

# Krzysztof Zarzecki

(b. 1926)

Translator, editor, literary critic



POLISH SPIRIT



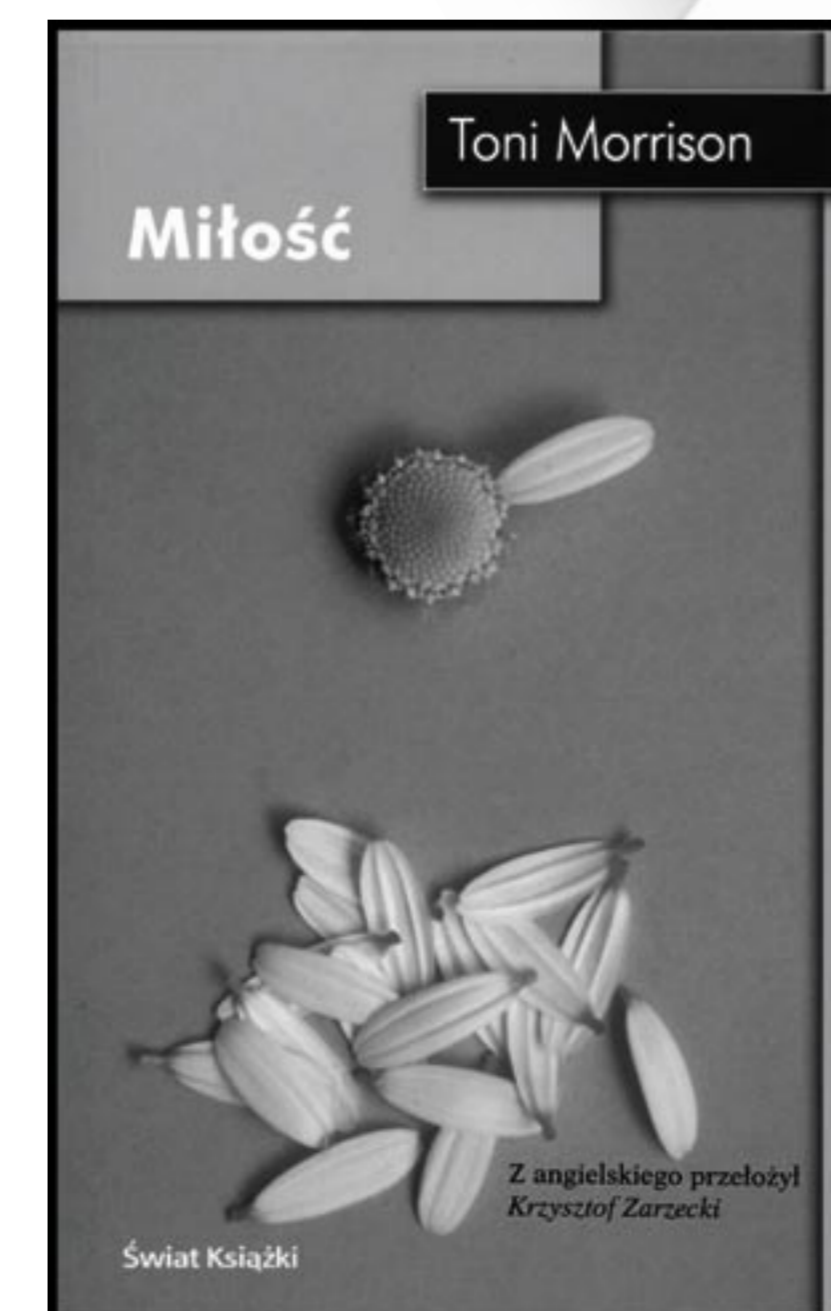
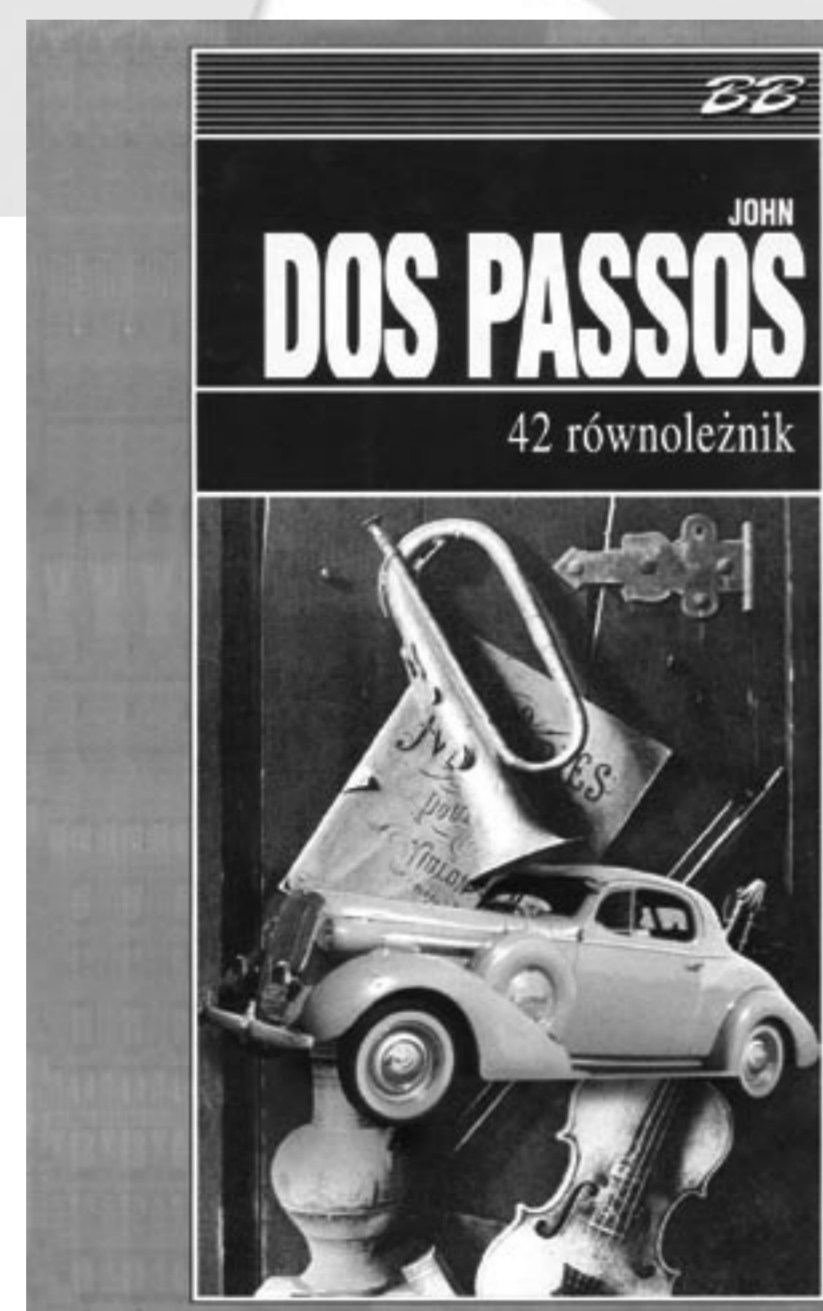
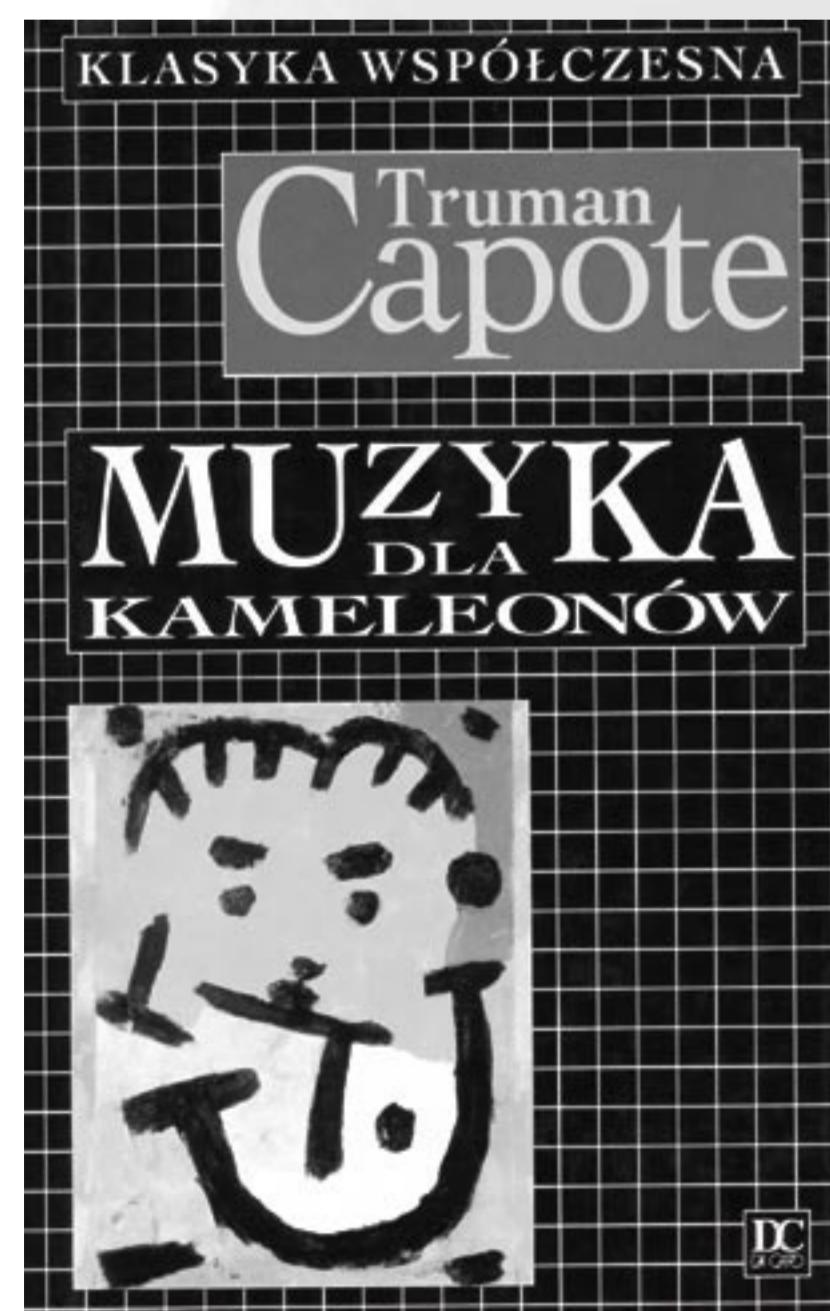
As a young man in German-occupied Poland, Krzysztof Zarzecki fought for the underground Home Army in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, and after its fall was deported to Germany as a POW. After liberation, he studied German at Friedrich Wilhelm University in Bonn, and Polish and English at the University of Warsaw. In 1963-1965, on a scholarship of the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York, he participated in the Writers' and Translators' Workshop of the University of Iowa.

After a distinguished career as an editor, publisher, author and translator in Poland, playing a leading role in several Polish literary organizations, he immigrated to Canada in 1987.

Zarzecki has translated into Polish some forty books by renowned writers, such as Samuel Beckett, John Dos Passos, Erskine Caldwell, J. D. Salinger, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Dashiell Hammett, Ross MacDonald, Avery Corman and Toni Morrison. He has been especially active in introducing the Polish reading public to the works of Canadian authors, including Robertson Davies (*The Deptford Trilogy*), Margaret Atwood (*Lady Oracle*, *The Handmaid's Tale*), Graeme Gibson (*Perpetual Motion*), Carol Shields (*The Stone Diaries*, *Larry's Party*) and Richard B. Wright (*Clara Callan*, *Adultery*). He has translated poems by Irving Layton, as well as several plays (Carol Shields' and Dave Williamson's *Anniversary*, Dave Carley's dramatization of Margaret Atwood's *The Edible Woman* and Kristen Thomson's *I Claudia*).

In recognition of his life's work in bridging the gap between the English- and Polish-speaking worlds, Zarzecki has received awards from the Polish Authors' Association ZAIKS and the Nelly and Wladyslaw Turzanski Foundation of Toronto.

Zarzecki is the Vice-president of the Toronto-based Polish Canadian Publishing Fund. He organizes and participates in public meetings on the art of translation and on recent literary developments in Poland, such as the renowned work of Janusz Odrowaz-Pieniazek, Janusz Krasinski, Marek Nowakowski or Zbigniew Herbert.



Photos from top left clockwise:  
• Krzysztof Zarzecki / Photo – Pierre Badler • With columnist Stanislaw Michalkiewicz, feature writer Emanuel Czyzo, and wife Irena Harasimowicz-Zarzecka, a poet, Toronto, 2008 • With writer Janusz Krasinski and filmmaker Violetta Kardynal, Toronto, 2008 • K. Zarzecki's Polish translations of Canadian and American fiction: *Love* by Toni Morrison, *Clara Callan* by Richard B. Wright, *Music for Chameleons* by Truman Capote, and *42 Parallel* by John Dos Passos  
Other photos – Yarek Dabrowski, Punkt.ca