

† Academician B. G. GAFUROV  
(31 Dec. 1908 - 12 July 1977)

Gafurov, the outstanding Soviet Orientalist and Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR, died on July 12, 1977, just two months before attending the IIIrd Symposium on Ancient Macedonia, organized by our Institute in Thessaloniki, in which he was planning to participate. His passing away is a loss for all scholars interested in Studies of Central Asian Civilizations, more so those of the UNESCO group to whom he opened such wide vistas.

Gafurov was born on December 31 1908 in the village of Ispisar near Khodzhen, an ancient Tajik city. He started his working life in his early youth at the railway station of Khodzhen. In 1935 he graduated from the Moscow Institute of Journalism, and later, interested in history, he defended in April 1941 his doctoral thesis "History of the Ismaelite's Sect from the Early 19th Century to World War I" at the Institute of History of the USSR Academy and Sciences.

A brief mention of some of his chief works on Central Asia: "The Tajik People in the Struggle for Freedom and Independence of their Country" (1941), "The History of the Tajik People in Brief Outline" (1947), many papers presented in various Symposia, his pamphlet "Nations in the Soviet Union" (Rome, 1959), "On the Ties of Central Asia and Iran in the Achaemenid's Period (VIth-IVth cent. B.C.) (Rome, 1966), "The Tajiks" (1972), and his last work now in press "Alexander the Great and the East" reveal his wide interests on the people and events in Central Asia. This last monograph on Alexander the Great attracts attention not only by its scholarly assessment of the personality of Alexander and his eastern policy and plans of conquest, but also by the revealed evolution of the intentions of the Macedonian soldier during his grandiose march to the East. Besides his oriental interests, Gafurov was an authority on ancient Greek history and culture.

Since 1956 Gafurov held continuously the post of Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He was repeatedly elected a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and was the leader of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. In 1968 he was elected a member of the Academy; he also received honorary orders and awards.

DEMETRIOS TSIBOUKIDES  
*Professor of the USSR Academy of Sciences*  
*Institute of Oriental Studies*

† Academician MIHAIL ARNAUDOV  
(1878-1978)

On 18 Feb. 1978 Mihail Arnaudov, the great folklorist and scholar of modern Bulgaria and the Balkans, died in Sophia, without having reached his hundredth birthday, an anniversary which would have been celebrated side by side with the hundredth birthday of the Bulgarian state.

Born on October 5/18, 1878, in Russe, Bulgaria, he studied classics at the School for

Higher Studies (later the University) of Sophia and continued his studies at Leipzig, Berlin and Prague, where he studied classics, Indo-European Linguistics and Philosophy.

He became Associate Professor in 1908 and Full Professor at the University of Sophia holding the chair of History of Comparative Literature in 1919. A member of the Academy from 1929 on, he devoted his entire life to the service of knowledge.

His numerous works (over 100 monographs and articles) concerning folklore, biographies and studies on the great figures of the Bulgarian enlightenment and on contemporary Bulgarian and foreign writers are even today unsurpassed. Special mention should be made of the complete edition of his works on folklore in two volumes, entitled *Očerki po balgarskija folklor* [Sketches of Bulgarian Folklore] which presents a significant contribution to the study of Balkan folklore and of his *Psychology of the Literary Work*, Sofia 1964. A specialist with great integrity and an intense awareness of his scholarly mission and responsibility, he developed a great admiration for Greek culture.

In May 1977 with a group of folklorists making a study of the rites of the fire-walkers (Αναστεινάρια) in Bulgaria, we requested permission to visit him in Sophia, having in mind the pioneer studies which he had written on this subject. He honored our request. The kindly appearance of this one hundred year old scholar remains vivid in our memory as do his clear critical comments, his enthusiasm and the emotion with which he spoke to us about Greek culture and its contribution to the Bulgarian national and cultural renaissance.

Mihail Arnaudov's work covered in depth the essential facets of cultural life in Bulgaria and his studies will remain an everlasting monument to his memory.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

DESPINA LOUKIDOU-MAVRIDOU

† SVETOZAR RADOJČIĆ  
(1909-1978)

Svetozar Radojčić, the well-known professor and academician, died on October 20, 1978, after a long illness. The news of the death of this exceptional scholar was received with great sorrow by his colleagues and friends. The Institute for Balkan Studies and its associates express their grief over the loss of the scholar and friend who never missed the opportunity to pay them a visit whenever he came to Greece.

Sv. Radojčić was born in 1909 in Srémski Karlovtsi. He studied in the School of Philosophy in Zagreb and Ljubliana and continued his studies in Vienna and Prague, working closely with R. Enger and N. L. Okiniev respectively. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Ljubliana in 1934. From 1935-1941 he served as associate director of the Museum of Skopje and assistant professor at the School of Philosophy there. After the Second World War he was transferred to the School of Philosophy in Beograd where, in 1951, he was named visiting professor and in 1956 full professor. In 1963 he was elected a member of the Serbian Academy of the Arts and Sciences. The unexpected death of his wife in 1974 caused a sudden reversal in his health and forced him to withdraw from active participation in academic pursuits. In 1976 he went into full retirement.

Sv. Radojčić specialized in the history of Byzantine and Medieval Serbian art, holding the corresponding chair at the School of Philosophy in Beograd. From his very first essays in the field, he proved himself to be an especially acute and methodical researcher, who opened new paths for the study of Byzantine art. He was the first Serbian art historian, who, in contrast to his predecessors, began to study systematically, not only iconography, but

also stylistic analyses of the monuments of Byzantine art. With his modern methodological views and strict critical research, he lay the foundations in Serbia for the study of Byzantine and Medieval Serbian art history.

Sv. Radojčić, in his attempt to probe further and to deepen his understanding of Byzantine art, turned his attention to the texts of medieval Byzantine and Serbian literature which he studied exhaustively, in an attempt to extract the broader social context of the period during which that art flourished. In this endeavor he showed a characteristic ability to reveal and illuminate every theological nuance within the text, thereby clarifying its role and influence upon the work of the artist. He was fascinated by the relationship between the written word and the visual image, while at the same time, as he himself often stated, he made a concerted effort to explore the underlying conditions of literary and artistic creation. The last years of his life he concentrated further on the medieval texts and attempted to immerse himself in the philosophical ambience of the period. Minor arts and minor works of literature were also one of his favorite areas. He wrote a series of articles and studies on these topics.

From the total of his works, studies and articles reference is made only to his most important books: *Portreti srpskih vladara u srednjem veku* [Les portraits de souverains serbes du Moyen-Age, Skopje 1934]; *Majstori starog srpskog slikarstva* [Les maîtres de l'ancienne peinture serbe, Beograd 1955]; *Ikone Srbije i Makedonije* [Icons from Serbia and Macedonia, Beograd 1962]; *Mileševa* (Beograd 1963); *Frühe Ikonen* (with Kurt Weitzman, Manolis Chatzidakis, Krsto Mijatev, Beograd 1963); *Staro srpsko slikarstvo* [Early Serbian Painting, Beograd 1965]; *Geschichte der serbischen Kunst* (Berlin 1969). Bibliography containing titles of all his works from 1957 up to 1977 appeared in *Codišjak*, SANU, kniga LXXXIV, Beograd 1978, pp. 378-383, also in the volume published in his honor by the School of Philosophy of Beograd: *Zbornik Svetozara Radojčića*, Beograd 1969.

The many facets of his scholarly and intellectual activity, can easily be appreciated not only from his numerous studies, but also from his participation in all conferences on Byzantine and related themes, at which he was always among the chief contributors. Moreover, he was an ideal University Professor, since in addition to his great learning and wisdom he approached his students with kindness and care. A perfect example of his character as a man and as a scholar is exhibited by the following excerpt from his farewell speech to his fellow participants at a symposium concerning the *School of Morava and its Period*:

"For you who are for the most part under fifty years of age, a certain experience of life is, needless to say, lacking. None the less, I am not certain that you fully appreciate a significant advantage that you have: all of you are untainted by longstanding prejudices which have considerably damaged the scholarly work of our generation and even more of our predecessors. Freed from these prejudices you will doubtless solve many problems with less difficulty and will focus on many phenomena more easily".

For his brilliant scholarly work, Sv. Radojčić received many honorary awards. He was awarded the October Prize (1966) by the Yugoslavian Government and the Gottfried von Herder Prize (1967). Four years later, he was also honored by the City of Beograd with the Seventh of July Prize (1971).

Without a doubt, the death of this unforgettable scholar and human being, whose reputation and contributions have extended beyond the limits of his country, represents a severe loss to the scholarly world, and more specifically to the field of Byzantine art and archaeology, to which he devoted his entire life.

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