

GRADSTEIN Leonia Martyna (1894-1984), writer, translator, musicologist. She was born on 7th February 1894 in Częstochowa, the daughter of merchant Saul (16th October 1862 Częstochowa-) and Klara née Hersz/Herszlik (1867 Łódź -), niece of → Markus Gradstein.

She ran a translation agency in Warsaw. From 1931 to 1937, she was secretary to composer Karol Szymanowski. She lived in Warsaw and dealt with many issues for the musician, who travelled frequently to Zakopane. She was “the organiser of his composing and concert activities”. Later, she cared for him, accompanying him during his stay in a sanatorium in Grasse (in southern France and, in 1937, in Lausanne, where Szymanowski died on 29th March 1937).

She then became the carer of his legacy and began working on his correspondence. She was one of the founding members of the K. Szymanowski Music Society (1977). Together with Jerzy Waldorff, she wrote a book about the composed entitled *Gorzka sława* [“Bitter Fame”] (1960) and an article entitled *Perypetie z „Harnasiami”*. She translated works into German, among them being E. Kästner’s *Emil i detektywi* and *Mania i Ania* (with J. Gillowa), E. von Däniken’s *Wspomnienia z przyszłości* (with E. Kodur), B. Jacob’s *Tajemnice świątyn i pałaców*.

As she had written a number of translations for the theatre, in 1981, she moved into the Home for Veteran Artists of the Polish Stage in Skolimów. She died there on 11th July 1984 and was buried in the local cemetery.

M. Fuks, *Muzyka ocalona*, Warsaw 1989, pp. 151–153; G. Michalik, *Hamlet w stanie spoczynku. Rzecz o Skolimowie*, Warsaw 2011, p. 250; M. Urbanek, *Waldorff. Ostatni baron Peerelu*, Warsaw 2008, pp. 200–202. – APCz, record No. 32/1894. – Wikipedia.

Wiesław Paszkowski