

Marta Michnik-Grochowska

Upper Silesian entrepreneurs Karl Godulla and Franz Winckler in German and Polish literature

5.10.2024

## STRESZCZENIE

This dissertation aims to conduct a comparative analysis of German and Polish historical sources and literary works concerning the fate of two pioneers of industrial transformation in Silesia - Karl Godulla and Franz Winckler. Elements of the biographies and industrial activities of these two Upper Silesian entrepreneurs have been the subject of numerous publications, both academic and popular science, although an in-depth analysis of their literary representations in the region's literature has not yet been undertaken within German studies.

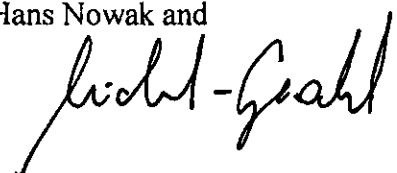
The work comprises eight chapters. First, selected theoretical considerations on the representation of fact and fiction in biographical texts are discussed. The dissertation engages with the theories of the American historian and literary scholar Hayden White and the German literary scholar Ansgar Nünning, who analyse the similarities and differences between historiography and literature. Additionally, Hans-Jürgen Goertz's theory of historical referentiality is presented. Given that the novels analysed are based on diverse biographical sources, the considerations of Bernhard Fetz, who emphasised the necessity of critically evaluating biographical sources, are also addressed.

Finally, the theoretical assumptions of the Polish literary scholar Joanna Cymbrykiewicz regarding the role of pretext in biographical writing are elucidated.

The third chapter delineates the historical background by presenting the most pertinent facts from the period of the development of the mining and metallurgical industry in Upper Silesia in the 18th and 19th centuries, which significantly impacted the careers of the two industrialists.

The subsequent chapters compile information about Karol Godulla and Franz Winckler that appeared in German and Polish scholarly publications as well as in the German and Polish press.

German and Polish novels in which Karol Godulla or Franz Winckler appear as the main characters were selected for analysis: Robert Kurpiun's *Das Schwarze Weib*, Hans Nowak and



Georg Zivier's *Zink wird Gold*, Hans Nowak and Georg Zivier's *Wenn es Tag wird*, Maria Klimas-Błahutowa's *Seven Fat Cows*, Krzysztof Lewandowski's *To Become a Millionaire According to Karol Godula*, and Jerzy Buczyński's *Godula Saga*.

The final chapter summarises the analyses conducted and indicates, based on the theories cited, how the lives and careers of Karol Godula and Franz Winckler were presented by German and Polish authors based on the theories cited. In formulating conclusions, differences were pointed out in the interpretations of the fates of the two pioneers and in the definition of their national identity.