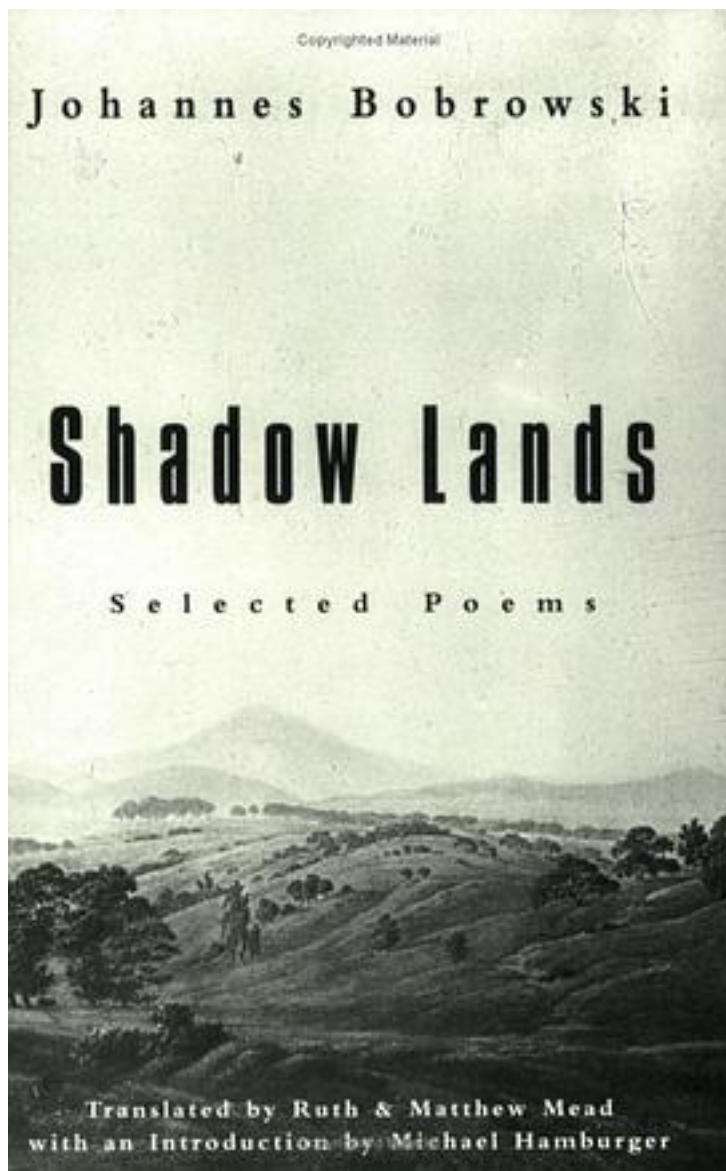


# Shadow Lands



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著者:Johannes Bobrowski

出版者:New Directions Publishing Corporation

出版时间:1994-12

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780811212762

The East German poet Bobrowski (From the Rivers) died in 1965 at the age of 48, four years after his first collection of poems had appeared to critical acclaim in both Germanies. The Meads began translating his work before he died, publishing increasingly comprehensive selections in the U.K. In America, however, Bobrowski remains relatively unknown-a matter for regret, since he is a major postwar European poet. The heart of his poetry is the writer's evocation of Sarmatia, an ancient name for an area including parts of East Prussia, Latvia, Poland and Russia. This is the culturally diverse region Bobrowski grew up in and remembered lovingly, but which, as a soldier in the Nazi army serving on the eastern front, he had helped to destroy. Sarmatia is thus both a casualty of history and a zone of the guilty spirit where peoples, religions, languages and armies come and go in the shadow of migrating birds and the drifting smoke of campfires. Sarmatia is a frightening and poignant conception, in which a vision of the postwar wasteland is combined with the memory of a prehistoric and now forever forbidden peaceable kingdom. Bobrowski's poems are hushed and elliptical, composed in short, imagistic lines that are like the shards of a long German compound sentence shattered beyond repair. They have been beautifully translated by the Meads, who, while observing the peculiarities of German syntax, succeed at hitting a strange, genuinely poetic, English note.

作者介绍:

Johannes Bobrowski (April 9, 1917 – September 2, 1965) was an German lyric poet, narrative writer, adaptor and essayist.

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