

# Reviews

Ward, Jean; Fengler, Maria and Grzegorzewska, Maria (eds). *Striking the Chords of Spirit and Flesh in Polish Poetry: A Serendipity*. between.pomiędzy, 9. Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, 2016. 421 pp. Notes. Index. Zł33.60 (paperback).

THIS is an interesting if, as the title implies, somewhat eccentric collection of essays and poems linked — in some cases explicitly, in others rather tenuously — to the central theme of the co-existence, across the history of Polish poetry from the seventeenth to the twenty-first century, of ‘the interwoven themes of flesh, word and spirit’ (p. 12). Inspired by the ‘Poetry: Word Made Flesh: Flesh Made Word’ conference held in 2013 in Gdańsk, the book reads very much like a conference proceedings, despite the fact that most of the essays included in the volume — for they are clearly self-standing essays rather than chapters — were actually commissioned specifically for this collection. While the resulting impression of managed randomness that the book creates may not in itself be a bad thing, a reader trying to look for common threads linking the individual essays together will only ever be able to make an occasional, though indeed serendipitous, connection here and there.