

IN MEMORIAM

Vladimir Nikolajevič Toporov

5. 7. 1928 – 12. 12. 2005



Vladimir Nikolajevič Toporov, foto: Juozas Budraitis

Ni naključje, da obsega strnjeni popis Rusko-slovenskih odnosov kar 22 strani 10. zvezka Enciklopedije Slovenije iz leta 1996. Ko pa je leta 1998 začela izhajati revija *Studia mythologica Slavica*, se je od ruskih imen, ki jih popis ni zajel, na čelu rubrike *Slovanska mitologija - viri in rekonstrukcija* znašlo tudi ime 70-letnega akademika svetovnega slovesa Vladimira N. Toporova kot avtorja prispevka z naslovom *Nekatera vprašanja proučevanja slovanske mitologije*.

It is no coincidence that the summary of the relations between Russia and Slovenia, published in the tenth volume of the 1996 Slovene Encyclopedia, contains as many as twenty-two pages. Two years later, in 1998, when the *Studia Mythologica Slavica* review first came out, a name that had not been mentioned in the Slovene Encyclopedia appeared at the head of the *Slavic Mythology – Sources* section. This was the name of seventy-year-old Russian academician Vladimir N. Toporov, who

Leta 2002, ko je v knjižni obliki izšel slovenski prevod dveh poglavij Toporovove knjige *Predzgodovina književnosti pri Slovanih* (Poskus rekonstrukcije) iz leta 1998, je njen avtor za rubriko Semiotične interpretacije ljudskega izročila v naši reviji prispeval tudi obsežno razpravo z naslovom *K interpretaciji nekaterih motivov ruskih otroških iger v luči osnovnega mita*.

To seveda nista prvi pričevanja Toporovlje vključenosti v slovenistiko. Že leta 1958 sta se namreč v Slavistični reviji pojavili njegovi notici pod naslovom *Slovenica*, ki sta bili dve od njegovih prvih treh ali štirih objavljenih besedil. Le da je Toporov slovenščino poglobljeno upošteval že v kandidatski disertaciji z naslovom *Lokativ v slovanskih jezikih*, ki jo je zagovarjal leta 1955 in je kot monografija izšla leta 1961.

Vladimir Nikolajevič Toporov se je rodil 5. 7. 1928 v Moskvi. Po končanju filološke fakultete Moskovske državne univerze je začel delati na Inštitutu za slavistiko Ruske akademije znanosti in na njem vztrajal vse življenje. Leta 1990, petnajst let pred svojo smrtjo 5. 12. 2005, je postal član Akademije znanosti.

Njegovo delovno področje je bilo izredno široko. Ukvarjal se je s primerjalnozgodovinskim jezikoslovjem (indoevropistiko), z literarno vedo (problemi strukture besedila, vprašanja poetike), s folkloro in mitologijo (etnojezikovnimi tradicijami). Napisal je 30 knjig ter več ko 1500 razprav. Raznoterost njegovih monografij kažejo recimo naslovi *Ahmatova in Dante* (1972), *K rekonstrukciji indoevropskega obreda* (1982), *Enej: mož usode* (1993), *Mit. Obred. Simbol. Podoba* (1995), *Svetost in svetniki v ruski duhovni kulturi* (1998) ter *Peterburško besedilo ruske literature* (2003). Sodeloval je pri urejanju revij, kakor so *Voprosy jazykoznanija*, *Etimologija*, *Linguistica Baltica*, *International Journal of Poetics*, *Kodikas*, *Proverbium in Arbor Mundi*.

wrote an article titled *Certain Questions of Slavic Mythology Research*.

The Slovene translation of two chapters of Toporov's book *Pre-History of Slavic Literature (Attempt at Reconstruction)*, which was printed in 1998, was published in book form in 2002. Toporov was also author of an extensive treatise on children's games, *Interpretation of Certain Motifs in Russian Children's Games Within the Basic Myth*, which was printed in the *Semiotic Interpretations of Folk Heritage* section in *Studia Mythologica Slavica*.

The above-mentioned texts were by no means Toporov's only ties with Slovene studies. As early as 1958, Slavistična revija published two items under the title *Slovenica*; they were among Toporov's first three of four published texts. Yet this was not his first encounter with the Slovene language. In his doctoral thesis *Locative in Slavic Languages*, defended in 1955 and published as a monograph in 1961, Toporov discussed the Slovene language as well.

Vladimir Nikolajevič Toporov was born on July 5, 1928 in Moscow and graduated from the Faculty of Philology of Moscow State University. His first post – and the one he retired from – was at the Institute of Slavistics of the Russian Academy of Science. In 1990, fifteen years before his death on 5. December 2005, he became member of the Academy of Science.

Toporov's professional interest covered a number of topics. He researched historical and comparative linguistics (IndoEuropeistics), literary science (text structure, poetics), folklore, and mythology (ethno linguistic traditions). His opus contains 30 books and more than 1500 papers. His monographic works examine a variety of subjects, as can be seen from some of their titles: *Akhmatova and Dante* (1972); *On the Reconstruction of Indo-European Ritual* (1982); *Aeneas: Man of Destiny* (1993); *Myth. Ritual. Symbol. Image*

Bil je eden od ustanoviteljev moskovsko-tartujske semiotične šole in ji je tudi predsedoval po smrti Jurija Lotmana. S svojim delom in pogledi je žel priznanja po vsem svetu. Postal je član Evropske akademije, Semiotičnega društva ZDA, Mednarodnega semiotičnega društva, častni član Letonske akademije znanosti in častni doktor Vilnjuške univerze. Med njegovimi častnimi priznanji je bila Sovjetska državna nagrada (1990), ki jo je zavrnil v znamenje protestazoper represivno politiko sovjetske uprave v Litvi, prva Solženicinova nagrada (1998) in nagrada Andreja Belega za humanistične raziskave (2004).

Vlado Nartnik

(1995); *Holiness and Saints in Russian Spiritual Culture* (1998); and *The Petersburg Text of Russian Literature* (2003). He was on editorial boards of *Vosprosy jazykoznanija*, *Etimologija*, *Linguistica Baltica*, *International Journal of Poetics*, *Kodikas*, *Proverbium*, and *Arbor Mundi*.

V. N. Toporov was one of the founders of the Tartu-Moscow School of Semiotics, and after the death of Jurij Lotman served as its president. His work had earned him worldwide recognition. He became member of the European Academy, of the Semiotic Society of America, of the International Semiotic Society, honorary member of the Latvian Academy, and Honorary Doctor of Vilnius University. Among other awards, in 1990 he received the Soviet State Award, which he promptly rejected to express protest against the repressive politics of the Soviet administration in Lithuania, the first Solzhenitsin Award (1998), and the Andrei Bely Humanistic Research Award in 2004.

Vlado Nartnik