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**Obraz przyrody Polesia w powieściach Marii Rodziewiczówny**

**The picture of nature in the novels of Maria Rodziewiczówna**

SUMMARY

The novels of Maria Rodziewiczówna, written at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, provide a picture of nature in the pre-industrial era in the former Eastern provinces of Poland, and especially the region of Polesie. The author of the paper is especially concerned with those elements in the writings of Rodziewiczówna that pointed to the need for nature protection, which was a problem that would imminently arise in those areas in the course of economic development and urbanization. She emphasizes the convergence of some issues that the writer elaborated in fiction with the ideas of nature protection activists in Poland and abroad, such as the problem of the return to nature and the call for the formation of nature reserves serving as living laboratories. The main source material for the article was provided by Maria Rodziewiczówna's novel *Lato leśnych ludzi* [The summer of the forest people], which has had an enormous impact on many generations of Polish boy-scouts and girl-guides.

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