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## **Beyond European Culture. Polish Literary Japonism 1900-1939**

The thesis aims at presenting Polish literary japonism, an interest in Japan visible in art as well as fashion and design parallel to Western European japonism that emerged in France and Great Britain during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The wave of interest in Japan arrived in Poland at the turn of the centuries, reached its peak after the Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905) and ended a couple of years later. However, the repercussions of the main wave of japonism can also be seen later, as the interest in Japan continued in various forms until the beginning of the World War II. This dissertation examines the sources of said interest and the way it manifested in literary works of Polish authors.

The thesis is divided into six chapters. The first one should be regarded as preparatory: it presents methodological inspirations and terminology used for analysis of the source material. The second chapter highlights some of the features of Western European japonism with emphasis on its impact on impressionism and French and British literature. In chapter III we turn to Poland to see through what means japonism disseminated here and how it was received by both the artists and the audience. Chapter IV analyses the way Japan and Japanese people were portrayed in Polish literature. Chapter V presents intertextual relations between Polish and Japanese literature, both thematic and formal. The final chapter is an attempt to point out cases of unapparent, blurred or suspected japonism, and to identify literary works that are not clearly labeled as inspired by Japanese culture but can nevertheless be seen as such.