.

**Author:** Klementyna Suchanow

**Publisher:** Czarne, 2017

ISBN: 9788380495579

**Translation rights:** Andrew Nurnberg Associates Warsaw, anna.rucinska@nurnberg.pl

**Nominated for The Nike Literary Award**



## Lem. Not of This World

This is the first Polish biography of Stanisław Lem, author of science-fiction novels and one of the most translated Polish writers. Drawing from unpublished sources, Orliński discusses large and small, serious and funny secrets of Lem's life. Neither does he avoid the author's traumatic experiences in Lviv during the Holocaust.

**Author:** Wojciech Orliński

**Publisher:** Czarne, Agora, 2017

ISBN: 9788380495524

**Translation rights:** Andrew Nurnberg Associates Warsaw, anna.rucinska@nurnberg.pl

**Rights sold to:** Russia, Argentina

**30,000 copies sold**



## Komeda. A Personal Life of Jazz

To learn the truth about one of the greatest Polish musicians, whose *Rosemary's Baby* lullaby was hummed by the whole world, Magdalena Grzebałkowska visits, among others, Scandinavia, Russia and the United States. She reaches the last living witness of Komeda's tragic fall from a cliff fifty years ago, and is the first to present his version of events. She discovers the personal life of Polish jazz – of Komeda and his environment.

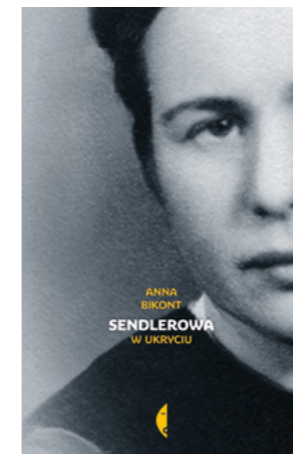
**Author:** Magdalena Grzebałkowska

**Publisher:** Znak Publishers, 2018

ISBN: 9788324053650

**Translation rights:** Znak Publishers, bolinska@znak.com.pl

**30,000 copies sold**



## Sendler. In Hiding

The main character of Bikont's work, Irena Sendler, saved hundreds of Jewish children during the Second World War, and became a symbol of all those who had courage to oppose evil. The book gradually reveals a picture of Sendler among people connected by a common fate – the rescuers and survivors, those who gave shelter and those who sought it. This is a story of some extraordinary Polish women and the children they saved.

**Author:** Anna Bikont

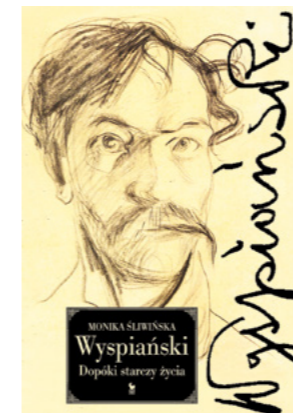
**Publisher:** Czarne, 2017

ISBN: 9788380496095

**Translation rights:** Anna Bikont, a.bikont@gmail.com

**Capital City of Warsaw Literary Award; nomination for the Nike Literary Award**

**25,000 copies sold**



## Wyspiański. While There is Life

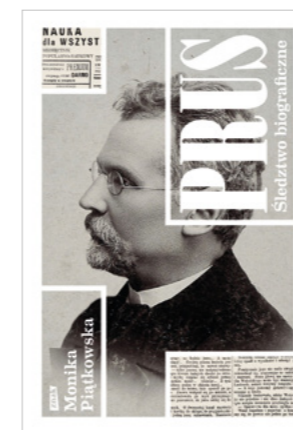
From archives, family documents, letters and diaries, Monika Śliwińska constructs a portrait of the little-known private life of Stanisław Wyspiański (1869-1907). She presents a dramatic record of the life of this genius painter, poet and theatre reformer, an artist who, at the peak of his popularity, said goodbye to the world.

**Author:** Monika Śliwińska

**Publisher:** Iskry, 2017

ISBN: 9788324404872

**Translation rights:** Monika Śliwińska, monika.stiwinska@fp.pl



## Prus. A Biographical Investigation

Combining a detective's temperament with a psychologist's insight, Monika Piątkowska undertakes a meticulous investigation and creates a life-sized portrait of Bolesław Prus (1847-1912), a writer of genius, underestimated by his contemporaries, persecuted by numerous manias, surrounded by women and driven mad by jealousy about Sienkiewicz's fame. The master of the realistic novel, is presented by Piątkowska not as a bronze figure on a pedestal, but as a man of flesh and blood.

**Author:** Monika Piątkowska

**Publisher:** Znak Publishers, 2017

ISBN: 9788324045433

**Translation rights:** Znak Publishers, bolinska@znak.com.pl

**Nominated for The Gryfia Literary Award**