The Ghost of Shakespeare
Collected Essays

ANNA FRAJLICH
Edited by RONALD MEYER

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SUMMARY

This volume collects the critical prose of award-winning writer Anna Frajlich. The Ghost of Shakespeare takes its name from Frajlich’s essay on Nobel Prize laureate Wisława Szymborska, but informs her approach as a comparativist more generally as she considers the work of major Polish writers of the twentieth century, including Zbigniew Herbert, Czesław Miłosz, and Bruno Schulz. Frajlich’s study of the Roman theme in Russian Symbolism owes its origins to her stay in the Eternal City, the second stop on her exile from Poland in 1969. The book concludes with autobiographical essays that describe her parents’ dramatic flight from Poland at the outbreak of the war, her own exile from Poland in 1969, settling in New York City, and building her career as a scholar and leading poet of her generation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND EDITOR

Anna Frajlich (Senior Lecturer Emerita) taught Polish language and literature at Columbia University for over three decades. She is author of ten books of poetry and three bilingual editions (English, French, Italian). In 2002 she received The Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit, awarded by the President of the Polish Republic. Frajlich is also the recipient of literary awards from Kościelski Foundation, Turzański Foundation, and the Union of Polish Writers in Exile.

Ronald Meyer is Publications Editor at the Harriman Institute. He teaches the seminar in Russian literary translation at Columbia University.

PRAISE

“Intelligent and inspiring, this book is one of the best testimonials of the enduring intellectual, spiritual and moral impact of letters in our endlessly challenging and perplexing times.”

—Jaroslaw Anders, Polish literary critic and translator

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