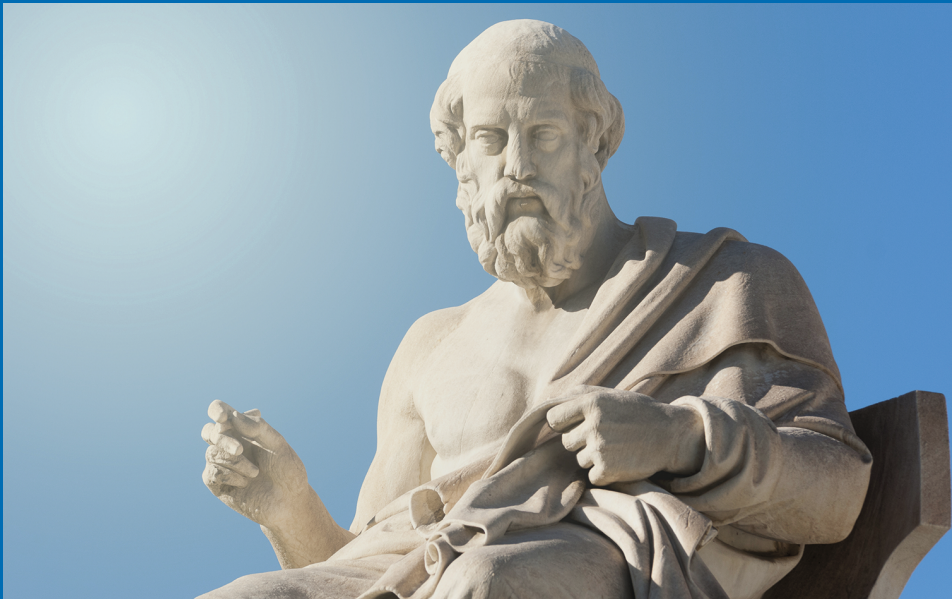


Tomasz Mróz


# Plato in Poland 1800–1950

Types of Reception – Authors – Problems



ACADEMIA

<https://doi.org/10.5771/9783896659477-1>, am 04.08.2024, 22:24:07

Open Access –  – <https://www.nomos-elibrary.de/agb>

**Tomasz Mróz**

# **Plato in Poland 1800–1950**

Types of Reception – Authors – Problems



**ACADEMIA**

This work was funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (Poland) as a project *Plato in Poland 1800–1950* (21H 16 0065 84) within the National Programme for the Development of Humanities 2017–2021 (NPRH Uniwersalia 2.1).



**NATIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITIES**

© Coverpicture: araelf – stock.adobe.com

Language editing by Una Maclean-Hańckowiak

**The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek** lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

ISBN 978-3-89665-946-0 (Print)  
978-3-89665-947-7 (ePDF)

**British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-3-89665-946-0 (Print)  
978-3-89665-947-7 (ePDF)

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Mróz, Tomasz  
Plato in Poland 1800–1950  
Types of Reception – Authors – Problems  
Tomasz Mróz  
480 pp.  
Includes bibliographic references.

ISBN 978-3-89665-946-0 (Print)  
978-3-89665-947-7 (ePDF)



Onlineversion  
Nomos eLibrary

1st Edition 2021

© Academia Verlag within Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, Germany 2021.  
Overall responsibility for manufacturing (printing and production) lies with Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG.

This work is subject to copyright. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publishers. Under § 54 of the German Copyright Law where copies are made for other than private use a fee is payable to “Verwertungsgesellschaft Wort”, Munich.

No responsibility for loss caused to any individual or organization acting on or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication can be accepted by Nomos or the author.

Visit our website  
**[www.academia-verlag.de](http://www.academia-verlag.de)**

## Preface for international readers

This book, which I now have the pleasure of presenting to international readers, was originally written and published in Polish (*Platon w Polsce 1800–1950. Typy recepcji – autorzy – problemy*, Wydawnictwo Marek Derewiecki, Kęty, 2012) and initially intended for historians of philosophy researching Poland's philosophical tradition and for experts in ancient philosophy who felt the need to find out more about the history of their own research area. The book was the final outcome of a research project funded by the Polish government and carried out in the period 2008 to 2011. I then submitted the book as one of the requirements for the procedure of granting me my postdoctoral degree (habilitation) in 2014. An integral part of the research project was the publication of an anthology of texts that reflected the main trends and research areas of Polish Plato scholarship (Mróz, 2010). These texts were difficult to access at that time and some even had to be retrieved from manuscripts.

The aim of the English version of the book is to present a kind of map of the history of Polish research on Plato to international readers. I was encouraged to undertake this project on account of the more marked interest in Polish philosophy in recent decades, with works on the history of philosophy in Poland being increasingly published in English, and also in German or French. Most frequently these works have focused on the philosophers of the Lvov-Warsaw school or on specific currents of reception of foreign philosophies in Poland, such as 19<sup>th</sup> century Polish Hegelianism. A separate set of studies available in Western European languages consists of works on the history of medieval and early modern thought in Poland, but the attention of international audiences has also been drawn to some outstanding figures of Polish philosophy, e.g. Wincenty Lutosławski, Leon Chwistek or Władysław Tatarkiewicz, who cannot be unequivocally classified into any particular trends of their times. At the same time, it seemed to me that a presentation of the Polish reception of Plato's philosophy would be of some value for foreign researchers, especially as this reception reflects a more complex image of Poland's philosophical tradition, and in some cases includes less well-known works and figures. My intention was to supplement the general image of Polish philosophy in an important area of the history of philosophical studies on Plato and the history of the historiography of ancient philosophy in Poland,

and so to fill a gap in the literature that had been graphically brought to my attention in Anthony Kenny's excellent *History of Philosophy* (Oxford, 2007). In Volume 2 of this work, which was devoted to medieval philosophy, there is a map of 'the world of medieval philosophy' (p. X) which may appear quite striking to Polish and other East European readers because of the vast blank spaces east of Munich and north of Constantinople. Since such blank spaces also still exist in the historiographical literature and discourse on European philosophy of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, I saw the need to supplement this literature and fill in some of the white areas.

With the original target audience in mind, I decided to intersperse my narrative and arguments with quotations so as to provide examples of the language and style used in discussing Plato. The quotations chosen were significant, graphic and vivid, but also sometimes suggestive and earthy in character. When it came to the translation of the book, an attempt was made to ensure that the quotations remained as close to the original as possible, yet this led to numerous translation difficulties, for it was impossible to portray the sometimes archaic charm of the language to the English-speaking reader, and some of their ambiguity and the peculiarities of their style may have been lost in translation. It is to be hoped that at least some of the richness of expression and the colourful idiosyncrasy of the style can still delight non-Polish speaking readers. As for various Polish forms of the titles of the dialogues, they have been anglicised and made more uniform.

Most of the footnotes in this book, as well as in the original Polish version, refer to Polish literature, and although these are unlikely to be of use to historians of Plato scholarship or Platonism in Europe, they may be of some value for researchers in the field of Polish studies, and so they have been retained in their original form.

The present English volume, like the original Polish book, is the result of a project funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, and the anonymous experts of the Ministry should be thanked, for without their positive reviews it would not have been possible to undertake the effort of rewriting the book in English as a part of the National Program for the Development of Humanities (NPRH), Uniwersalia 2.1. I am also grateful to my home institution, the University of Zielona Góra, for granting me partial exemption from my teaching duties in order to carry out the work on the text of this book. Last but not least, I owe great thanks to Mrs. Una Maclean-Hańćkowiak, an essential collaborator in the NPRH project, for doing the language editing of the entire text repeatedly, which involved discussions on the structure of the text and on

more general issues concerning aspects of linguistics and translation, all of which were, for me, very fruitful and instructive.

Finally, I would also like to draw the readers' attention to three of my recent papers published in English, where further enquiries into issues touched upon in this book are developed. Their subjects are Lewis Campbell's studies on Plato (Mróz, 2019), Campbell's relations to Wincenty Lutosławski (Mróz, 2018), and the latter's correspondence with Bertrand Russell (Mróz, 2020).



# Contents

Introduction	11
0.1 The scope of the research	11
0.2 The problem of reception in studies on the history of philosophy	17
I. Passive acceptance of Plato's image	23
1.1 A.I. Zabellewicz, J.K. Szaniawski, and Polish Kantianism in relation to Plato	23
1.2 F. A. Kozłowski and Hegelianism	42
1.3 W. Tatarkiewicz and the Marburg neo-Kantianism	52
II. Recognition of Plato as a problem. Plato assessment and interpretations	62
2.1 Plato as material to be improved according to P. Semenenko	62
2.2 Plato as an opponent of democracy and a precursor of socialism from the perspective of B. Limanowski	89
2.3 Plato as a revolutionary from the perspective of a conservative thinker, W. Dzieduszycki	98
2.4 Plato as a precursor of modern democracy as viewed by E. Jarra, a philosopher of law	117
III. Plato interwoven within the fabric of Polish philosophy	131
3.1 Christianisation of Plato by S. Pawlicki	131
J. Adamski as an advocate of using Plato for the purposes of neo-scholasticism	131
The early works of S. Pawlicki and the development of his method in the history of philosophy	134
The unfinished Plato in the <i>History of Greek Philosophy</i>	138
Plato's late works in Pawlicki's manuscripts	178



Reception and assessment of Pawlicki's interpretation of Plato	180
W. Potempa and his critical assessment of Pawlicki's Christianised Plato	187
3.2 Plato as the founder of the tenets of Messianism according to W. Lutosławski	197
Early preparatory studies	197
<i>Opus vitae</i> in English and Plato's philosophical development	215
Reaction to <i>Plato's Logic</i> in Poland	236
Reaction of English and German-speaking researchers to <i>Plato's Logic</i>	238
The neo-Kantians and Lutosławski's Plato	251
Polemic with Paul Shorey	258
The ideological link between Plato and Messianism	267
Epilogue: Plato as a remedy for the post-war situation	277
3.3 S. Lisiecki's 'Platonising'	283
Published works	284
Manuscripts	295
3.4 W. Witwicki's alliance with Plato	308
The literary origins of his work	309
The <i>Symposium</i> as the inauguration of his work as a translator	312
The Lvov series of translations	317
The Warsaw series of translations	341
Philosophical <i>symmachy</i>	352
Digression: Witwicki's Plato and the Lvov-Warsaw school	361
Epilogue: Plato as jointly responsible for World War II and the post-war situation	375
3.5 Plato as a mathematician and a logician	396
Z. Jordan and the methods of the Lvov school applied to Plato	398
Plato as a starting point for B. Bornstein's speculative philosophy	420
Conclusions	429
Bibliography	441
Appendix: Chronological list of Polish translations of Plato's dialogues	475