

# Ferdydurke

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Ferdydurke

Text by Witold Gombrowicz

Translated by Danuta Borchart

Won the 2001 National Translation Award given by the American Literary Translators Association

In this bitterly funny novel by the renowned Polish author Witold Gombrowicz, a writer finds himself tossed into a chaotic world of schoolboys by a diabolical professor who wishes to reduce him to childishness. Originally published in Poland in 1937, *Ferdydurke* became an instant literary sensation and catapulted the young author to fame. Deemed scandalous and subversive by Nazis, Stalinists, and the Polish Communist regime in turn, the novel (as well as all of Gombrowicz's other works) was officially banned in Poland for decades. It has nonetheless remained one of the most influential works of twentieth-century European literature.

*Ferdydurke* is translated here directly from the Polish for the first time. Danuta Borchart deftly captures Gombrowicz's playful and idiosyncratic style, and she allows English speakers to experience fully the masterpiece of a writer whom Milan Kundera describes as "one of the great novelists of our century."

"Extravagant, brilliant, disturbing, brave, funny-wonderful. . . . Long live its sublime mockery."  
~ Susan Sontag, from the foreword

"[A] masterpiece of European modernism. . . . Susan Sontag ushers this new translation into print with a strong and useful foreword, calling Gombrowicz's tale 'extravagant, brilliant, disturbing, brave, funny... wonderful.' And it is."  
~ Publishers Weekly

Witold Gombrowicz (1904-1969) wrote three other novels, *Trans-Atlantyk*, *Pornografia*, and *Cosmos*, which together with his plays and his three-volume *Diary* have been translated into more than thirty languages.

Publishing House: Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2000

SoftCover book measuring 5" x 7.75" x 0.8"

281 pages

English Language Version

Witold Gombrowicz is the author of *A Guide to Philosophy in Six Hours and Fifteen Minutes*, *Trans-Atlantyk*, *Cosmos*, and *Pornografia*, the first three available from Yale University Press. These, along with his plays and his *Diary*, have been translated into more than thirty languages. Danuta Borchart has translated several works by Witold Gombrowicz. She is also a writer of short stories, which are regularly published on the website *Exquisite Corpse*.

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Polish

## Other Books

Ferdydurke. In this bitterly funny novel by the renowned Polish author Witold Gombrowicz, a writer finds himself tossed into a chaotic world of schoolboys by a diabolical professor who wishes to reduce him to childishness. Originally published in Poland in 1937, *Ferdydurke* became an instant literary sensation and catapulted the young author to fame. Deemed scandalous and subversive by Nazis, Stalinists, and the Polish Communist regime in turn, the novel (as well as all of Gombrowicz's other works) was officially banned in Poland for decades. It has nonetheless remained one of the most influential works of twentieth-century European literature. *Ferdydurke* is translated here directly from the Polish for the first time. Danuta Borchart deftly captures Gombrowicz's playful and idiosyncratic style, and she allows English speakers to experience fully the masterpiece of a writer whom Milan Kundera describes as "one of the great novelists of our century."

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