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Joseph Wittlin - a Writer of the Cultural Borderland

The Department of Theory of Culture and Art at the Institute of Cultural Studies at John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the Society for Research Initiatives are honoured to invite you to participate in a conference entitled *Joseph Wittlin - a Writer of the Cultural Borderland*. The upcoming 120th anniversary of the writer's birth and the 40th anniversary of his death are special occasions for taking a closer look at his literary heritage, access to which has been limited as a consequence of the author's exile. This very original author, well-known before the Second World War, a serious candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1939, has until now received little attention. The broad range of his achievements, his historical and cultural experience, his international connections as well as the abundance of his religious reflections therefore remain relatively unknown.

The purpose of the conference is to examine closely the writer's life and output (poetry, prose, correspondence and notes), the significance of his achievements in the context of Polish literature both at home and in exile, the foreign reception of his works, as well as the historical and cultural contexts which are important for their understanding.

In connection with the latter issue we propose, inter alia, the following areas of investigation:

1. Jews at the beginning of the 20th century in the Habsburg monarchy
2. The interwar output of Joseph Roth, Richard Dehmel, Alfred Döblin, Herman Kesten, Georges Bernanos
3. The reception of Franciscanism in European literature in the interwar period
4. Outputs of the poets who influenced Wittlin: Salvatore Quasimodo, Vincente Aleixandre, Miguel Hernandez, William Carols Williams, Robinson Jeffers
5. Paris and its culture in the interwar period
6. Émigré writers in New York in the 1940s and 1950s.

Principally, we are inviting researchers in literature and culture, historians and art historians to participate in this conference.

The conference will be held on **29 May 2015 (Friday)** at John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. The cost of participation is 100 Euro.

Applications with abstracts (300 words) should be sent by **30 March 2015** at the latest, addressed: rzajac@kul.pl. The authors of accepted papers will receive detailed information about participation.

Prof. Ryszard Zajączkowski

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