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“Popobiographical” Reinterpretations. *Pisma przedślubne i przedsplinowe* of Placyd Jankowski

PhD thesis written under the supervision of dr hab. Magdaleny Bizior, prof. UMK

Summary

The work is divided into two parts – the first provides a description of the life and literary output of Placyd Jankowski, taking into account the conditions in which he grew up, studied, and worked. Essential elements of this section include an account of the publishing market that developed in Vilnius in the first half of the nineteenth century, as well as the issue of the union of the Uniate Church with Orthodoxy. The inclusion of these topics arises from the conviction that a text reflects the reality in which it is created, and that a literary work cannot exist outside of economic, social, or political circumstances. The second part consists of a type B edition of Jankowski's second book, *Pisma przedślubne i przedsplinowe*. It is a collection of forty short pieces, diverse in genre and theme. On the basis of this book, among other things, Jankowski was proclaimed a humorist and, by the Petersburg coterie, was compared to George Byron and Laurence Sterne. In the literary-critical section preceding the edition, humorous motifs in Jankowski's works are analyzed, as well as the reception of his output and the main themes (or motivations) discernible in the *Pisma przedślubne i przedsplinowe*, with reference to their representation in other works of the author. The purpose of the work is not only to recall the figure of Placyd Jankowski for contemporary readers, but also to attempt to renew the request once made by the writer's friend Aleksander Walicki to “profound and subtle psychological diagnosis” of him and his works.

