

Sarmatian Review Literary Award

<Staropolska.pl>, an e-library for Old Polish Literature, offers access to works ranging from the Middle Ages through Renaissance to Baroque. It is updated on a weekly basis. All genres are represented. A sizeable section consists of English translations. The spiritus movens behind **Staropolska.pl** is Professor Roman Mazurkiewicz of Kraków Pedagogical University, a remarkable scholar in his own right and author of many books on medieval and Renaissance topics. He is the winner of the 2011 *Sarmatian Review* Literary Award. The award consists of a wooden plaque and a check for \$1,000.00. The inscription on the plaque reads:



More on **<Staropolska.pl>**

<Staropolska.pl> is an academic and educational project on early Polish literature. The main part of the project comprises an e-library of classical Polish writings and a collection of scholarly studies on the subject. The Contexts section includes texts and commentaries on history, philosophy, religion, and art in Poland from the eleventh to the eighteenth centuries. In the Tradition section readers will find a selection of materials on Ancient and Biblical culture, the European Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Baroque. The Links section

provides access to the most important libraries and Web sites worldwide dealing with related issues.

The Translation section presents translations of Old Polish writings. The Bibliography section lists recent publications on Old Polish literature, and the Events section provides information on academic conferences and meetings. An integral part of the undertaking is the ongoing project of the Old Polish Dictionary presently comprising 3,500 entries and the only online lexicon of Old Polish to date.

<Staropolska.pl> was created in April 2000 in Kraków as a private project designed by Dr. Roman Mazurkiewicz and Mariusz Górniak, M.A. It is a nonprofit enterprise. Its goal is to promote and provide access to the canon of early Polish culture, presented in the context of Ancient, Biblical, and European tradition. The e-library contains texts that are often unavailable in smaller libraries, even though they are essential to the teaching of Polish culture in secondary schools and in humanities departments of universities. The Staropolska Web site is used by scholars worldwide, as attested by entries in the visitors' book and by reviews, references, and notes on related foreign Web sites, e.g., Oxford University's Humbul or the Italian Reti Medievali. The textual resources of the project are referred to in Bibliotheca Augustana http://www.fh-augsburg.de/~harsch/polonica/p_auxil.html, while transcriptions of medieval texts included in Staropolska have been used in the Italian project Intra Text Digital Library <http://www.intratext.com/>. All materials included in the Staropolska project are protected by copyright. With the authors' permission, they may be copied and used for academic and educational purposes.

Contemporary Poland has a great need of precisely the kind of initiative displayed by Professor Mazurkiewicz. He is also the kind of scholar for whom the *Sarmatian Review* Award seems to have been custom made: a scholar who does not need government grants to create works of value. The worldwide success of **<Staropolska.pl>** shows that perseverance and dedication do pay.