Over the years, Sarmatian Review has published a number of translations by Christopher Zakrzewski, a polyglot who teaches Latin in a Canadian college. Over the years, Mr. Zakrzewski chiseled and has perfected his translations of Pan Tadeusz. His final prose version seems to us the best of all: a contemporary reader can best savor Pan Tadeusz as a stylized and incredibly elegant tale of country life in Polish-speaking Lithuania in the early nineteenth century. Zakrzewski's translation is a major achievement. The older translations are too remote from the rhythm of contemporaneity. We have been publishing his new translation in installments.
Adam Mickiewicz, Christopher Zakrzewski. A new, annotated translation in elegant prose of this masterpiece of European Romantic literature set in the turbulent Napoleonic years. Pan Tadeusz is neither an epic poem, nor a mock-heroic in the eighteenth century tradition, nor a pastoral idyll, nor a Romantic narrative poem, nor a realist novel in verse, nor yet a fairy tale; rather, it is all these things, and much more. Illustrations by Elwiro Michal Andriolli.