

LITERATUROZNAWSTWO I KULTUROZNAWSTWO

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WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA AND THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS (1996–2012)¹

Wisława Szymborska is a well-acclaimed Polish poet who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996. The aim of this paper is to examine the press coverage of this event in the most popular British and American daily newspapers. Since there are 1,476 such publications in the USA and 104 in the United Kingdom, this paper will only focus on the three most popular daily newspapers published across the United Kingdom and the USA respectively.² Firstly, a brief characteristic of the British and American press market will be offered in order to shed some light on the reasons for which only some of the newspapers mentioned Wisława Szymborska. Secondly, excerpts from three most popular daily newspapers in both the UK and the USA will be analysed to see how Szymborska was depicted in press publications in these respective regions.

The main research method used in this study is the press content analysis. Thus research paper is mainly concerned with various publications about Wisława Szymborska which can be found in daily newspapers published in the United Kingdom and

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1 The term "British and American newspapers" used in this article refers to opinion-forming daily newspapers published in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It should be stressed that the article presents the results of initial research, therefore the data presented in the text might be incomplete and the analysis shall require further development.

2 Mark Hampton, "The United Kingdom", in *World Press. A Survey of Press Systems Worldwide*, ed. Amanda C. Quick (Detroit: Gale, 2003), 997; Robert Weir, "The United States", in: *World Press Encyclopedia*, 1018.

the United States of America between 1996 and 2012.³ The choice of the date range is related to two significant events the Nobel Prize in Literature being awarded to Szymborska in 1996, and the poet's death in 2012. In this research paper a special emphasis is put on the most popular daily opinion-forming press published in both countries. The data was collected in the press archives or accessed on-line, via official websites of the respective newspapers. The criteria for choosing the three most popular daily newspapers published in the United Kingdom and the United States of America were their circulation as well as their respective press category, which is the distinction between broadsheet newspapers and tabloids or, in other words, mass market format in the United Kingdom, and the national and local categories in the United States of America.⁴ The reason for choosing such criteria was strictly connected to the characteristics of the press markets in the UK and in the USA, which will be also explained further. The daily newspapers analysed in this article are the British papers: *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, and *The Independent*, and the American ones: *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*.⁵ It should be noted that publications about Wisława Szymborska varied across the newspapers in both their form and number. To be more exact, the texts referring to the poet included casual mentions, full articles, reviews, interviews, obituaries as well as publications of her poems, quizzes about her or calendar references.⁶ Most of the newspapers discussed here published at least one article about Szymborska in 1996 when the poet was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, as well as her obituary in 2012. In order to provide the reader with more detailed statistics, it is crucial to perform a more

3 Jacek Kołodziej, *Analiza zawartości mediów*, in: Walery Pisarek, *Słownik terminologii medialnej*. (Kraków: Universitas, 2006), 6–8; Stanisław Bucholc, *Analiza zawartości prasy. Problem teorii badań prasy* (Gdańsk: Gdańskie Wydawnictwo Prasowe, 1975), 7; Walery Pisarek, *Analiza zawartości prasy* (Kraków: Ośrodek Badań Prasoznawczych, 1983).

4 The press categories presented here are discussed in: Hampton, "The United Kingdom", 998–999; Local versus National Papers, *Pew Research Center: Journalism & Media*, <http://www.journalism.org/1998/07/13/local-versus-national-papers/> (accessed March 2016).

5 Average weekday individually paid print circulation of select newspapers in the United States as of September 2015 (in thousands). *Statista. United Kingdom, National Readership Surveys, 2015*, <http://www.statista.com/statistics/272790/circulation-of-the-biggest-daily-newspapers-in-the-us/%20>, accessed March 2016. Monthly reach of national newspapers and their websites in the United Kingdom (UK) from January 2015 to December 2015 (in 1,000 individuals). *Statista. United Kingdom, National Readership Surveys 2015*, <http://www.statista.com/statistics/246077/reach-of-selected-national-newspapers-in-the-uk/>, accessed March 2016.

6 All the poems published in the newspapers were in English. Their translations were usually made by Stanisław Barańczak and Clare Cavanagh, who are both well-known for having translated and popularized the poet's works abroad, especially in the United States of America. There were also some translations by Joanna Trzeciak, who is another translator and populariser of Szymborska's poetry in the USA.

detailed examination of the number of the publications about Szymborska and their forms in each of the newspapers.

As far as *The Telegraph* is concerned, only four texts about the poet have been found in the aforementioned time frame. They included two informative articles about Szymborska, one casual mention and one article in the form of an obituary published in 2012. It must be stated that all statistical data presented below is the outcome of a thorough but, nevertheless, initial research. The data collected from *The Telegraph* could only be traced back as far as the official archives of the newspapers allow, which is January 2000. Therefore, it was impossible to ascertain if there had been any other publications about the poet in the newspaper before that date, especially in 1996 when Szymborska was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. *The Guardian*, on the other hand, published about thirty texts connected to Szymborska, but only six of them were devoted exclusively to the poet, including one obituary and one interview. *The Independent* published three articles about the poet. Two of them were directly related to her receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996, and one concerned her death in 2012.

When it comes to American press, *The Wall Street Journal* published only one, very informative article about the poet when she won the Nobel Prize. *The New York Times*, on the other hand, published altogether twenty-eight articles mentioning Szymborska. The publications included two articles in 1996 concerning Szymborska's Nobel Prize in Literature, as well as two other informative articles about her, several reviews of her volumes of poetry and one obituary of the poet. In short, there were about eight publications devoted exclusively to Szymborska. Publications featuring in *The Los Angeles Times* include two articles about Wisława Szymborska in 1996, one interview with the poet in the same year and one obituary published in 2012. There were also about ten more mentions of the poet, including four reviews of her volumes of poetry and some minor references to her artistic work.

It should be noted that all British newspapers discussed in this article belong to either broadsheet format or quality press, whereas all the American newspapers discussed in the article fall into the national newspaper category. It is important because both quality and national press are predominantly focused on global, cultural, economic or political topics, rather than local or more popular ones.⁷ Noting this fact is of particular importance because, especially in the UK, there are some daily newspapers which rank higher in terms of their circulation rates than the newspapers which are analysed here. Still, they fall into the middle, or mass market press

⁷ Local versus National Papers, *Pew Research Center: Journalism & Media*, <http://www.journalism.org/1998/07/13/local-versus-national-papers/>, accessed March 2016.

category, which focuses primarily on local or popular content.⁸ It is probably for this reason that, despite a thorough research conducted so far, no piece of information about Wisława Szymborska or her poetry has been found in the newspapers falling into the mass market or local press categories, except for a minor re-print of a short article from another press source in *The Michigan Daily* in the USA. It should be also noted that when it comes to the press market in the USA, daily newspapers could be characterized as either belonging to the national or local category, depending on their predominant area of focus.⁹ A good example of a daily American newspaper is *The Washington Post*, which will not be analysed here since it focuses on local issues and American politics rather than literature. Due to that fact, it should come as no surprise that pieces on Wisława Szymborska published in *The Washington Post* were rather limited, especially while compared to *The New York Times* or *The Los Angeles Times*, which are considered national newspapers in terms of their range and focus. Therefore, the reason why the articles about Wisława Szymborska were published only in the quality or national press must be connected to the very characteristics of the national or broadsheet newspapers. Content concerning poetry or literary prizes is perceived as high culture, and thus expected to be published in broadsheet or national newspapers, such as *The Guardian* or *The New York Times*. Since all of the newspapers discussed above featured some articles about the Polish poet, they will be closely analysed below.

The Telegraph is one of the most popular British newspapers and is known for its conservative bend, although it has recently become slightly more liberal.¹⁰ The official website of the newspaper allows access to the articles published in *The Telegraph*, including *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, both of which are directed at different readers but are all known under one name (especially in reference to the online edition).¹¹ *The Telegraph* published several articles about Szymborska, all of which were very positive. These pieces provided a wider context about the poet's life and work, including opinions about her and quotations from her poems. The newspaper praised Szymborska for her use of "simple words" and creating "playful verse." It pointed to the fact that the Nobel Prize "brought a 'revolution' to the life of the modest poet," who then had to fight to protect her privacy. The newspaper also noted that Szymborska's verse "was subtle, deep and often hauntingly beautiful." *The Telegraph*

8 Hampton, "The United Kingdom", 998–999.

9 Local versus National Papers, *Pew Research Center: Journalism & Media*, accessed March 2016, <http://www.journalism.org/1998/07/13/local-versus-national-papers/>.

10 Bryan Curtis, "Strange Days at the *Daily Telegraph*", *Slate*, 25.10.2006, accessed April 2006, http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/letter_fromlondon/2006/10/paper_tiger.html.

11 *The Telegraph*, www.telegraph.co.uk.

appreciated that the poet made use of “simple objects and detailed observation to reflect on larger truths.”¹² The newspaper sought to briefly analyse the phenomenon of Szymborska. It informed its readers that, even in Poland, the poet’s popularity grew only after she had won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996. The newspaper also referred to Szymborska’s own statement in which she emphasized how “irrelevant” could “poetry seem to a community.” The newspaper even suggested that it was probably due to the relatively small popularity of poetry and its seeming irrelevance that Szymborska had been hardly known abroad before being awarded the prize.¹³ Still, the newspaper admired the poet for her “constant call of ‘I don’t know’” as well as her “wonder at the beauty of the world and its civilisation”.¹⁴ Moreover, the newspaper reflected upon Szymborska’s poetry “that was censored for being at odds with the prevailing dogmas.” It suggested that under the communist regime Szymborska decided to create poetry in which she praised Lenin. Still, as *The Telegraph* implied, the poet also used her poems “to mock the mighty” by comparing Stalin to a gigantic snowman in one of her poems.¹⁵

The Guardian, a popular centre-left British newspaper printed in a smaller format, but categorized as belonging to the broadsheet press category,¹⁶ published quite a few articles about Szymborska, including some publications connected with The Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996, an interview with the poet in 2000 and her obituary in 2012. In the first article, which was published when Szymborska was awarded the prize, she was introduced as the poet who was “little known in Western Europe”.¹⁷ *The Guardian* suggested that being awarded such an important prize was about to change the poet’s literary status. The articles about Szymborska were published not only in connection to the Nobel Prize of 1996, but also a few years later, when she was interviewed by James Hopkin, a journalist who had been writing texts about books and culture for *The Guardian* since 1998.¹⁸ In the interview, the newspaper provided

12 “Wisława Szymborska, Nobel-prize winning Polish poet, dies at 88”, *The Telegraph*, 2.02. 2012, accessed October 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/9055887/Wisława-Szymborska-Nobel-prize-winning-Polish-poet-dies-at-88.html>.

13 “Wisława Szymborska”, *The Telegraph*, 26.03.2012, accessed October 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/culture-obituaries/books-obituaries/9168079/Wisława-Szymborska.html>.

14 Ibidem.

15 Martin Chilton, “Nobel winner left behind new poems”, *The Telegraph*, 03.02.2012, accessed April 2016, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/booknews/9059016/Nobel-winner-left-behind-new-poems.html>.

16 Matt Wells, “World writes to undecided voters”, *The Guardian*, 16.10.2004, accessed April 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/oct/16/uselections2004.usa2>.

17 “An unlikely alliance of Krakow and Essex yesterday helped a 73-year-old writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature”, *The Guardian*, 4.10. 1996, 3.

18 James Hopkin, *James Hopkin*, accessed February 2016, <http://www.jameshopkin.org/biography.html>.

its readers with a closer look at Szymborska's private personality. It quoted the poet's opinions on life and its "rich [...] variety" pointing to her "charm" and "sense of mischief," and briefly depicting major facts from the poet's life. Hopkin referred to Szymborska with deep respect, calling her "the Greta Garbo of verse." He depicted Szymborska's poetry as dealing with everyday topics with "simplicity" free from "cynicism or sentiment," and appreciated the poet's experience. Hopkin stated that "there is a complexity at work beneath her economy." He referred to her popularity in Poland and called her "an icon" as well as "everyone's favourite literary grandmother." In his opinion, Szymborska's seemingly simple and unforgettable poems constitute "a poetry of approaches rather than reproaches."¹⁹ Alison Flood, on the other hand, who regularly writes articles about literature for *The Guardian*, analysed the poet's style and areas of interests. Flood provided quotes from her poems and appreciated Szymborska's ability to remain devoted to poetry and the creative process, despite noticing its limitations. The author mentioned Szymborska's brief romance with socialist realism, but simultaneously stated that the poet quickly changed her mind and started to "mock communism in later collections."²⁰ In brief, the newspaper appreciated the poet's unique talent and devoted a number informative articles to her, presenting the poet in a very positive and realistic way.

The Independent, another centre-left daily newspaper published in the UK, was not as rich in publications about Szymborska as *The Guardian*.²¹ It only published some information about the poet right after she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature (two articles), and a few days after her death (one article). Interestingly, one of the articles was written by David Aaronovitch, who had met Szymborska in person and became friends with her. He welcomed the verdict of the Swedish Academy in 1996 with tears of joy, as he stated that it was "long overdue" and praised its members for their decision, indicating that it must have taken "enormous discrimination and attention to detail to pluck from obscurity an elderly central European, unknown outside her own country."²² Like other British newspapers, *The Independent* also provided its readers with brief biographical data and a depiction of Szymborska's poetic style. It

19 James Hopkin, "Alone with the Greta Garbo of verse", *The Guardian*, 15.07.2000, accessed February 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2000/jul/15/poetry.features>.

20 Alison Flood, "Wisława Szymborska, 'Mozart of poetry', dies aged 88", *The Guardian*, 2.02. 2012, accessed February 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/feb/02/wislawa-szymborska-dies-88>.

21 "Smutny dzień dla dziennikarstwa: *The Independent* po raz ostatni ukazał się w druku", *Wirtualna Polska*, 26.03.2016, accessed April 2016, http://wiadomosci.wp.pl/martykul.html?kat=1356&wid=18236939&ticaid=11748a&_ticrsn=3.

22 David Aaronovitch, "O Noble Jurors!", *The Independent*, 5.10.1996, accessed April 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/incoming/oh-noble-jurors-5417864.html>.

appreciated the poet's "brilliance" of vision and "gentle irony and humour."²³ *The Independent* also indicated that "her work's stylistic variation" could be very problematic for translators, as her unique and rigid style was not easy to interpret.²⁴ The echoes of the Nobel Prize awarded to Szymborska in 1996 were evident in *The Independent* not only in the fact that the newspaper published articles about the poet, but also in the fact that it did so in a well-informed and well-structured way, presenting significant information concerning the poet's life. It also quoted fragments of Szymborska's poems, so that the readers could get familiar with her unique and elegant style.

The subsequent paragraphs of this article shall be devoted the way the poet was depicted in the American newspapers. However, first a brief introduction into the American press market is necessary. It is important to note that the American press market is larger than that in the United Kingdom. This article will only focus on the three most popular daily American newspapers belonging to the global press market, due to the fact that there were publications about Szymborska in most of the national newspapers, but almost none in the local ones. It should be noted that the most popular daily newspapers in the USA, such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Los Angeles Times*, are also widely recognized world-wide. As such, those newspapers often mention international, prestigious literary and cultural events and awards, such as the Nobel Prize in Literature or the Man Booker Prize. Therefore, the fact that these top American newspapers have their own literary critics and special cultural or literary sections would result in a bigger number of publications about Szymborska and the Nobel Prize in Literature in *The New York Times* or in *The Los Angeles Times*, than in *The Wall Street Journal*, for example.

The most popular daily newspaper in the USA is *The Wall Street Journal*, which is recognized world-wide.²⁵ It is a financial newspaper with "a generally conservative bent" and it is predominantly focused on issues related to economy and finance, rather than literature or poetry.²⁶ Even though the newspaper does publish some book reviews, they usually regard personal development, financial contexts or other business-oriented topics.²⁷ Hence, it should come as no surprise that just one piece of information about Wisława Szymborska was published in *The Wall Street Jour-*

23 Jarosław Adamowski, "Wisława Szymborska: Poet who won the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature", *The Independent*, 6.02.2012, accessed: April 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/wislawa-szymborska-poet-who-won-the-1996-nobel-prize-for-literature-6534516.html>.

24 Aaronovitch, "O Noble Jurors!"

25 "Circulation of select newspapers in the U.S. 2015", Statista, accessed April 2016, <http://www.statista.com/statistics/272790/circulation-of-the-biggest-daily-newspapers-in-the-us/>.

26 Weir, "The United States", 1023.

27 *The Wall Street Journal*, <http://www.wsj.com>.

nal in the discussed time period. The article from 1996 informed the readers that it was Szymborska that won the Nobel Prize in Literature and it depicted the poet's long literary evolution, providing the readers with some of the most significant biographical data about Szymborska. The newspaper quoted recognizable fragments of her three poems: *Evaluation of an Unwritten Poem*, *View with a Grain of Sand* and *Maybe All This*, and provided rather brief but thought-provoking analysis of the verses.²⁸ Interestingly, the article suggested that Szymborska had "popped up at Nobel time as a potential candidate for years" and that she "made seeking words her life's work." The newspaper briefly reflected on Szymborska's attempts "to conform to communist-sponsored doctrines of social-realism," which were evident in her poetry before 1957.²⁹ Even though the space devoted to Szymborska in this newspaper seems rather limited when compared to *The New York Times* or *The Los Angeles Times*, the words of praise on Szymborska's poetry clearly confirm that the Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to the poet in 1996 was also a significant piece of news for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Another popular American newspaper is *The New York Times*, also known for its in-depth research practices.³⁰ Despite the attempts of *The New York Times* to avoid any particular political leaning, it is often considered as being slightly liberal.³¹ The newspaper mentioned Wisława Szymborska multiple times in its various publications, usually in pieces on major events, such as the Nobel Prize in Literature, the publication of a new volume of her poetry (translated into English) or the poet's death. *The New York Times* published an article informing that Szymborska won the Nobel Prize in 1996. It called Szymborska "self-effacing" and referred to her as the "Observer of Daily Life."³² *The New York Times* also quoted people like Czesław Miłosz (who was a Nobel Prize laureate in 1980) or Jan Pieszcachowicz and Beata Chmiel (Polish literary critics and popularisers of Szymborska's poetry in English-speaking literary circles). *The New York Times* also quoted Edward Hirsch (a famous American poet and literary critic) in order to provide the readers with a context. It depicted Szym-

28 Amy Gamerman, "Pole Wins Nobel Literature Prize", *The Wall Street Journal*, 4.10.1996, reprinted in: *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, ed. Deborah A. Stanley, Vol. 99 (Gale, 1997).

29 Ibidem.

30 *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>.

31 New York Times, Washington Post, and Local Newspapers Seen as Having Liberal Bias, *Rasmussen Reports*, July 2007, accessed April 2016, https://web.archive.org/web/20080307061018/http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/general_current_events/media/new_york_times_washington_post_and_local_newspapers_seen_as_having_liberal_bias.

32 Jane Perlez, "Polish Poet, Observer of Daily Life, Wins Nobel", *The New York Times*, 4.10.1996, accessed April 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/10/04/books/polish-poet-observer-of-daily-life-wins-nobel.html?pagewanted=all>.

borska's biography, and the historical as well as cultural contexts of her poems. The newspaper briefly summarized the content of her major poem collections. It quoted the people mentioned above and sought to appreciate the poet's authenticity and evolution. Even though *The New York Times* also mentioned the fact that Szymborska "went through a Stalinist phase," it did it in a highly objective and professional way. The newspaper also quoted Edward Hirsch's words alluding to one of Szymborska's poems. Hirsch indicated that even though Szymborska did have a brief romance with Communism, she had eventually concluded that "believing in Communism was like believing in the Abominable Snowman: neither offered human warmth or artistic comfort."³³ The articles appearing in *The New York Times* differed in style from the publications in other newspapers. They provided the readers with a lot more quotations, representing the opinions of Szymborska herself. They also provided quotes from various other people who were familiar with the poet's work and could provide the readers with some historical or cultural context. *The New York Times* emphasized the fact that Szymborska intended her poetry to be "personal rather than political". They noted that she kept avoiding crowds also after receiving the award.³⁴

The last American newspaper discussed here is *The Los Angeles Times*.³⁵ It is considered liberal and it published several well-written and informative articles about Szymborska. Some also provided opinions from various people, like Czesław Miłosz or Woody Allen. All the articles in *The Los Angeles Times* presented the poet as a "reclusive" and modest person "whose seductively simple verse has captured the wit and wisdom of everyday life for the past half century."³⁶ The newspaper published articles about Szymborska in connection to the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996, reviews of her poetry collections, and her death in 2012. The newspaper briefly mentioned that, before being awarded the Nobel Prize, Szymborska was "often overshadowed in Polish literary circles by poets Zbigniew Herbert and Tadeusz Różewicz," who were also considered as potential "Nobel contenders."³⁷ The newspaper cited some fragments of Szymborska's poems, such as *Children of Our Age* or *Cat in the Empty Apartment*, and depicted the poet as being "clear and bold." The newspaper also quoted Woody Allen, who stated that Szymborska's poetry is "able to capture

33 Ibidem.

34 Raymond Anderson, "Wisława Szymborska, Nobel-Winning Polish Poet, Dies at 88", *The New York Times*, 1.02.2012, accessed April 2016, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/02/books/wislawaszymborska-nobel-winning-polish-poet-dies-at-88.html?_r=0.

35 *The Los Angeles Times*, <http://www.latimes.com>.

36 Dean E. Murphy, "Reclusive Polish poet awarded Nobel Prize", *Los Angeles Times*, 4.10.1996, accessed April 2016, http://articles.latimes.com/1996-10-04/news/mn-50258_1_nobel-prize.

37 Ibidem.

the pointlessness and sadness of life, but somehow [is] still affirmative.”³⁸ What is more, the newspaper also published an interview with Szymborska a few days after she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. The interview was conducted by Dean Murphy, who spoke with Szymborska in Polish. It covered topics such as Szymborska’s “instant fame” as a poet, her privacy, and Szymborska’s poetry and reasons for “praising communism” in her early works.

In conclusion, popular British and American newspapers which fall into either national or broadsheet category published informative articles about Wisława Szymborska. They did so predominantly when the poet was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Other significant occasions which were rendered worthy of press coverage were book reviews of her poetry and the poet’s death. Other newspapers, especially those that could be categorised as local or belonging to the tabloid format, usually remained silent about the Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to the poet. This is due to the fact that these newspapers are focused on local issues, or are interested in a completely different type of information: scandals, celebrity life, or controversies, rather than literary awards and high culture. All things considered, it may be concluded that when it comes to the quality press in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the event of awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature to Wisława Szymborska received a significant attention of the press. The articles devoted to this piece of news shed light on the poet’s biography and depicted her as a talented and reclusive poet, who possessed a unique ability to reflect on life in a simple, yet powerful way.

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38 Elaine Woo, “Wisława Szymborska dies at 88; Nobel-winning Polish poet”, *Los Angeles Times*, 03.02.2012, accessed April 2016, <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/feb/03/local/la-me-wislawas-szymborska-20120203>.

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WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA AND THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE IN BRITISH
AND AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS (1996–2012)

Summary

The article presents the results of research concerning materials covering the fact of awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature to Wisława Szymborska, which were published in daily, opinion-forming press across the United Kingdom and the United States of America between 1996 and 2012. The source materials (mentions, articles, reviews, interviews, obituaries) were found in the three most popular British (*The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*) and American (*The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*) newspapers. In both British and American press sources Szymborska was introduced as a smart, witty, and pleasant person, as well as a talented poet who could depict human existence and current political issues in an elegant and discreet way.

Keywords: Wisława Szymborska, the Nobel Prize in Literature, British and American press, Polish poetry in the 20th century

WISŁAWA SZYMBORSKA I ECHA LITERACKIEJ NAGRODY NOBLA W PRASIE
BRYTYJSKIEJ I AMERYKAŃSKIEJ W LATACH 1996–2012. REKONESANS

Streszczenie

Artykuł przedstawia wyniki poszukiwań materiałów na temat Nagrody Nobla w dziedzinie literatury przyznanej Wisławie Szymborskiej, opublikowanych w codziennej prasie opinio-twórczej na terenie Wielkiej Brytanii i Stanów Zjednoczonych Ameryki Północnej w latach 1996–2012. Materiał źródłowy (informacje, artykuły, recenzje, wywiady, nekrologi) pochodzi z trzech najbardziej poczytnych gazet brytyjskich (*The Telegraph*, *The Guardian* oraz *The Independent*) i amerykańskich (*The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*). Zarówno w brytyjskim, jak i amerykańskim kręgu kulturowym Szymborska była przedstawiana czytelnikom jako osoba mądra, dowcipna i sympatyczna oraz jako uzdolniona poetka, która potrafi językiem dyskretnym i eleganckim wypowiedzieć się na temat egzystencji ludzkiej i aktualnych wydarzeń politycznych.

Słowa kluczowe: Wisława Szymborska, Nagroda Nobla w dziedzinie literatury, prasa brytyjska i amerykańska, poezja polska XX wieku

