

## Abstracts

Bożena Chołuj

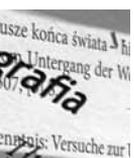
### **Dedecius' versatile play: Translating as an art of living**

The author tries to understand the Dedecius phenomenon by analyzing films about encounters with Dedecius at several opportunities. We see him in the role of a translator and furthermore as a kind of institution in the German-Polish literary cosmos, a leader of translators of Polish literature in Germany. His manners and gestures, his kind of speaking and reciting poems, all that was more than a strategy convincing publishers to bring out a book. It was not less than his way of living. By means of his translations he was expressing his own moods, own passions and his very esthetic preferences. So he was playing the role of himself.

Elvira Grözinger

### **Between the worlds. Polish-Jewish authors translated by Karl Dedecius**

Karl Dedecius (1921-2016), the most famous and fruitful translator of Polish literature into German, was born in Lodz, Poland, in a German family but grew up in contact with the other numerous inhabitants of the city, Poles and Jews. He went to a Polish high school and had no nationalistic prejudices toward other cultures. This was the background on which a mediator could draw from and become a translator and an interpreter after the World War II. Dedecius' favourite authors were Julian Tuwim, his Lodzer compatriot, and the aphorist Stanisław Jerzy Lec, both polonized Jews who play a vital role in the modernization of Polish literature. In often erratic political times under dictatorships, Dedecius was courageous enough to translate also undesirable writers like the exiled and forbidden ones, among them many Jews, under the pretext of political neutrality and of being guided exclusively by quality standards. Having the iron curtain in between, he became a source of first-hand knowledge for the Germans also about the unofficial and underground literature in the neighbouring ex-enemy country. By means of his essays on the character and history of Polish literature, Dedecius, too, was the first one to inform the German readers about the trends and developments in this field. His work is now being continued by younger gifted translators many of them his students, and thanks to him Polish literature stopped to be a "terra incognita" which it was before.



Bernhard Hartmann

**The message of a book - some comments on imperial style in translation on the example of Zbigniew Herbert's Mr Cogito**

This short analysis of Karl Dedecius' work and especially of his translations and german-language edition of Zbigniew Herbert's Cogito-poems focuses on aspects of a kind of literary translation that might be described as imperial – such as the claim for totality and monumentality (manifesting itself e.g. in multi-volume anthologies or in the founding of institutions) or in a “freehand” approach to the source language material according to the translator's interpretation and its intended effects in the target culture.

Karol Sauerland

**My first encounters with Karl Dedecius**

The text is a portrayal of Dedecius' early literary activities in Poland by means of personal encounters, which the author had with Dedecius, first on Warsaw book fair, later on by other opportunities in the frame of German-Polish cultural relations. The author takes such encounters as starting points to give some insights into the sphere of the beginnings of literary project-building between People's Republic of Poland and Western Germany, with its publishers, translators, officials etc. Here, the focus is put on Dedecius' efforts to contact polish writers and the choice he made from the texts for translating.