

Dimka MITEVA

A SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BIRTH OF PROFESSOR TOME SAZDOV AND 35th
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS WORK

**РАБОТНИЧКИОТ УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ "КРСТЕ МИСИРКОВ"-КИЧЕВО
И КУЛТУРНО ПРОСВЕТНАТА ЗАЕДНИЦА - КИЧЕВО**

ВЕ ПОКЛАНУВААТ на
КНИЖЕВНО НАУЧНА ВЕЧЕР
Со ПРОФ. Д-р ТОМЕ САЗДОВ

Воведен збор: Д-р. ДИМКА МИТЕВА

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Место : Салон на РАБОТНИЧКИ УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ - КИЧЕВО

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN,
DEAR FRIENDS,

It is my exceptional pleasure to be among You in order to celebrate together the two jubilees of our prominent professor, PhD Tome Sazdov, undoubtedly one of our most renowned and most prominent folklorists. In other words – the expert in Macedonian folklore study.

There is also a special reason that I am happy. Until now, I have never been in Kichevo, although I had many opportunities.

It is a great idea that the University of Work “Krstе Misirkov” and the Cultural-Educational Community of Kichevo organize this meeting with professor Sazdov and his work.

Professor Sazdov is stepping into the seventh decade of his life. He has been active scientific worker for 35 years. Both of these facts are a reason enough in a man’s life, especially in the life of a sci-

entist, to do a retrospective of everything professor Sazdov did in this jubilee period.

The basic data about professor Sazdov's life I believe most of You are familiar with.

However, I will allow myself to remind You of some. Professor Sazdov was born in 1934, that is to say exactly 60 years ago, in Skopje where he finished his overall education, elementary school, gymnasium, and Faculty of Philosophy, South-Slavic Literature group. At first he worked as a journalist, however short after he was elected assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje.

Thus his scientific career was determined. He got his PhD at the same faculty, on the topic: "The Life and Work of Marko Cepenkov."

After previously determining that his primary scientific interests shall be focused on the Macedonian oral folk poetry, although from time to time he will write rather competently in other areas of Macedonian literature as well, in these past 35 years, let me emphasize again, great number of professor Sazdov's works are from the field of Macedonian folklore, more precisely, from the field of the oral folk literature of the Macedonians.

It is impossible, but also unnecessary in this solemn moment to present in detail his works. We will focus only on several. However, prior to that I shall say that the scientific asset by professor Sazdov includes more than 250 bibliography units most numerous being his books, scientific articles in known folklore and other magazines home and abroad, big number of expert articles and so on.

Almost 35 years ago, professor Sazdov, as a young scientist, published "Macedonian Folk Poetry" as a separate book, and after short time the work "Review of the Macedonian Folk Poetry" appeared as well, which immediately became necessary study book for both Macedonian language and literature students and teachers.

Then, we have his books "Studies on the Macedonian Folk Literature", the Monographs of Marko Cepenkov in 1974, of Kuzman Shapkarev in 1975 and Stefan Verkovic in 1976.

As a renowned scientist in the field of Macedonian folk literature, professor Sazdov was engaged in many other publishing ventures as well. He is the author of the anthologies of the epic folk songs

(Griva Trese Biser Roni in 1970, the Macedonian Folk Tales in 1972, Collection of Folk Songs from the Yugoslav Macedonia, Athens 1979, Macedonian Folk Poetry, printed in Nish in 1981).

Professor Sazdov participated in the publishing of Collected Works of Marko Cepenkov in 10 volumes, and he had himself prepared the Selected Works of Kuzman Shapkarev in 5 books in 1986.

It should be emphasized that his already mentioned Monograph “Marko Cepenkov as Collector of Macedonian Folklore” is exceptionally valuable. Well known with everything that is written about this remarkable individual from our cultural rebirth, professor Sazdov, in his long years of study, comes to new data regarding the life and work of Marko Cepenkov, and puts light on his work from many aspects.

Professor Sazdov expresses his studies using wonderful wordings, but not coldly and dryly as the scientific style from other scientific areas requests, instead he does that very lively and understandable for everyone.

We mentioned several of professor Sazdov’s works. However, we have to add that lately Sazdov gave us a synthetic work titled “Macedonian Folk Literature” in which he presents us a review of our complete folklore. Whereas a new work in that field is the oral literature of the Macedonian published in 1992.

I shall say that this year, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the birth of professor Tome Sazdov and 35th anniversary of his work, Blagoj Stoichovski’s book on the life and work of professor Sazdov was published by the new publisher – Strum-Skop - Skopje.

Within this modest address of mine, I cannot but not say at least couple of words about the broad interests and engagements by professor Sazdov in the cultural and the wider social life of the Macedonian nation.

For his restless and prolific work, our society paid its dues with a greater number of acknowledgements and rewards: Republican award “Kliment of Ohrid“ (1976), then “13 November“ (1987), “11 October“, the highest state award, in 1994. An acknowledgement worth mentioning is also the reward received at the Balkan Festival of Folk Songs and Dances held in Ohrid for best book in the field of folklore in 1988.

Professor Sazdov is marked with many wonderful characteristics. He is a welcomed guest to many tribunes, so it is no wonder that the people from Kichevo want to be among the first who would celebrate his jubilees.

He is a favorite person. He is loved not only by the students, but also by the cultural, scientific, educational circles in the country and abroad, the common people as well, because of the fact that he is very communicative person, full of knowledge and initiatives. He always stands ready to help, to hear out, to give advice, to incite, to support, to praise, and this is of particular importance in the cultural work, and especially in the scientific work, I would say. Helping young scientific workers and students is one of professor Sazdov's primary concerns.

Professor Sazdov is in his core, full scientific maturity. The Macedonian science, and not only it, but all of us, expect from him many many other works, initiatives, promotions and he will undoubtedly reward us with such.

Let us wish this truly wonderful and good man, professor Sazdov long life and good health so he could make us happy with new successes in the scientific and cultural life in general.

University of Work, 22 September 1994

D. M.