

in 1935, nine years before the official establishment of the Macedonian literary language. Ilik participated in the codification of his native language as an adviser to the Committee for Language and Orthography and as cultural editor of the newspaper *Nova Makedonija* (New Macedonia) after World War II. He is currently a professor at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Belgrade.

Vreme i reka (Time and River), Ilik's fourth collection of poetry, is divided into two parts, "Vo plovidba večna" (In Eternal Sailing) and "Do tretite petli" (Until the Third Cockcrow), which refer to the "river" and "time" of his title. The majority of the poems deal with the introspective, the pastoral and love, but Ilik also touches on such popular Macedonian themes as the *pečalba* (going abroad to earn money) and Turkish times. A few of the poems are set in West European cities, but most of them are in Macedonia or some unidentifiable rural location.

The most striking features of Ilik's language are his use of Turkisms, polysyllabic compounds and proper names. He uses words of Turkish origin to give his poetry a Macedonian down-home flavor, while his compounds are reminiscent of the elevated Church Slavic style, which represents the other end of the specifically Macedonian linguistic spectrum. The proper names in Ilik's poetry are both Macedonian and foreign: e.g., Konstantin Miladinov, Puleski, Pejčinovik, Picasso, Pablo Neruda, Raskolnikov. They seem to be quite self-consciously used and sometimes almost give the impression of name-dropping.

One of the most noteworthy poems in the collection is entitled "Stara melnica" (An Old Mill), in which Ilik uses the Macedonian vocalic *r* very effectively. The constant trilling sound gives the impression of a creaking old mill turning round and round. Other poems in the collection have titles such as "Lilacs in the Soul-Calling Ravine," "The Blue Earrings of Venice," "The Calligraphy of Native-Born Rivers," "Defense of Night," "In the Gulf of Pain" and "Gypsies in the Yellowish Autumn."

The themes of the poems are quite personal and at the same time quite Macedonian, filled with specific references. The use of language, although at times self-conscious, is most interesting and shows many of the expressive capabilities of Macedonian.

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Voislav Ilik (b. 1916 in Debar) belongs to the older generation of Macedonian writers. His first collection of poetry appeared

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