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# "Melville w kontekstach, czyli prolegomena do studiów melvillistycznych", Paweł Jędrzejko, [b.m.] 2007 : [recenzja]

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.



poet Aimé Césaire, as well as Jacques Romain, co-founder of Les Indigènes. Turning, finally, to the Anglophone Caribbean, Patterson describes how Wilson Harris and Derek Walcott adapted the styles of Whitman, Eliot, Pound, and Crane to recover an unwritten history of their region. This book will be of interest to the scholarly audience for American and African-American literature, experimental modernism, postcolonialism, and Caribbean poetry.

***Płynność i egzystencja. Doświadczenie lądu i morza a myśl Hermana Melville'a***

[*Liquidity and Existence: The Experience of the Land and the Sea in Herman Melville's Thought*]

By Paweł Jędrzejko, forthcoming, BananaArtPI/ExMachina/M-Studio, 2007, ca. 360 p.

Liquidity and solidity, the human and the inhuman, existence and experience, philosophy and literature – these are the key concepts of the reflections of Jędrzejko's forthcoming book. In its most general dimension, his important study aims at a revision of Herman Melville's *oeuvre* in an alternative perspective from those adopted by scholars representing traditional (canonical) critical approaches. In his book, he endeavors to show Melville not only (and certainly not exclusively) as a romantic writer, but as a 19th-century thinker, who evolved a unique philosophy of existence, communicable through the language of romantic literature, and thus to present him not as an author of "creative fiction," but as a philosopher rooted in the climate of his epoch and striving to discover and communicate the truth of the world – and of the human within it.

A meticulously organized sequence of theoretical and analytical chapters allows one to locate Melville's thought within the broad spectrum of Western existentialist thought and makes the revision of the historical conditioning of the evolution of the existentialist trends in the space of the American thought of 20th and 21st centuries possible. The book's final chapter offers considerations on Herman Melville-the thinker in the context of a broad reflection on liquidity, passage of time, and tranquility born out of philosophical search for "good faith." The existentialist digression on Melville and the ultimate matters, offered in lieu of conclusions, serves as an invitation to reflect upon the art of living: the serene art of making sense of one's own existence against ubiquitous liquidity, which painfully marks the human condition with the brand of uncertainty. (<http://www.jedrzejko.eu/index.php?k=389#eng>)

***Melville w kontekstach, czyli prolegomena do studiów melvillistycznych***

[*Melville in Contexts. Prolegomena to Melvillean Studies*]

By Paweł Jędrzejko, BananaArtPI/ExMachina/M-Studio, 2007, 157 p.

In writing his *Melville in Contexts*, Jędrzejko was driven by the hope that the synthesis it offers might become the source of inspiration for Polish literary scholars and stu-

dents of literature and culture and thus, trigger processes leading to the eradication of the yawning gap in the Polish Americanist bibliography. The present *Prolegomena*, the first full-fledged academic book in Polish dedicated solely to Melville, were created to serve an ancillary function: the book, informed by its author's original vision of Melville-the-thinker, collects information compiled on the basis of research carried out throughout the past century by numerous Melvilleans: literary scholars, biographers and historians alike, whose work is either completely unknown to the Polish reader—or its circulation is limited to a narrow group of specialists.

The synthesis offered here does not presume to replace or substitute works by eminent Melville scholars from all over the world: conversely, in response to the need for reliable information concerning the writer, the present book proposes a convenient starting point for further, in-depth research and facilitates navigation through the different trends of Melville studies, especially those deriving from the USA. It will be extremely useful to scholars with beginning interests in Melville, students of literature (especially graduate and post-graduate students working on dissertations), teachers of 19th-century American literature, and Melville fans. This introductory synthesis may prove to be useful in temporarily filling the existing void in the Polish scholarly bibliography regarding this author, thus potentially inspiring Polish studies on the life and work of one of the most eminent thinkers and writers of the 19th century. (<http://www.jedrzejko.eu/index.php?k=388>)

***New World Poetics: Nature and the Adamic Imagination in Whiteman, Neruda, and Walcott,***

By George Handley, forthcoming, University of Georgia Press, 2007.

A simultaneously ecocritical and comparative study, *New World Poetics* plumbs the earthly depth and social breadth of the poetry of Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda, and Derek Walcott, three of the Americas' most ambitious and epic-minded poets. In Whitman's call for a poetry of New World possibility, Neruda's invocation of an "American love," and Walcott's reinvestment in the poetic ironies of an American epic, the adamic imagination of their poetry does not reinvent the mythical Garden that stands before history's beginnings but instead taps the foundational powers of language before a natural world deeply imbued with the traces of human time. Theirs is a postlapsarian Adam seeking a renewed sense of place in a biocentric and cross-cultural New World through nature's capacity for regeneration in the wake of human violence and suffering. This book introduces the environmental history of the Americas and its relationship to the foundation of American and Latin American studies, explores its relevance to each poet's ambition to recuperate the New World's lost histories, and provides a transnational poetics of understanding literary influence and textual simultaneity in the Americas. This study provides in-depth ecocritical readings