

THE PROPHETIC IRONIST AT THE TURN OF EPOCHS:  
POSSIBLE MARKS OF KIERKEGAARD'S IRONY CONCEPT  
IN NORWID'S POEM *QUIDAM*

S u m m a r y

This article points to interesting similarities in the idea of Norwid and Kierkegaard—those two Socrateses of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Europe—e.g. those referring to their diagnosis of the condition of society which was Christian in name only. The author suggests that Norwid may have met some of the Danish philosopher's concepts not through reading his works but 'second-hand.' It is indicated that the student circle in Berlin (e.g. Caspar Wilhelm Smith) might have participated in transmitting the Danish thinker's thoughts. The author makes an attempt to trace Norwid's knowledge of the review of Kierkegaard's treatise *On the Concept of Irony* printed in "Deutsche Jahrbücher für Wissenschaft und Kunst" (1842), written by Andreas Frederik Beck. The second part of this article contains a question whether the main character of the poem *Quidam* by Norwid has any features of Socrates—an ironic individual (as Kierkegaard understood him) who appeared at the turn of two epochs: paganism and Christianity. The author implies that Norwid's poem may be perceived as an opinion in the debate between Hegelians and anti-Hegelians, which occurred on the tide of German new Hellenism, about similarities and differences between Platonism and Christianity.

*Translated by Aleksandra Jaworowska*

**Key words:** Cyprian Norwid; Søren Kierkegaard; the student circle in Berlin; anti-Hegelian opposition; Socratic irony; *Quidam*, poem by Norwid.