

Editorial

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Lucylla Pszczołowska (1924-2010), the recognised leader in Polish and comparative Slavic versification studies.

Professor Pszczołowska was not just a researcher. Study of verse was her calling and mission, to which she committed her entire life. From 1952 until her retirement in 1995, Lucylla Pszczołowska worked at the Institute of Literary Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. There she was an active participant in research projects initiated by Polish scholars Maria Renata Mayenowa and Maria Dłuska. Her works include the second volume of the encyclopaedia of versification, devoted to rhyme, and she was also one of the main contributors to the collective monograph on strophics.

From 1981 to 1993 she headed the Laboratory of Theoretical Poetics and Language of Literature where she widened the scope of versification studies even more by creating her own series of comparative Slavic metrics (*Słowiańska metryka porównawcza*). This was, however, not just a new book series, but a continuous project, which, in addition to Poles, attracted scholars from Czech Republic, Soviet Union (after its collapse – from Russia, Ukraine and Estonia), Bulgaria, Yugoslavia (after its breakup – from Serbia and Slovenia). Each volume in the series was preceded by workshops and conferences, and in many cases more than one conference. Nine issues have been published, devoted to topics such as the rhythmical lexicon of language and methods of its processing, the syllabic structure of verse, the semantics of verse, verse in translation, sonnet, the fund of European metres in Slavic verse traditions, free verse, short verse metres, hexameter and ancient stanzas in Slavic poetry. An overview of the series is given in one of Professor Pszczołowska's last papers, which is published in this volume in tribute to our late colleague.

Two trends can be observed in the theoretical studies of verse. The first treats of verse as a linguistic phenomenon, and, accordingly, versification is treated as part of linguistics. In the Polish studies of verse the representative of this viewpoint was Maria Dłuska. The second trend approaches verse as an aesthetic or, more narrowly, a literary phenomenon: in accordance with this approach, versification is part of literary science. This trend was represented by Maria Renata Mayenowa. Pszczołowska synthesised these trends in her work. On the one hand, she was a very systematic, meticulous describer of the language of poetry, who stimulated further research of the linguistic aspects of

Polish verse and other Slavic poetic traditions (compare the first two volumes of *Slowiańska metryka porównawcza*). On the other hand, her attention was focused on both literary approaches (see, for example, her study of Romanticist verse) and various non-Slavic traditions (for instance, classical prosody and even the common heritage of European verse), as well as literary contacts. Among her last works, her research on the relationship between Polish and Ukrainian verse stands out.

The scholarly legacy of Lucylla Pszczołowska is impressive both for its breadth and its depth. She was an outstanding scholar and a wonderful person whose life and work will continue to inspire many of her colleagues.

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