

The Danuta and Henryk Hiż Prize

The Danuta and Henryk Hiż Prize is a cash prize awarded to an individual winner of a contest for the best work dedicated to the philosophy of language or other sign systems, that is, problems pertaining to theoretical semiotics understood as the study of cognition and communication. Danuta and Henryk Hiż were students and friends of Tadeusz Kotarbiński before 1939. Both fought in the Warsaw Uprising. Following the defeat of the Uprising, they were imprisoned in a German POW camp. After liberation by American forces, they remained in the West, first in Belgium and later in the United States, where they obtained professorships and lectured, mainly in Philadelphia. The Hiż's remained in constant contact with their Polish friends and repeatedly visited Poland. During these visits, Henryk Hiż gave guest lectures on the philosophy of language at Polish universities, predominantly at the University of Warsaw and for the Polish Semiotic Society.

The Prize was funded from money donated by the Hiż's to one of their Polish friends and his wife who transferred it to the Polish Semiotic Society after the death of Henryk Hiż. Their aim was to create an award that would facilitate the development of philosophy. The Polish Semiotic Society announced the first edition of the Prize, with an award in the amount of 5,000 PLN, on the fiftieth anniversary of the University of Warsaw Semiotic Seminar, the fortieth anniversary of "Studia Semiotyczne" (Semiotic Studies) and the twentieth anniversary of the Library of Semiotic Thought series. The theme was *Semiotics and Cognitive Science*.

Five essays were submitted for the Prize. The jury composed of Prof. Joanna Jurewicz (Head of the Jury), Prof. Joanna Odrowąż-Sypniewska, Prof. Anna Wójtowicz, Prof. Jerzy Bobryk and Dr Justyna Grudzińska (Secretary of the Jury) convened on October 25, 2013. Following a discussion (during which a letter from an absent member of the jury – Prof. Jerzy Pelc – was read), the jury decided:

1. To award the Danuta and Henryk Hiż Prize in the amount of 5,000 PLN to Paweł Grabarczyk for his essay *Problems with seeing: On the*

philosophically significant uses of the expression ‘to see’;

2. To award an honourable mention and to recommend for publication in “*Studia Semiotyczne*” Przemysław Zonik’s essay *The similarity between primary and derived mental structures as the basis for communication: A neuro–anthropological perspective.*

The award ceremony included a lecture by the winner of the contest’s first edition, Mr. Paweł Grabarczyk. It took place on November 15, 2013 at the Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz Room in the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw.