

ABSTRACT

In the shadow. Biography in the works of Jerzy Siewierski

The aim of this thesis is primarily to reconstruct the biography of Jerzy Siewierski, as well as to restore the memory of the Warsaw-based author.

The biographical research took a two-pronged approach, consisting of interviews with the writer's relatives and associates, as well as analysis of his works. The first path made it possible to use the methodology of investigation, the interview method, and also came close to the methodology of a spoken diary. The archive-testament and archive-depository method became an important research path, which in Siewierski's case intertwine, establishing the writer's wife and son as the depositories not only of his remaining archive, but of the memory of the artist in general. The second path of researching Siewierski's biography leads through the writer's work, which seems to be strongly marked by autobiography and autothematism. In this regard, the achievements of narratology, geopoetics, research on the category of memorials, imaginativeness, and the anthropology of the senses have proven to be methodologically relevant.

By presenting Siewierski's work against the backdrop of the era, we have been able to show, on the one hand, a certain schematism of the author, and on the other, individual features of his writing that were particularly difficult to achieve in the era of double censorship. The result of this research is not so much a reconstruction as the creation, taking into account the filters of memory, of the author's biography, which combines both data, memories of relatives and information resulting from the analysis of autothematic fragments of his works. It is also a chance to restore the literary history of a forgotten author, who can be credited with the restitution of the Polish post-war horror novel.

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