

Grzegorz Moroz teaches English Literature and related courses at the University of Białystok. His research interests concentrate on issues connected with the history and theory of travel writing in Anglophone and Polish literary traditions, and on the works and life of Aldous Huxley. His recent publications include *Travellers, Novelists and Gentlemen: Constructing Male Narrative Personae in British Travel Books, from the Beginnings to the Second World War* (Peter Lang Verlag, 2013).

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Front cover: M/Y Stella Polaris was the first custom built cruise ship in the world. She was built by Gotaverken in Göteborg in 1925–26 and went into service in early 1927. She sailed to the Mediterranean, North Cape, the Caribbean and around the world. In 1928 Evelyn Waugh was offered two free tickets for a Mediterranean cruise in exchange for publicity. The Waughs took part in the cruise, which lasted from February to March 1929, and the Stella Polaris called at: Monte Carlo, Naples, Messina, Catania, Haifa, Port Said, Athens, Barcelona, Malaga, Seville and Lisbon. The cruise was described in detail in Evelyn Waugh's travel book *Labels, the Mediterranean Journal* (1930). In 1940 the Stella Polaris was seized by the Germans and was used as a recreation vessel for U-boat crews until 1943. Until the end of the war she sailed as a troop ship. After the war she was used for cruising till 1969.

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[...] Grzegorz Moroz's primary interest [...] is in the very blending and interpenetration of the more or less blurred generic conventions, which invariably turn any examination of autobiographical or pseudo-autobiographical text into a complex task where the shadow of verification looms large. If a discerning critic has to maneuver among texts where consistent manipulation of literary forms in order to fulfil the writer's own goals is a distinguishing feature, among the texts – as is the case of Waugh's writing – finely balanced between fictionality and factography, between literariness and impulses towards self-indulgence, then, obviously, the task of this discerning critic is not at all easy. Yet the Author succeeds in defining his own stand with noteworthy precision.

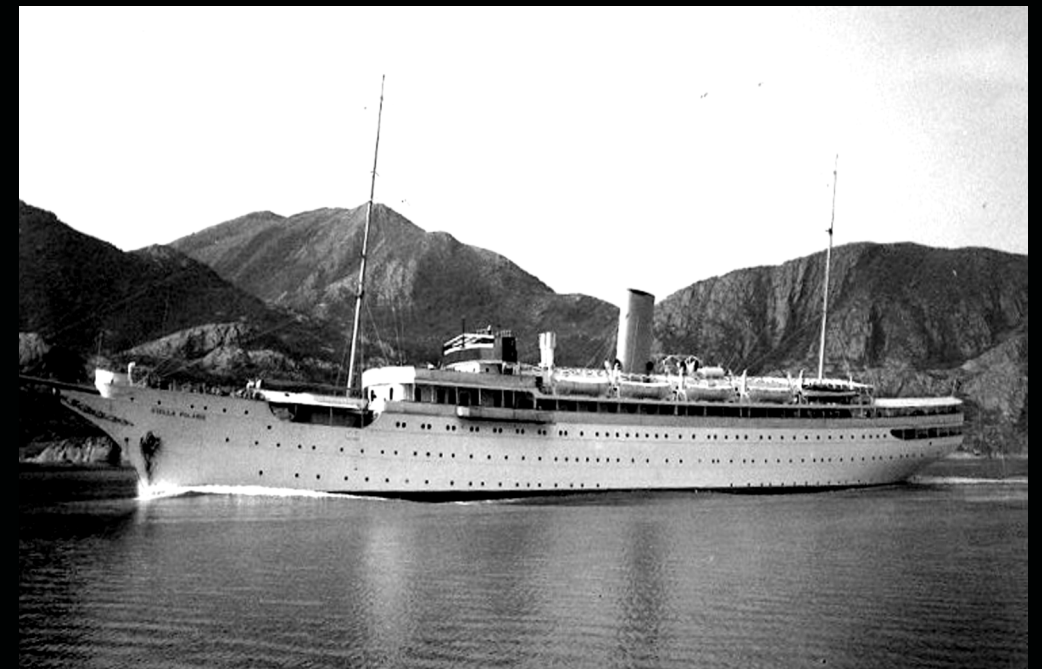
With his well-balanced argumentation, Grzegorz Moroz demonstrates both the scope of his intellectual horizons and his skills in the presentation of literary and cultural phenomena. There are no shortcuts here: what the book contains is proof of reliable and remarkable philological endeavour. [...]

(fragment from *the review* by professor Zbigniew Białas)

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ON THE ROAD FROM FACTS TO FICTION



EVELYN WAUGH'S TRAVEL BOOKS

Grzegorz Moroz • On the Road from Facts to Fiction: Evelyn Waugh's Travel Books