

BIOGRAPHY AND WORKS of Georgi Stardelov

Georgi STARDELOV (Gevgelija, 28 August 1930) is a philosopher, aesthetician, essayist, literary critic and anthologist. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade (1953). He obtained his PhD in philosophy (1965). He was a professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje (1956-1966), its Dean (1975-1977), first Dean of the Interdisciplinary Studies in Journalism (1977-1981), President of the Writers' Association of Macedonia and President of the Macedonian PEN Centre. In 1977 doctoral dissertation entitled *The Aesthetic, Culturological and Literary Criticism Concepts of Georgi Stardelov* was presented at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. He has been a member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA) since 1986. He was its Vice-president (2000-2004), has been Head of the Lexicography Centre (since 2000), and since 1st January 2008 was chosen as President of MASA. In MASA he has been running the macro project "History and Culture of Macedonia" since 1993 and has been the editor of 20 volumes. Academician Stardelov is one of the central figures of Macedonian spiritual life and space, an intellectual whose word and opinion have competence and suggestiveness. Academician Mateja Matevski has given a lucid characteristic on the critical works of Stardelov by saying "he does that with the ecstasy, enthusiasm and style of a belletrist and with the undertaking and seriousness of a scientist".

He has achieved most notable results in the field of applying philosophical hermeneutics in the analysis of literary and artistic phenomena. Actually, the application of hermeneutics in the works of Academician Stardelov is both theoretical and practical. It is theoretical, because it refers to the philosophical discourse of the most important philosophers of the 20th century, Martin Heidegger and Hans-Georg Gadamer, in order to establish, in a creative dialogue with them, his own and personal hermeneutics; and it is practical, because he applies that hermeneutics generously in the analysis of literary works. The vast and various work of academician Georgi Stardelov which is being created for more than five decades, is anchored in the basic achievements of European philosophy, culture and literature. This work is not just in a constant artistic dialogue, but, moreover, it has been connected to the pivotal glimmers of Macedonian and Balkan culture and literature, since the beginning of time until today, and in that way has itself become an unavoidable part of its development. The work of academician Stardelov not only follows and evaluates, but it also directly participates in the development of Macedonian culture, mainly in the field of its philosophical reconsideration. On the other hand, his great love towards literature necessarily created a point of intersection between literature and philosophy. This point where touch and overlap are most directly realized, of course, is the aesthetics and philosophy of art, which is witnessed by the large number of essays and studies, summaries, reviews and critics, as are most of over 20 books by academician Stardelov published so far, from the first one *Essays* (1958), until the recently published *Night Gardener* (2006). This shows that the basic thematic preoccupation of Stardelov was and is aesthetics, although his research in the domain of philosophy and sociology of culture, history and theory of literature, as well as literary criticism, of course, are founding and indisputable.

Academician Stardelov is recipient of several domestic and foreign awards and recognitions.

The Works of Stardelov

Academician Stardelov is a prolific author. He has published 20 books in the period 1958-2004. In 2000 he published selected works in nine volumes. The titles of his author books are: *Essays* (1958), *The Modern and Modernism* (1962), *Worlds* (1969), *Antej in Search of Soil* (1971), *Age of Controversy* (1977), *Between Literature and Life* (1981), *Experimentum Macedonicum* (1983), *Weary Avant-garde* (1985), *Introduction to Future* (1986), *Experiences* (1987), *Portraits and Profiles*, *The Breaking of Strength*, *Summa aesteticae*, *Antej Touches the Soil*, *Kerubin's Tribe*,

Grandeurs, Nonbeing, Temptations of the Aesthetic Mind, Balkan Aesthetics - a Different Aesthetics, Angelus Novus (2004), *Night Gardener* (2006).

Academician Stardelov is considered to be one of the most authoritative anthologists of contemporary Macedonian poetry and prose. He has prepared the anthology selections: *Post-war Macedonian Prose Writers, Four Poetic Circles, Freedom or Death, Oh, Poet Do You Know Your Duty, The Church-Bells of Krushevo, Contemporary Macedonian Poets*, (in Serbian, Bulgarian and other languages), and others. Academician Stardelov has prepared many capital philosophical works.

As a member of MASA, academician Stardelov has managed several long-term scientific research projects of strategic character and capital importance for Macedonian cultural history: "History of Cultures on Macedonian Soil", "History of Ideas on Macedonian Soil", "History of Religion, Music, Theatre, Architecture and Photography on Macedonian Soil".

Literature on Academician Georgi Stardelov

Ivancho Atanasovski, *The Aesthetic, Culturological and Literary Criticism Concepts of Georgi Stardelov*, doctoral dissertation, Skopje, 1997; Kiril Temkov, *Georgi Stardelov, Selected Works*, IX 2000; Ivan Dzevarovski, *The Work of Georgi Stardelov, Selected Works*, IX 2000, Vlada Urosevic, *Criticism as Supplement to the Work*, Astrolab, Skopje, 2000; Olivera Korveziroska, *Battle between Possible and Impossible, Do Dreams Open Work* (1999).

The Positions of Academician Stardelov

Academician Stardelov has held many managerial positions in MASA, at the University and in some state and international organizations. Some of these include:

- Vice-president of MASA in the period 2000-2004
- Head of the Lexicography Centre in MASA since its establishment in 2000
- Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy
- First Dean of the Interdisciplinary Studies in Journalism at the University in Skopje
- President of the Writers' Association of Macedonia
- President of the Macedonian PEN Centre
- President of Philosophers' Association of Macedonia and of Yugoslavia

There are several topics appearing in the numerous books and projects of Georgi Stardelov: one of them is the Balkans civilisation and the role of our people in this story, another is the immanent aesthetics i.e. the beauty hidden in the unspoken and the unspeakable, a third is the image of oneself in the comparative mirror of the world and Balkan culture, a fourth one is the aesthetic mind of the present, a fifth is the analysis of the works of our most eminent authors, etc. These, methodologically observed, are completely covered by the hermeneutic approach, i.e. dedication to the reality of the text, and not to its "critical" i.e. ideological deviations. Concerning direction, on the other hand, the works of Stardelov are fully in search of historical, cultural, and civilizational verticals, so that the word continuity for him has key position.

The search for continuity in the Balkans is search for reality of ground and of people who have lived here, and not interpretation of wishes of "Balkan cynics, planners of genocide", to use his harsh, but sobering words. Therefore, the work of Stardelov is unifying for the whole of the Balkans. Therefore, he is the first to write, using Macedonian aesthetics, the aesthetics of Slovenians, Croats, Serbs. Therefore, he is the one who wrote "Balkans aesthetics" as an imaginary aesthetics hidden in the works of authors from all our neighbouring countries. Therefore, his project "History of Culture of Macedonia", which can also be named Balkan Civilization, is one of the most significant humanistic projects of MASA.