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From the Editorial Board

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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The third volume of periodical “Acta Humana” is devoted to *mysteries of reality*. The texts collected under this title concern mostly literature describing the world – both the real and the imaginary one. They center around three interrelated topics, referring to reality, to people living in it as well as to their beliefs and views (broadly understood magic, demonology and unexplained phenomena).

The opening article in the volume is Ludmiła Gruszevska-Blaim’s text concerning contemporary academic novel, specifically James Hynes’s prose which goes beyond the framework of a traditional academic novel. Magdalena Górecska’s article (*Oh, quelle histoire! – Mystificator As a Postmodern Paradigm of the Author*) treats of postmodern literature, and focuses especially on one of its main problems, i.e. the process of creating stories; Agnieszka Badyła’s outline in turn discusses the doubts which may arise when mesmerism is treated as one of the methods of historico-literary research.

The articles referring to man and the mysteries of his behaviour constitute the subsequent part of the volume. Katarzyna Trzeciak’s essay concerns the ways of presenting human body in science fiction literature (on the example of Thomas Ligotti’s short story *The Shadow, the Darkness*). Zuzanna Gawrońska’s text treats of the complexity and dissimilarity in the construction of human and alien literary characters as well as the quest for a transcendent element in Stanisław Lem’s novel *Eden*. An interesting view on the issue of prostitution portrayed by a Russian writer Alexander I. Kuprin is presented in Artur Sadecki’s text, whereas Agnieszka Dauksza shares with the readers her considerations concerning the presence and realizations of the motif of telegony in literature (*Telegony – Nature’s Miracle or Mystification?*).

Magdalena Wójtowicz’s article raising the issue of magical functions of numbers in folk culture (*Magical Meanings and Functions of The Number Three in Folk Medicine*) leads us into the matters of magic and demonology. Agnieszka Potyrańska in turn studies in her text the presence of the motif of the devil in poetry

of Zinaida Gippius. The article closing this section of the volume is an outline by Marcin Dziwisz, who on the example of Andrzej Sapkowski's novel undertakes an analysis of how the names of demons and other supernatural creatures are translated in fantasy literature.

The section *Reviews* reflects a similar thematic range as the articles. Katarzyna Kraczoń's text presents a currently published third volume of the series *Out There in Podlasie* which this time was devoted to the customs and beliefs of the inhabitants of this region. The next two texts, likewise interesting and worthy of attention, concern contemporary crime fiction which in an apt way combines mystery with historical plots (Magdaleny Niekra and Ewelina Stanios's texts), as well as two book reviews: Zdzisław Marcinow's *The Hero ? the World. On the Poetry and Prose of Ireneusz Iredyński* (Paulina Biczowska) and Noël Carroll's *Philosophy of the Mass Art* (Agnieszka Jęczeń).

Academic and Cultural Events section opens with Milena Zgierska's report from an international conference "Communication – Tradition and Innovations", which forms a thematic link with the previous volume of our periodical (*Communication Has Different Names*). Moreover, this section presents reports on the activity of the group "Geopoetyka" created at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Aleksandra Wójtowicz) and a talk by a historian Andrzej Gliwa at the Society of Friends of Learning in Przemyśl (Grzegorz Potoczny). The author of the closing text in the volume (Jacek Słupczyński) is searching for an answer to the question concerning the future shape of the theatre in the 21st century.

The themes raised by scholars specializing in literature, language, culture and history offer an undoubtedly interesting and valuable contribution to the discussion on how young researchers of the humanities perceive the past and the contemporary world and its mysteries. We hope that the texts collected in this volume of "Acta Humana" will broaden the knowledge and our understanding of at least a proportion of the numerous mysteries which the reality still holds.

Due to an infringement on the Copyright Act noted in the previous volume of the periodical, the editorial board would like to publish a disclaimer received from Julia Choduniuk and informs that a relevant verdict was passed by the Disciplinary Committee of PhD Students at Maria Curie Skłodowska University on the 13th March 2012.

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