

trying to better the last version of your translation but in vain. And now such a pleasant surprise. CONGRATULATIONS!

6 Aug 2014

**Patrick John Corness to Agata Brajerska-Mazur:**

That's wonderful! Thank you, I really appreciate your support, and thank you for guiding me to a better translation. I hope Ewa will publish it in due course.

## MORE BOOKS

***Germans, Poland, and Colonial Expansion to the East: 1850 Through the Present*, edited by Robert L. Nelson.** New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. x + 201 pages. Index. ISBN 13-978-0-230-61268-6. Hardcover.

An excellent little book that lucidly details the most vital aspects of Polish-German relations within the time frame mentioned in the title. The present is particularly well described in Oliver Schmidtke's essay. The author points out disparities between the official discourse on Poland in Germany such as the inclusion of Poland in the European family of nations, and the media discourse that often resorts to stereotypes of Polish car thieves and so on, and attaches that stereotype to the Polish national character. Schmidtke concludes that "in post-1945 German-Polish relations the colonialist legacy has remained a significant force—not so much in terms of structures of domination but of stereotypical perceptions and seem to be almost frozen in time" (190). Schmidtke considers this to be "an astonishing example of the persistence of collective memories" and of freezing the Other in a classically Orientalist immobile image. However, the discourse of Germany's political and intellectual elites is somewhat different in that these negative images are less entrenched among the educated and the sophisticated. Yet the image of "a threatening and inferior Polish neighbor" (191) is still strong.

Schmidtke concludes that "the colonialist structures did not only characterize European powers' policies [toward countries outside

Europe], but they have also shaped Europe domestically and provided a forceful script for imperialistic policies" (193).

***The Legs of Izolda Morgan: Selected Writings*, by Bruno Jasiński.** Translated by Soren A. Gauger and Guy Torr. Prague: Twisted Spoon Press (P.O. Box 21, Preslova 12, 150 21 Prague 5, Czech Republic), 2014. 163 pages. ISBN 978-80-86264-40-0. Hardcover.

Jasiński was a typical futurist of the 1920s, pretentiously declaring that social structures should be destroyed and full anarchy introduced. As was the case with his Russian counterparts, his artistic manifestos now strike us as the games spoiled children play rather than conclusions reached after much reflection. Jasiński wrote poetry, prose, and manifestos about "the futurization of life" (9). In one of them he declares his intention to "join Stanisław Brzozowski (an earlier literary rebel) in declaring a great clearance sale of old junk" (10). In the anarchistic future world he envisages, "everyone can be an artist" (13) and everyone can enjoy "equality in erotic and family relationships" (14). This manifesto is followed by a number of futuristic short stories that strike one as stale and dated.

Like the gay twenties in Paris and New York, futurism was a trend that combined innocence and carelessness with an unmatched demonstration of irresponsibility. Jasiński eventually left Poland for the Soviet Union which he considered a futurist paradise. His untimely death there (he was executed in the Butyrki prison in 1938 at age thirty-seven) was a not unexpected *coda* to his chaotic life.

While it is entertaining to page through this brief book, one wonders to what purpose and for whose money was it translated into English and handsomely published. Jasiński contributes nothing constructive to the life of contemporary humanity. His absurdities lost their bite long ago, just as did those of the Russian futurists. With so much valuable Polish literature remaining untranslated into English, why spend so much time and money on Jasiński? (SB)

