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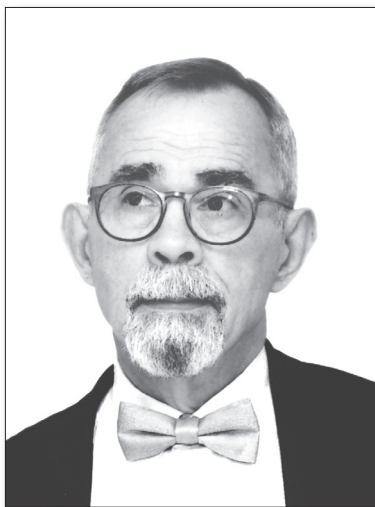
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IN MEMORIAM



Đorđe S. Kostić
(1947–2022)

Đorđe S. Kostić, our long-tenured and cherished colleague at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA and a retired research fellow, passed away in Belgrade in May of 2022. During his long and fruitful time spent at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA, Đorđe S. Kostić delved into literary history and the culture of Balkan societies.

Đorđe S. Kostić was born in Sombor in the year 1947. He completed his elementary and high-school education in Zemun. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad with a diploma in Yugoslav literature and an average grade of 10. His post-graduate work was done at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, where he got his master's degree with the topic "Lukijan Mušicki's Bibliography". His doctor's thesis was titled "Pavle J. Šafarik and new Serbian literature", which he defended at the University of Philosophy in Novi Sad in February of 1986. During his post-graduate studies Đorđe S. Kostić also took on the role of assistant to the Commission for literary history SASA. From 1980 onwards, he was employed by the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA as a junior research assistant.

In 1986, he was promoted to research assistant as part of the “Linguistic and literary connections of the Balkan peoples through the centuries” seminar. Kostić received the calling of senior research associate in 1994, while he became a research fellow in 2004. From 2001 onwards, Kostić handled two projects as part of the Institute for Balkan Studies - “Europe and the Balkans in the modern age: mutual observations and political musings” (2001–2014) and “The Danube and the Balkans: Historical and Cultural Heritage” (Paris, Belgrade (2015–2019)). He retired from the same position in 2013.

With a scholarship from the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation, Đorđe S. Kostić spent time in München, Bohn, Berlin, and Jena from 1983–1994, and then in 1997 as well. From October 1990 until October 1992, Kostić also taught Yugoslav literature and ran the lectorate for the Serbo-Croatian language as part of the Baltic-Slav seminar. At the behest of the Friedrich Schiller Institute for Slavistics, he held blocs of seminars about his travelogues detailing his adventures all over South-Eastern Europe during June and November of 2001. He also held seminars about Serbo-German cultural relations in the same insititute in Jena.

From 2001–2003, Đorđe S. Kostić taught the History of European Civilization as part of the sector for Western Europe at the Geo-economical Faculty of the Megatrend University in Belgrade.

Mr. Kostić made a significant contribution to the study of Serbian literary terminology in 1987, when he published “*Književni pojmovnik Vuka Karadžića*”, (the literary term-book of Vuk Karadžić). His book “*Rečnik književnih naziva u Novina srpskim*” (The dictionary of literary names in “Novine Srbske”) also came from the same field, and was published as part of “Literary History” in order to study the terminological problematics in stylistic formations. Kostić published the findings from his doctor’s thesis about Pavle J. Šafarik in his monograph titled “*Pavle J. Šafarik o novijoj srpskoj književnosti*” (Pavle J. Šafarik about more recent Serbian literature) (1988). In it, he explains the diversity and complexity of Šafarik’s work. While studying the Dositej Obradović and Vuk Karadžić eras, he wrote hundreds of essays, texts and excerpts, some of which were even broadcast by Radio Belgrade. He spared no effort searching for signs of Serbian literature in the German tongue. Kostić discussed Jernej Kopitar and his contemporaries often and with vigor as well.

Cultural relations between Serbian and European peoples were analyzed in travelogues of Western-European authors which dwelt in Serbia and the Balkans between the 16th and the 20th centuries by Đorđe S. Kostić. From this research stemmed numerous scientific works, several monographs and a collection of essays whose author and editor was Đorđe S. Kostić. Travelogue fragments which pertain to certain cities were published in books such as “*O gradu, gospodstva mi Kruševcu*” (About the city and foundation in Krusevac) (1997), “*Preston-*

ica Knjaza, Gospodara” (The Prince’s Capital) (1998) and “*U Stalaću, na Moravi gradu*” (In Stalać, on the Morava river) (1998). Among the collections which were created under the leadership of Kostić these works stand out: “Belgrade in European travelogues” (2002), “With Bedeker in South-Eastern Europe” (2005), “European pictures of a Balkan woman” (2009), “Pictures from the Balkans by Felix Kunitz” (2011) and “Danube from Bezdan to Belgrade” (2012).

Kostić also spent a number of years doing comparative research through which he gathered differing perspectives from different angles for his travelogue data. From this research were born monographs such as “*Dobro došli u Srbiju: Kraljevina Srbija u nemačkim vodičima za putnike*” (Welcome to Serbia: The Kingdom of Serbia in German guides for travellers, 1892–1914) (2006), “*Dunavski limes Feliksa Kanica*” (The Danube Limesse of Felix Kunitz) (2012), and “*Trpeza za umorne putnike: evropski putopisi o ishrani u Srbiji u 19. Veku*» (The dining table for weary travellers: European travelogues about food in Serbia in the 19th Century) (2019).

Mr. Kostić also published two books in English and Serbian - “*Zaljubiti se u jedan grad: Evropski putnici u Beogradu 1814–1915*» (“Falling in love with a City: European travellers in Belgrade 1814–1915) (Belgrade, 2007), and “*Na bregu iznad reka: Beograd u vodičima za putnike*” (On the hill above the rivers: Belgrade in scientific guides 1800–1945), (Belgrade, 2009).

The desire of Kostić to bring great travellers like Felix Kunitz closer to the Serbian reading audience resulted in the book “*Znakovi i senke*” (Signs and Shadows) (2015). In fictional travels and dialogues with Kunitz, Kostić takes his readers into the 19th century and through the Kingdom of Serbia.

Along with the precious results of Kostić’s research of foreign travelogues come a number of exhibitions which were wildly successful and shown to the public of many of Serbia’s cities, as well as abroad. Exhibitions such as “Falling in love with a city” (2007, 2009, 2010), “With Kunitz around Serbia” (Vienna, Graz, Leipzig, Budapest, Szegedin, Belgrade, Smederevo, Kladovo, Nis, Vranje, Kraljevo, Kragujevac, Valjevo, 2010–2012), and “The Danube: Artist, traveler, witness” were resounding successes and caught the attention of both an expert and wider audience at large.

All those from the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA and all of his collaborators and colleagues will forever remember Đorđe S. Kostić as a charismatic, jovial, optimistic and hard working man. His dedication will live on both through his work and through the younger generation which he so caringly helped nurture at the Institute.

Ljubodrag P. Ristić

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