

## "Barbaric" and "Civilized". Polish and World Writers in an Intercultural Dialogue on Poetry.

The Polish and Czech Studies sections of the Faculty of Philosophy and Literature at the Free University of Brussels (ULB) and the editors of *Rocznik Komparatystyczny* (*Yearbook of Comparative Literature*) are pleased to invite you to the international conference "**Barbaric and Civilized**". *Polish and World Writers in an Intercultural Dialogue on Poetry*." The conference is organized in close collaboration with the Polish Studies section of the KU Leuven, the Cultural Section of the Polish Embassy in Brussels, and the Philixte Research Group.

From Antiquity through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, the division of the world in a civilized part and a part inhabited by barbarians has served as a site for the construction of cultural norms, at the interface of colliding perceptions of reality and conflicting patterns of behavior. This exciting confrontation between the "barbaric" and the "civilized" has found one of its major forms of expression in poetry, which has functioned for centuries as "the carrier of civilization". Therefore, poetry and the discourse about poetry are at the center of our interest and should allow us to open up a wide range of (historical, critical, literary, artistic) perspectives on the tension between civilization and barbarism.

We are looking forward to proposals dealing with the image of the "barbarian" and "civilized man" or seeking to redefine the notion of "barbarism" and "civilization" in poetic discourse, in diachronic and synchronic terms alike or in the context of modernity in its broadest sense. Who is a barbarian, and what is barbarism? What are the indicators of today's civilization? Where should we situate the "civilizational" discourse of Polish authors on the map of world literature? How do poetic genres cope with new parameters of civilization? These and other related questions, with a particular focus on comparative issues, will be subject of debate at the *Barbaric & Civilized* conference. The conference will be combined with a range of literary events and will take place November 30 and December 1, 2012, at the Free University of Brussels. We invite you to submit your abstracts and thematic proposals (approx. 300 characters) to [barbaricandcivilized@ulb.ac.be](mailto:barbaricandcivilized@ulb.ac.be), by May 5 at the latest. The conference languages will be English and Polish, the language of the subsequent publication will be English. The authors of the selected proposals will be asked to submit a draft of their paper (up to 15 pages) three months prior to the conference. Final versions of the articles will be compiled after the conference.