

Contents

Introduction	9
The reading with “a user’s manual”	10
From Augustynek to Rubinsztajn – about the people of laughter	15

Part One

QUITE SERIOUSLY ABOUT LAUGHTER

Laughter in physiological and sociocultural perspectives	21
Laughter versus limit experiences	25
Communities of laughter	29
The typology of laughter in times of crisis	31

Part Two

THE LAUGHTER OF VICTIMS, EXECUTIONERS AND GAWKERS

Occupation	39
Preludium – pre-war laughter	39
Small theatres of occupied Warsaw	46
Resistance with a smile	52
Street folklore and jokes	60
The people of laughter	65
Examples (reports, testimonies, memories)	67
Example 1. Eryk Lipiński about the capital’s air defences	67
Example 2. Szymon Kobyliński about the first encounters with the occupiers in Mścisko near Wołomin	68
Example 3. Antoni Marianowicz about the events of September, 1939	69
Example 4. Aleksander Kamiński about street satire	70
Example 5. Marian Ruth Buczkowski about street satire	70
Example 6. Adam Grzymała-Siedlecki about being transported to Pawiak	71
Example 7. Stanisław Pigoń about a prisoner’s adventure	72
Example 8. Adolf Gawalewicz about the events in Montelupich Prison in 1940 ...	73

Example 9. Adam Grzymała-Siedlecki about being transported to KL Majdanek . . .	73
Example 10. Władka Meed about life behind the ghetto wall	74
Example 11. Adina Blady-Szwajger about the carousel at the Warsaw Ghetto	75
Example 12. Józefa Grzymkowska-Kleindienst about underground education in Lida	76
Example 13. Eryk Lipiński about train trips	76
Example 14. Marian Walentynowicz about caricatures	79
Example 15. Marian Walentynowicz about a course participants' joke	81
Example 16. Stanisław Tomaszewski about the satirical underground press	82
Example 17 - Stanisław Tomaszewski about street jokes	84
Example 18. Anna Jachnina about satirical creative activity	84
Ghetto	86
Broadway in the middle of a graveyard	87
Clerks and officials in satire	94
Fun, film makers, and a carousel	97
The distorting mirror of the atrium of Extinction	100
The people of laughter	107
Examples (reports, testimonies, memories)	112
Example 19. Jakub Poznański about artistic shows	112
Example 20. Antoni Marianowicz about satirical creative activity	113
Example 21. Antoni Marianowicz about a satirical show	114
Example 22. Władysław Szpilman about bowing down	117
Example 23. Władysław Szpilman about guards	118
Example 24. Władysław Szpilman about a Gestapo officers' game	118
Example 25. Marek Edelman about the Nazis' game and gawkers	120
Example 26. Antoni Szymanowski about the games of Nazis and daredevils	120
Example 27. Antoni Marianowicz about film makers	121
Example 28. Antoni Marianowicz about Rubinsztajn	122
Example 29. Władysław Szpilman about Rubinsztajn	123
Example 30. Jerzy Jurandot about Rubinsztajn	123
Example 31. Adina Blady-Szwajger about a club room in the children's hospital . .	124
Example 32. Antoni Marianowicz about a concert in Janusz Korczak's orphanage	125
Example 33. Janusz Korczak's comical letter to Adam Czerniakow	126
Example 34. Jerzy Jurandot about Umschlagplatz	127
Example 35. Antoni Marianowicz about an escape from the ghetto	127
Concentration camp	129
An additional slice of bread	130
Comical motifs in the cultural activity of the concentration camp	139
The brave laughter of resistance in the concentration camp	149

The people of laughter	155
Examples (reports, testimonies, memories)	158
Example 36. Father Wojciech Gajdus about his arrival at KL Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen	158
Example 37. Kazimierz Tymiński about his arrival at KL Auschwitz	160
Example 38. Andrzej Stanisławski about the functionaries in KL Majdanek	160
Example 39. Kazimierz Tymiński about prisoners' check-up in KL Auschwitz	162
Example 40. Czesław Ostańkiewicz about the muslims' room in KL Auschwitz	162
Example 41. Kazimierz Tymiński about the trans-shipment of potatoes in KL Auschwitz	163
Example 42. Józef Kondyś about punishment in Buchenwald LA III	164
Example 43. Father Wojciech Gajdus about the guards in KL Stutthof	164
Example 44. Father Wojciech Gajdus about a funeral parody in KL Stutthof	165
Example 45. Father Wojciech Gajdus about the functionaries in KL Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen	167
Example 46. Father Wojciech Gajdus about a guard in KL Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen	168
Example 47. Adolf Gawalewicz about a male nurse's joke in KL Auschwitz	169
Example 48. Andrzej Stanisławski about shows in KL Majdanek	170
Example 49. Michał Maksymilian Borwicz about songs in KZ Janowska	171
Example 50. Adolf Gawalewicz about songs in KL Auschwitz	173
Example 51. Czesław Ostańkiewicz about songs in KL Auschwitz	174
Example 52. Teodor Musioł about the shows in KL Dachau	176
Example 53. Józef Seweryn about shows in KL Auschwitz	176
Example 54. Father Wojciech Gajdus about prisoners' broadcasting	177
Example 55. Bożena Krzywobłocka about children in KL Auschwitz	180

Part Three

COMICAL (ARTISTIC, STREET, PRISON) CREATIVE ACTIVITY DURING THE OCCUPATION

Example 56. Marian Hemar, <i>Ten wąsik</i> [This moustache]	183
Example 57. Anna Jachnina, <i>Siekiera, motyka...</i> [An axe, a hoe...]	184
Example 58. N.N., <i>Wilk i świnia. Bajka Niekrasickiego</i> [A wolf and a pig. A non-Krasicki fable]	185
Example 59. N.N., <i>Okupacyjne fraszki</i> [Occupation epigrams]	187
Example 60. Tadeusz Hollender, <i>Uśmiech Warszawy</i> [The smile of Warsaw]	188
Example 61. Tadeusz Hollender, <i>Bajka</i> [A fairytale]	189
Example 62. Tadeusz Hollender, <i>Blaski Guberni</i> [The glitter of the Governorate] (fragments)	190
Example 63. Irena Bobowska, ***	191

Example 64. Władysław Broniewski, <i>Rozmowa z historią</i> [A conversation with history]	192
Example 65. Marian Hemar, <i>Kawał i morał</i> [A joke and a moral]	193
Example 66. Marian Hemar, <i>Pamiętaj o tym wnuku, że dziadzio był w Tobruku</i> [Remember, my grandson, your grandpa was in Tobruku]	194
Example 67. N.N., <i>Jadą dzieci, jadą drogą</i> [Children are coming, coming along the road]	196
Example 68. Szlojme Elbojm (?), <i>Wszystkie żonki</i> [All the wives]	196
Example 69. Władysław Szlengel, <i>Pamiętają o mnie</i> [They remember about me] . . .	197
Example 70. Władysław Szlengel (?), <i>Szopka</i> [A satirical play] (fragments)	199
Example 71. Władysław Szlengel (?), <i>Raz kupiłem sobie sak</i> [Once I bought a coat for myself]	202
Example 72. Jerzy Jurandot (?), <i>Gmina Żydowska. Szafa gra</i> [The Jewish Qahal. Everything is ok]	204
Example 73. Anatol Pomeranc, <i>Komitet domowy</i> [The Home Committee]	206
Example 74. Henryk Nowogródzki, Józef Leon Fels, <i>Sylwetki znakomitych</i> <i>mężów Służby Porządkowej</i> [Figures of eminent Security Service officials] (fragments)	207
Example 75. N.N., <i>Kuplety więzienne</i> [Prison couplets]	209
Example 76. B. Bigielman, <i>O.N.E. Numery-numerki</i> [Numbers]	211
Example 77. Czesław Miłosz, <i>Campo di Fiori</i>	213
Example 78. Janusz Korczak, <i>Wesołość dobra i zła...</i> [The cheerfulness of good and bad...]	215
Example 79. Wiktor Ostrowski, <i>Na cześć pewnego profesora</i> [In honour of a certain professor]	218
Example 80. Wiktor Ostrowski, <i>Na wolności kto niewinny...</i> [Free is the innocent...]	219
Example 81. Adolf Gawalewicz, <i>Kłopoty pana blokowego</i> [A block man's problems]	220
Example 82. N.N., <i>Satyra KL Ravensbrück</i> [KL Ravensbrück satire]	221
Example 83. Stanisław Wiśniewski, <i>W Dachau fajno jest</i> [It is fine in Dachau]	222
Example 84. Maria Masłowska, <i>Jak to zdrowo i wesoło</i> [How healthy and merry it is]	223
Example 85. Anna Jachnina, <i>Po Auschwitzu sobie tuptam</i> [I patter all over Auschwitz]	224
Example 86. The jokes of the occupied Poland	225
Ending	229
Troublesome "post-laughter"	232
Neighbours, witnesses and places. Intercultural education aimed at remembrance	243
Bibliography	259