

**IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF
ACADEMICIAN IVAN DURIDANOV (1920–2005)**

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Academician Ivan Duridanov and the 15th of his passing. This is an occasion to remember him and once more highlight his bright presence in Bulgarian and European linguistic science.

Ivan Duridanov was born on February 22nd 1920 in Komshtitsa, near Godech in western Bulgaria. He earned a degree in Slavic and Classical studies from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski in 1942. In 1942-43, he was an assistant at the Bulgarian language department at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). In 1951, he became an assistant at Sofia University, where he worked until his retirement in 1990 (he earned a PhD in 1956 and a professorate in 1962). From 1970 to 1972, he was assistant dean at the Philological Department, the dean of the Slavic Department from 1976 to 1978, and dean of the Comparative and General Linguistics Department from 1975 to 1990. He was named associate professor at BAS in 1981, deputy director of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at BAS from 1983 until 1988, and received the title BAS academician in 1995.

He was the editor-in-chief of the journal *Балканско езикознание / Linguistique balkanique* for many years (1987–2004). After the death of academician Vl. Georgiev, I. Duridanov took over as a managing editor on several volumes of the *Български етимологичен речник (Bulgarian etymological dictionary)*.

I. Duridanov became a member of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) in 1969 and the Proto-Indo-European Society in 1983. He was an honorary member of the Baltic-Slavic Society at the Lund University in Sweden from 1971 and the secretary of the International Slavic Committee. He passed away on December 8th 2005 at the age of 85.

I. Duridanov's scientific output includes more than **450 publications**, known both domestically and abroad. We will only mention a few of them: as a coauthor with V. Georgiev, *Езикознание (Linguistic science)*, Sofia, 1959; *Към проблемата за развоя на българския език от синтетизъм към аналитизъм (On the issue regarding the development of the Bulgarian language from synthetism to analytism)* Sofia, 1956. It must be noted that the latter is of exceptional importance not only to

Bulgarian science, but to linguistics in the Balkan Peninsula as well. *Die Hydronymie des Vardarsystems als Geschichtsquelle*, Köln – Wien, 1975; and *Езикът на траките (The language of the Thracians)*, Sofia, 1976. I. Duridanov authored the first complete toponymic study of a Bulgarian region: *Местните названия от Ломско (Local names in the Lom region)*, Sofia, 1952, as well as the second one *Топонимията на Първомайска околия (Топонимията на Първомайска околия) (Toponymy of the Parvotay region)*, Sofia 1958. It is hardly possible to enumerate all his contributions to Bulgarian linguistic science (etymology, onomastics), Slavic studies and general linguistics.

He will be remembered by his peers and linguistic history as one of the outstanding representatives of his times, wholly devoted to his scientific work in multiple areas of linguistic science, as well as his position regarding the development of the Bulgarian language, which uncovers all the remnants of the most ancient languages of the Balkans and the vastness of Indo-European studies.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the authors of the articles in this volume of *Балканско езикознание / Linguistique balkanique*. Their fascinating research will help us suitably honor this anniversary.

Prof. DSc. Anna Choleva-Dimitrova,
Editor-in-Chief