Diogenes

Book factsheet

Andrzej Szczypiorski
Self-Portrait With Woman

Published by Diogenes as *Selbstportrait mit Frau*
Original title: *Autoportret z kobieta*

Kamil, a Warsaw sociologist, is summoned to Geneva to participate in an oral history project about the collapse of Eastern Europe communism and resolves to tell his own story through a gallery of portraits of the many women he has loved. These reminiscences emerge against the broader canvas of circumstances and events that have shaped the past sixty years of Poland's turbulent, tragic history. Soon he finds himself inexorably drawn to his interrogator from the ›free‹ world, the chronicler of his life, the keeper of his secrets, an his heart's last hope for redemptive love. ›Self-portrait with Woman‹ is at once a haunting and lyrical portrait of a man, of a country, and of the twilight years of an era.

Contemporary Literature
256 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 1994

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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

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

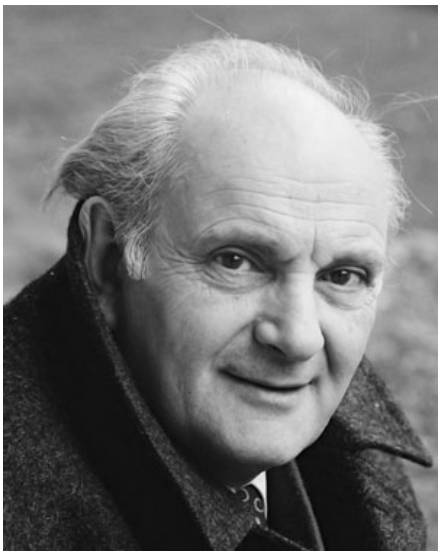
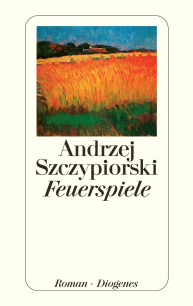
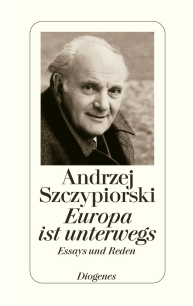


Photo: © Isolde Ohlbaum

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‹.

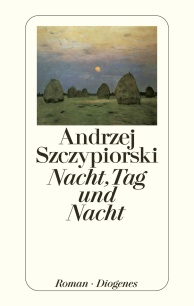


Pyrotechnics
368 pages
2000



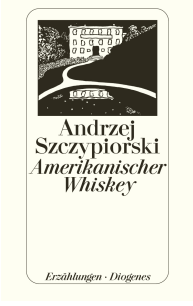
Europe on the Road
368 pages
1996

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