Diogenes

Book factsheet

Andrzej Szczypiorski
Pyrotechnics

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Original title: *Gra z ogniem*



Count Kyrill, a Russian exile living in Paris and Graham Wilson III, an American magnate plan a big art exhibition in the idyllic Bad Kranach. Art collectors from all over the world are to take part, for example the Polish Jew Joel Weiss and the German Baron Kugler. The exhibition, which is to show some of Europe's finest art treasures, could be a proof that the fine arts are superior to petty nationalism. But while Count Kyrill and Graham Wilson III are engaged in revealing their interests – an insurance fraud on the highest level – in the course of a telephone call, a German security official with a dubious past is busy preparing for the exhibition. The Pole Jan, who has been tormented by nocturnal visions of the past since the death of his wife, also sets off for Kranach. Thus a meeting takes place between people with a common past which overtakes them in this play with fire.

Contemporary Literature
368 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2000

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Awards

1998	Goldene Feder (Publizistischer Preis der Verlagsgruppe Bauer).
1997	Die Unicef wählt ihn zum ›Botschafter des guten Willens‹.
1997	Verleihung des Ordens ›Polonia Restituta‹ durch den Präsidenten der Republik für seine Verdienste um Polen.
1995	Zum Mitglied im deutschen Orden ›Pour le mérite‹ ernannt.
1995	Andreas-Gryphius-Preis der Künstlergilde e.V.
1995	Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Anerkennung für seine Verdienste um die deutsch-polnischen Beziehungen.
1994	Dortmunder Initial der Arbeitsgemeinschaft 1. Dortmunder Buchmesse.
1994	Herder-Preis der Stiftung F.V.S. zu Hamburg.
1991	Preis der Warschauer Buchhändler für ›Nacht, Tag und Nacht‹.
1990	Kunst- und Kulturpreis der deutschen Katholiken, Berlin.
1989	Nelly-Sachs-Preis, Kulturpreis der Stadt Dortmund.
1988	Wichtigster polnischer Literaturpreis, Wiadnomosci Literackie, für ›Die schöne Frau Seidenman‹.
1988	Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur.
1972	Preis des polnischen PEN-Clubs für ›Eine Messe für die Stadt Arras‹.
1965	Zaiks-Preis für Hörspiele.
1964	Kavalierskreuz des Ordens Polonia Restituta.

Praise

Pyrotechnics

»He is one of today's outstanding writers, and the historical lessons he teaches are grim.« – Der Spiegel, Hamburg

Andrzej Szczypiorski

»His narrative style is calm and leisurely, yet pacey; his writing is composed, but always with wit and vigour.« – Marcel Reich-Ranicki / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

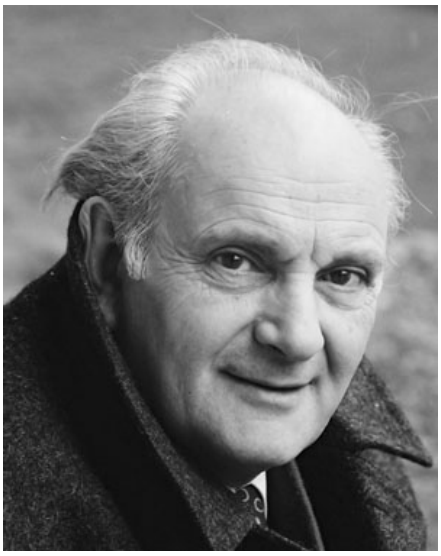
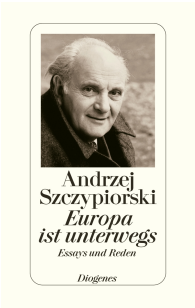


Photo: © Isolde Ohlbaum

Andrzej Szczypiorski (1928 – 2000) was born in Warsaw, took part in the city's uprising against German occupation in 1944 and was subsequently sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. After the war, he worked as an author and publisher and became a member of the executive board of the Polish PEN Club and the Writer's Association. In December 1981, he was interned in a camp and remained a prisoner there until spring 1982. In 1989, he was chosen as a candidate by Solidarnosc and elected to the Polish Senate by the people. He received the Austrian ›State Award for European Literature‹ and the ›Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany‹.



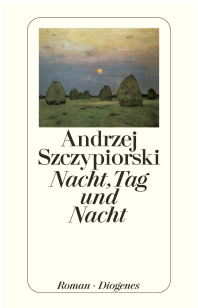
Europe on the Road
368 pages
1996



Self-Portrait With Woman
256 pages
1994



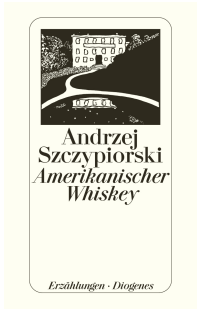
The Shadow Catcher
176 pages
1993



Night, Day and Night
304 pages
1991



Notes on the State of Things
256 pages
1990
Award winner



American Whiskey
264 pages
1989
Award winner



A Mass for Arras
200 pages
1988
Award winner



The Beautiful Mrs Seidenman
272 pages
1988