

Foreword

The forty-second issue of *Colloquia* consists of two seemingly independent and at the same time essentially complementary parts. The first component of articles is dedicated to Tomas Venclova's works, while the second component deals with various thematic and theoretical views that open up the field of interdisciplinary studies. The international aspect, which expands the space of discussions and provides with a wider range of perspectives, supplements the interdisciplinary dimension in this issue.

The first three articles are dedicated to Venclova's poetry. Donata Mitaitė, using the concept of the site of memory, offers an unexpected and new look at Venclova's poem as a repository of cultural memory. Although the author of the article notes that the semantic and existential field of Venclova's poems is not limited to the preservation of memory, the concept of memory space enables to underline the poet's relationship with the poetic reality and the reality itself and to observe which elements of the reality have been transferred to a poem and transformed into a cultural tradition of memory. This tradition, reconstructed by Mitaitė, embraces the intellectual history of Venclova's entire poetic generation, its resistance against totalitarianism, as well as poet's personal history.

Kęstutis Nastopka analyzes the paradigm of cultural memory and literary tradition in Venclova's poetry using intertextual perspective. He highlights the most important and influential dialogue partners of Venclova's poetry and the semantic and poetic language codes adopted, absorbed, or transformed by the poet from those partners. In his conclusion, Nastopka refers to Venclova as the European poet who writes in Lithuanian.

The article by Pavel Lavrinec written in Russian extends the intertextual reading of Venclova's poetry, initiated by Nastopka. It analyzes the historically formed multilingual and multicultural Vilnius text. In *Vilnius text* polyphony, the author of the article draws a very Venclovian line, which significantly broadens the concepts of cultural and local memory and the semantics of intertextuality of the first two articles.

The article "Exploring Space and Place in Literature: Towards Digital Analysis and Literary Mapping in the Context of Latvian Cultural History" by Latvian colleagues, Benedikts Kalnačs ir Pauls Daija, which opens up an interesting

insight into the early 20th-century Latvian novel, begins the second component of articles in this issue. Authors raise questions about the possibilities of digital analysis in humanities, the special links with social and historical events in a literary work, and the impact of digital results on a literary canon.

Irina Melnikova in the article “Intermediality, Intermodality and Semiotics” employs the idea of intermediality as *intermodal* relationship introduced by the Scandinavian Lars Elleström, which in turn, is based on Charles S. Peirce’s semiotics, very little known in Lithuania.

Jūratė Levina, who identifies Algirdas Julien Greimas’s three theoretical perspectives on Lithuanian literature and art criticism, in the article “Greimas’s Three Aesthetics” not only describes the differences of those perspectives, but also finds the connections that form the purposeful view in which the Greimas’s three aesthetics meet, establishing the paradigm of the artistic affectiveness of the world.

In the section “Publications,” Ellen Hinsey, Alexander Fiut and Anna Gerasimova return to Venclova, his poetry, translations and poet’s cultural and political stance. Using various perspectives, the contributors reveal less familiar cultural and literary contexts. Looking from the time perspective, they reconstruct the ethical choices and decisions of Venclova and his generation, which according to Hinsey, in today’s context of Western skepticism and lies, have become relevant again.

The *Colloquia* review section has always captured the lively exchange of literary ideas. This issue is no exception. The section, using sound arguments and also embracing the polemic issues and reflections, presents the latest monographs: *Literatūrinė baltistika: Samprata, raida, perspektyvos* by Vigmantas Butkus, *Eduardas Mieželaitis tarp Rytų ir Vakarų* by Elena Baliutytė-Riliškienė, *Apie laiką ir save* by Donatas Sauka, and *The Literary Group “Žagary” and More* by Tadeusz Bujnicki.

In this issue, the discussion section highlights an important issue for the entire humanities academic community, namely, how to introduce and integrate one’s research into the international publishing market. The participants of the discussion, Aušra Jurgutienė, Darius Staliūnas, Dalia Satkauskytė, and Laura Laurušaitė, share their experience on the publishing of Lithuanian-themed historical and literary books abroad, and raises questions about local historical, literary, or cultural research that could significantly contribute to the international arena and become comparable and interesting to the European academic community.

GITANA VANAGAITĖ