



MAPPING LITERARY SPACES: MEMORY, PLACE, LOCALITY

THEMES AND CONTEXTS

civilization and beyond

man and nature

urban space

displacement

mental / spiritual /
cultural / gendered space

metaphorics of space

identity

locality

memory

exploration

travel

tourism



**MAPPING LITERARY SPACES:
MEMORY, PLACE, LOCALITY**

*Editors of this book dedicate it
to the memory of Jerzy Stencel*



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MAPPING LITERARY SPACES: MEMORY, PLACE, LOCALITY

edited by
Wojciech Kalaga and Jacek Mydla



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Artur Blaim

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CIVILIZATION AND BEYOND / MAN AND NATURE

Hebda
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Pochmara
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Pochmara
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DISPLACEMENT

Bruś
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IDENTITY

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LOCALITY

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Bańka
Nitka
Smyczyńska

PREFACE

Recently space has moved to the forefront of interdisciplinarily conceived humanities. After centuries of explorations of outer space, the eye of the scholar has fixed back on the mundane parameters of human existence, on the space that lies before the naked eye, at our fingertips, in the too-too-solid vicinity. With such groundbreaking ideas to lead the way as Heidegger's conception of being-in-the world, scholars have acquired a new boldness, which alone is needed to confront the nearest, the inner-worldly, rather than the Cartesian abstract extension. But then they soon realized that explorations of the close-at-hand has been conducted for ages, and have found their way into literary works. This realization has in turn led to another one, namely that the inner-worldly space is soaked with signification; that rather than being an unknown and hostile terrain, it lies there, soaked with identities — personal, national, ethnic — and with living memory; thus turning those literary works which have taken up the task of charting this territory, into living records of the lived time and space, of the lived chronotope. It is studies of such "abstract and brief chronicles of the time" that we offer the Readers for their kind perusal.

This volume is a post-conference collection of essays, and as such brings a yield of an effort of English-language scholars in, chiefly, Poland's literary departments determined mentally to wrestle with the many problems of human spaces as they have been wrought into the fine tissue of literary texts.

Due to the crisscrossing and overlapping thematic concerns and theoretical positions, we have decided not to use the usual division of a collection of essays into problem-sections. On the other hand, it has seemed advisable to give suggestions to the Readers as to what problems the individual texts have tackled. Hence, steering clear of both the Scylla of pigeonholing

and the Charybdis of indeterminacy, we have decided to complement the author-and-title list of contents with a descriptive-topical one, hoping that the bearings given will enable the Readers to come up with an itinerary of their own for their voyage across the pages of this volume. Hoping, further, that this voyage will not turn into sea-sick crossing and begging pardon with the Authors for taking these liberties with their names, which was only done for the joint sakes of utility and perspicacity, we bid this volume go forth into the world and prosper.

Wojciech Kalaga, Jacek Mydla

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Articles collected in this book represent, as is always the case with publications of this type, different scholarly approaches, varying from texts of chiefly informational character, the aim of which consists mostly in signalling the emergence of new phenomena in contemporary literature and culture, through close analyses of selected motifs and themes, to uncommonly thorough studies which open new research perspectives.

Prof. Artur Blaim
(excerpts from the review
of the book)

Regarded individually, the contributions address various contexts that have to do with space regarded as a motif in English literatures. On the basis of chosen literary works, the authors have been able to show the different ways in which space emerges and functions as a vehicle for meanings that connote national, cultural, and ethnic kinds of identity and their dynamic.

