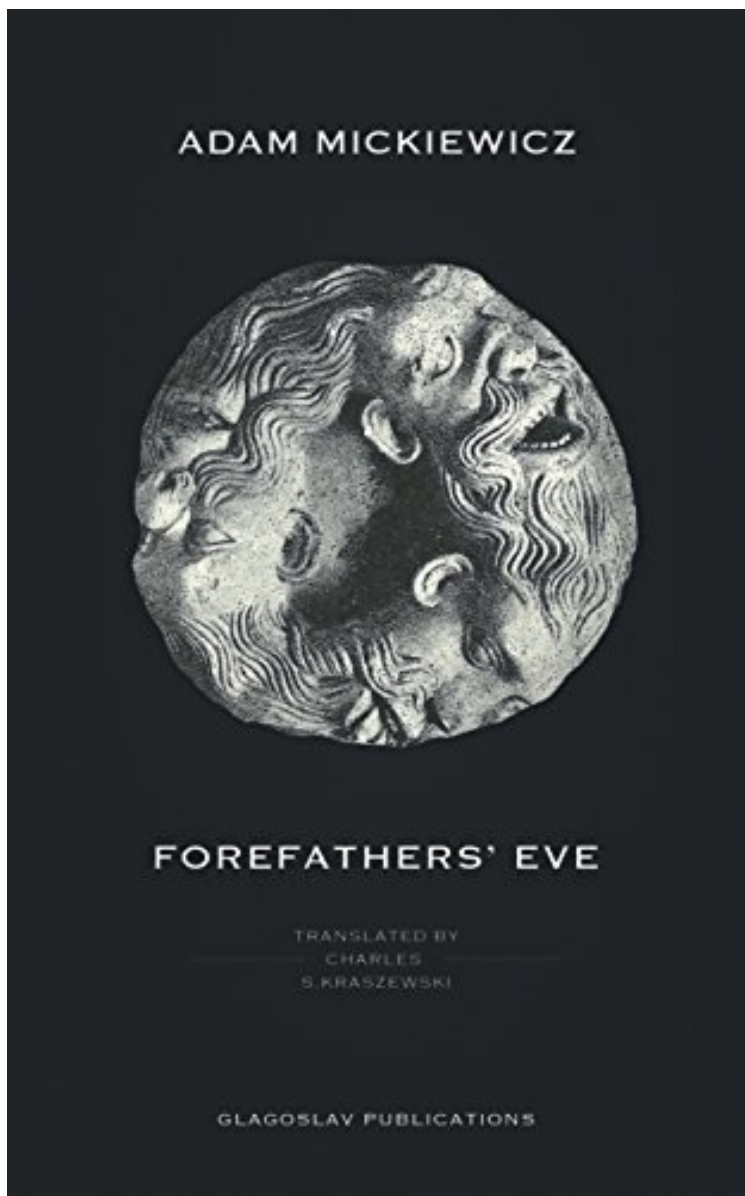


## Forefathers' Eve

*Adam Mickiewicz*

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#2105439 in Books 2016-11-09 Original language: English 9.02 x 1.06 x 5.98l, #File Name: 1911414011418 pages | File size: 16.Mb

**Adam Mickiewicz : Forefathers' Eve** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forefathers' Eve:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Nick Fazio Amazing read!

Forefathers Eve [Dziady] is a four-part dramatic work begun circa 1820 and completed in 1832 with Part I published only after the poet's death, in 1860. The drama's title refers to Dziady, an ancient Slavic and Lithuanian feast commemorating the dead. This is the grand work of Polish literature, and it is one that elevates Mickiewicz to a position among the great Europeans such as Dante and Goethe. With its Christian background of the Communion of the Saints, revenant spirits, and the interpenetration of the worlds of time and eternity, Forefathers Eve speaks to men and women of all times and places. While it is a truly Polish work Polish actors covet the role of Gustaw/Konrad in the same way that Anglophone actors covet that of Hamlet it is one of the most universal works of literature written during the nineteenth century. It has been compared to Goethe's Faust and rightfully so. Forefathers Eve initiated the great contribution of Poland to world theatre: Monumental Drama, which stretches from him through Stanisław Wyspiański to Tadeusz Kantor in our own day and age. The present translation of Adam Mickiewicz's Forefathers Eve is the first complete verse translation of the cycle published in English. It has been put to use in its entirety by the Teatr Polski in Wrocław, and partially set to music by Artūras Bumšteinas in his contemporary orchestral work *Different Trains* (2014). Translated by Charles S. Kraszewski. Charles S. Kraszewski (b. 1962) is a poet, translator and literary critic. He has published three volumes of original verse: *Beast* (Alexandria, 2013), *Diet of Nails* (Boston, 2013) and *Chanameed* (Atlanta, 2015). Among his critical works is *Irresolute Heresiarch: Catholicism, Gnosticism and Paganism in the Poetry of Czesław Miłosz* (Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2012); many of his verse translations are collected in the volume *Rossetti's Armadillo* (Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2014). This book was published with the support of the Hanna and Zdzisław Broncel Charitable Trust. This book has been published with the support of the POLAND Translation Program. Maxim Hodak - (Publisher), Max Mendor - (Director), Ksenia Papazova (Managing Editor).

About the Author Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855) is the national poet of Poland. He was successful in every genre at which he tried his hand, setting the benchmark for excellence in poetry, prose and drama for all the writers that came after him. His lyric poems, collected in *Ballads and Romances* [*Ballady i romanse*, 1822], ushered in the Romantic Movement in Polish literature. His Erotic and Crimean Sonnets [*Sonety miłosne and Sonety krymskie*, 1826] form one of the most accomplished cycles in that demanding form since Petrarch. His narrative poems, *Konrad Wallenrod* (1828) and *Grayna* (1823), reveal his sustained mastery with longer poetic genres. Mickiewicz's epic in twelve cantos, *Pan Tadeusz* (1834), is universally recognized as Poland's national epic, as well as the last Vergilian epic written in Europe. Prose occupies a rather minor niche in Mickiewicz's corpus of writings. The quasi-Biblical *Books of the Polish Nation and Polish Pilgrimage* [*Księgi narodu i pielgrzymstwa polskiego*, 1832] put the English reader in mind of a more practicable William Blake. With their socially and politically-applied Christianity, Mickiewicz had an appreciable influence on the thought of his friend, Lammenais. Finally, his *Cours de littérature slave professé au Collège de France*, delivered during his exile in Paris, and published posthumously in 1860, is one of the first balanced and comprehensive accounts of the Slavic traditions in literature and culture to meet Western eyes. It is impossible to assess the importance of Adam Mickiewicz to the Polish consciousness. During the period of the Partitions, which lasted from 1795 until 1918, Poles looked to Mickiewicz for the guidance that political figures could not supply them. He died in exile, trying to raise troops in Turkey for the Polish independence struggles.