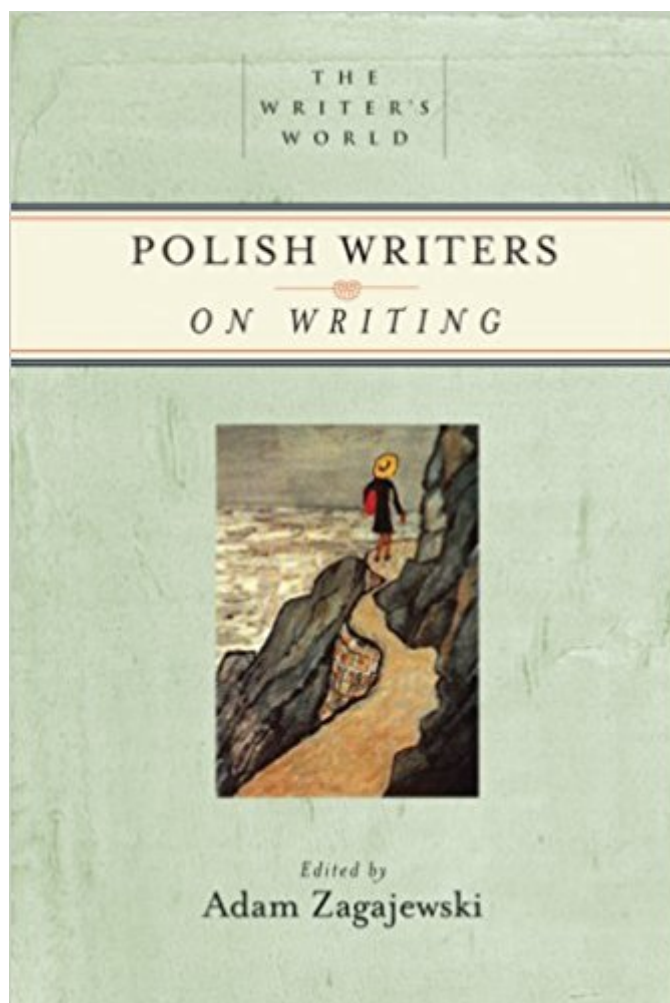


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Polish Writers On Writing (The Writer's World)



Synopsis

Featuring 20th-century writers, including Nobel Prize winners Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska, as well as celebrated poet Zbigniew Herbert and internationally renowned Bruno Schulz, this collection captures the brilliance and originality of a literary culture rightly considered one of the most important and influential of our time. These writers are branded by the political realities of their country — creating literature out of the brutality of the World War II, under the numbing and inhibiting Communist reign, and finally within a free society, but one freighted with the weight of its history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is my second attempt to review this book, so I hope this one works. Though my last name is Polish, I have no idea where my father's family came from, though I was told it was his grandfather who came to America to work in western Pennsylvania coal mines, as my grandfather did as well. I know a fair amount about my mother's family in Italy, and I was raised more Italian than anything. Still, I am curious about what might be another part of my heritage, especially as a writer. So I approached this volume on Polish writing with real hunger. I was hungry for information, and for some sense of what in me might be related to Polish writers--and I got it. In this book, Polish writers write about their writing, the purpose of creating literature, and how this relates to their contemporary culture as well as to Polish literature and culture. There are essays, excerpts of

literary works, and also letters--often the most intimate and interesting. Boleslaw Lesmian (1877-1937) is the first writer in the collection. "But the more we reflect and investigate," he writes, "the more we look more deeply into the essence of the thing and listen to the faint whispers of existence, the more our sense of reality becomes discriminating, the more its field visibly narrows." He reaches for the transcendent. "But beyond the self there exists some tone in the soul: some elemental song without words, waiting for the necessary words to come in a creative hour..." Some of these writers are rigorously logical, others more poetic. Among the most poetic is Bruno Schulz (whose novel, *Sanatorium under the Sign of the Hourglass* was brought to the attention of English language readers when it was included in Philip Roth's "Writers from the Other Europe" series for Penguin in the early 1980s).

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