

Jan Kasprowicz

He was born on December 12, 1860 in Szymbórz near Inowrocław, and died on August 1, 1926 in Zakopane. He was buried first in the Zakopane old cemetery, and then in 1933 in his own mausoleum on Harenda.

Kasprowicz was an outstanding poet, playwright, essayist, critic, translator, publicist, author of, among others volumes: *From the Cottage, The Wild Bush Rose, The Dying World, Salve Regina, and The Book of the Poor.*

Kasprowicz came from a poor, peasant family. First, he studied at the school in Szymbórz, and then at the gymnasium in Inowrocław, where he left a year before graduation. He passed the exam a few years later. He studied at the University of Leipzig. From there he moved to Wrocław, where he got married, but this marriage ended in divorce. He soon lived in Lviv. There he married Jadwiga Gąsowska, with whom he had two daughters - Janina and Anna. In Lviv he worked as an editor, theatre reviewer, and court reporter. He also gave numerous lectures, and collaborated with many magazines. His close friends included Leopold Staff and Kornel Makuszyński. The life in Lviv was very difficult for Kasprowicz, because it was then that his second marriage broke up. In 1906 he settled in Poronin, but he had been coming to Podhale and the Tatras annually for holidays already in the 1890s. His partner during these trips was Walery Eljasz.

In 1909, Kasprowicz was appointed an associate professor of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Lviv and took over the comparative general literature created especially for him. So, he moved back to Lviv. In 1911, he married the daughter of a Russian general, Maria Bunin, who accompanied him to the end of his life, and after his death she took care of the house in Zakopane Harenda, where they lived since 1923. Jan Kasprowicz died in August 1926

In the house of Kasprowicz on Harenda from 1950, there is the artist's museum, and since 1964 the Association of Friends of Creativity Jan Kasprowicz has been operating here.

Prepared by Agnieszka Jurczyńska-Kłosok based on:

R. Loth Kasprowicz Jan: Polish Biographical Dictionary, edited by E. Rostworowski, vol. XII / 2, z. 53, Wrocław - Warszawa - Kraków 1966, pp. 185-190.

Z. Radwańska-Paryska, W. H. Paryski, *Great Tatra Encyclopaedia*, Poronin 2004, pp. 502-503.

Fragments of compositions which can be listened to in the bench:

The Wild Rose Bush in Dark Smears

Welcome, Beloved Mountains (Book of the Poor, I)

Saint George (My World)

The text is read by Andrzej Bienias - Actor of the St. I. Witkiewicz Theatre

Music Jerzy Chruściński- St. I. Witkiewicz Theatre

Recording: Natalia Sosna

The Jan Kasprowicz Museum, ul. Harenda 12a, Zakopane www.harenda.com.pl

Bench project: sculptor Marek Szala

Project implemented under the program: "Popularization of the Zakopane Cultural Heritage"

The project is co-financed from the European Union funds for the Regions

The Operational Program of the Lesser Poland Voivodship for the years 2014-2020. Act 6.1.3

"Development of cultural institutions and access to cultural heritage. "

It was commissioned by the Mayor of the City of Zakopane.