Different – but still Forefathers' Eve How Mickiewicz wandered to the Ainu

Background - description of the Polish-Ainu Forefathers' Eve Project

The Project was realized in year 2022.

The mission of the project was to transfer and clash the paradigm of the Polish romantic vision of the world with the archaic vision of the universe and the Ainu oikos, living in constant communication with the spiritual world of nature and the spirits that inhabit it.

At the same time, it aimed at the **reviving of memories of the Ainu people in Hokkaido** (some of them forcibly re-located in the beginning of the 20th Century).

It also was aimed at giving artistic impulse to Polish-Ainu-Japanese cooperation projects that have been developing for several years. Another goal was to promote the contemporary music compositional work of women (Joanna Maklakiewicz).

<u>Key words of the project</u>: the Ainu, Poles, memory of ethnos, living romanticism, cultural identity, two-layered structure of the world (real and spiritual), ritual of remembrance of ancestors, song as a carrier of memory, Polish romantic paradigm - defense of the weaker against the powerful, spirit of creative disobedience, spirit of the earth, contemporary music, heritage of Bronisław Piłsudski

Partners of the Project:

Sapporo Freedom School - a civic initiative in Hokkaido aimed at activating Ainu communities, shaping civic attitudes, cooperating with other ethnic minorities of the North (Saami in Finland), anthropologists, sociologists, artists;

Hokkaido-Poland Cultural Association - Japanese association working to popularize knowledge about Poland and its culture, cooperating with Poles working in Hokkaido,

Menoko Mosmos [Girls, Wake up!] Ainu Women Association - Ainu women's group working for years on building identity (ethnic and feminine), cooperating with Poland (Amareya Theatre);

Kayano Shigeru Nibutani Ainu Museum in Biratori - Ainu Museum in the village where Bronisław Piłsudski and Wacław Sieroszewski conducted research in 1903;

Polish Institute in Tokyo (Polish Embassy in Tokyo)

The Project was financed by the **Adam Mickiewicz Institute** in Poland.

Different – but still Forefathers' Eve How Mickiewicz wandered to the Ainu Edited by Jadwiga Rodowicz-Czechowska, Ph.D.

Contents of the book

- Acknowledgements
- Personal word
- About the ceremony of Dziady (Forefathers' Eve) and the Ainu custom of Shinnurappa and icharpa
- Romantic values, traces, "silent apparition" (a Revenant Spirit) literary contexts
- Project progress description of stages
 - 1. Proposition, gathering of participants, online meetings and webinars; distribution of texts.
 - 2. First public reading on July 3 in Sapporo by members of the Society of Hokkaido-Poland Culture Association, Adam Mickiewicz's drama *Forefathers' Eve* translated into Japanese by T. Sekiguchi; reflections of the participants
 - 3. Preparation for the Second performative reading *Polish-Ainu Forefathers' Eve* _*Shinnurappa_Kunnenisat* on 22 November 2022;
- Text of the script (in Japanese, Ainu, English paralell)
- M. Ptaszynski Ph. D. Artificial Intelligence in Service of Translation into Vanishing Languages (script of the drama as translated into the Ainu by the AI)

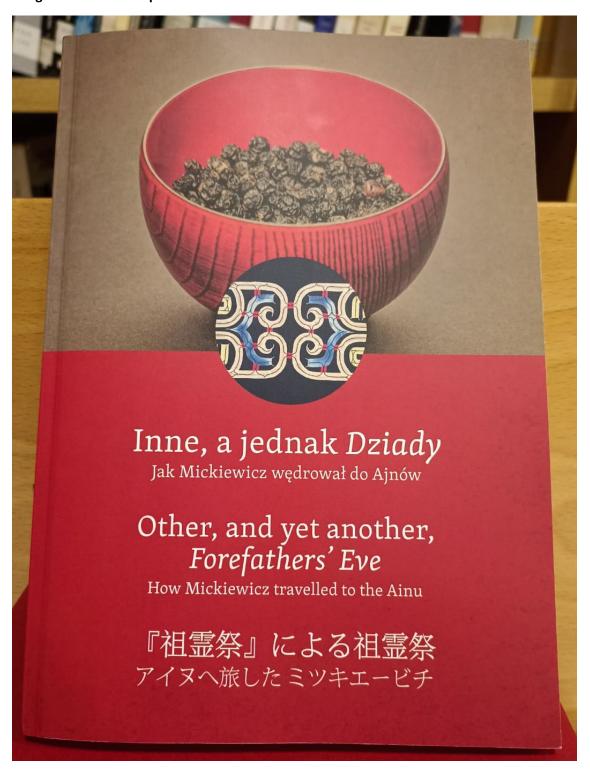
Reflections on the project – a Summary

- Prof. Sekiguchi (author of the translation of Mickiewicz into Japanese)
- Joanna Maklakiewicz (composer) notes of the composition "The Lullaby of Bronisław"
- Ryoko Tahara Ainu activist, expert, translator, performer
- Masako Kawanami the Ainu performer
- Kyoko Kagaya the Ainu performer
- Kimiko Naraki the Ainu performer
- Dr. Katarzyna Pastuszak Ph.D. University teacher, director of the Polish theatre Amareya, performer
- Prof. Hiroshi Maruyama head of the CEMiPoS (Center for Environmental and Minority Policy Studies, Sapporo
- Prof. Atsushi Ando Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University, President of the Hokkaido-Poland Culture Association

The book

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Images of the book as published



[...] Poprzez historię Bronisława Piłsudskiego poznajemy tragiczne losy Polski i Polaków zsyłanych na tułaczkę po Syberii, ale także bogaty świat Ajnów, jaki odkrywamy za sprawą badań i życia Bronisława Piłsudskiego na Hokkaido. Wspaniale jest obserwować jak polska dusza Romantyzmu przenika do świata Dalekiego Wschodu i łączy się z duchami ajnuskich przodków. Hokkaido okazało się idealną scenerią dla "Dziadów polsko-ajnuskich".

To zaszczyt i przyjemność wspierać tak wyjątkowy projekt artystyczny, subtelnie i duchowo łączący Polskę i Japonię. Gratuluję Autorom przedsięwzięcia i wszystkim osobom, które wzięty w nim udział. Szczególne podziękowania kieruję do Pani Ambasador Jadwigi Rodowicz-Czechowskiej, której artystyczna dusza jest sercem tego projektu.

Urszula Osmycka Dyrektor Instytutu Polskiego w Tokio



[...] Ogromnie cieszę się, że mogliśmy zrealizować dość nietypowy jak na muzeum projekt artystyczny, zacieśniający po raz kolejny więzi między Polakami i przedstawicielami społeczności Ajnów na Hokkaido, w dalekiej Japonii.

Wyrażam wdzięczność instytucjom, dzięki którym realizacja tego projektu była możliwa, zatem Instytutowi Adama Mickiewicza, Instytutowi Polskiemu w Tokio oraz Towarzystwu Miłośników Kultury Polskiej na Hokkaido.

dr Robert Andrzejczyk

Dyrektor Muzeum Józefa Piłsudskiego w Sulejówku

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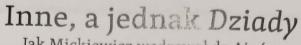
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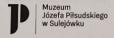
Jak Mickiewicz wędrował do Ajnów

Other, and yet another, Forefathers' Eve

How Mickiewicz travelled to the Ainu

『祖霊祭』による祖霊祭 アイヌへ旅したミツキエービチ

PRACA ZBIOROWA POD REDAKCJĄ DR JADWIGI RODOWICZ-CZECHOWSKIEJ



Sulejówek 2023