

Summary

On the Trail of the Great Bell Brotherhood. Essays on Literature at the Turn of the 20th Century

On the Trail of the Great Bell Brotherhood. Essays on Literature at the Turn of the 20th Century is a collection of historical and literary interpretations dedicated to artists from the various generations active at that time. The central place is occupied by essays about Zenon Przesmycki's *Mystery* (Miriam) as a poetic symbolist manifesto, and *The Dreams of Maria Dunin* by Karol Irzykowski, a hitherto unrecognised polemic with Miriam. 'The Great Bell Brotherhood' was the ironic term Irzykowski used to refer to those contemporaries of his who sought or created deep meanings of the world, the Young Poland artists. However, despite his rather harsh criticism, he himself aspired to membership of this Brotherhood, and to play a prominent role in the Young Poland movement. The other essays here are devoted to poets who can be included in the Brotherhood: Kazimierz Tetmajer, Tadeusz Miciński, Wacław Lieder and Leopold Staff. Less obvious names also appear in this context, such as Jan Lemański, Adolf Dygasiński or that uncompromising opponent of modernism, Antoni Sygietyński. All were connected by their passion for palimpsests – a tendency to cumulate meanings, camouflage and blur the literary tropes around which the artistic imagination at the turn of the century revolved.

Keywords: Young Poland, symbolism, scientism, palimpsest

