Borislav Pavlovski is the winner of the international "Dragi" for the translation of "Bayazit and Olivera".

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The jury for the award of the "Darling" award, through discussion in the second round of selection, decided to include 12 works in translation published by 6 publishing houses, translated by 12 translators and from 8 different languages. The works that will enter the second round (arranged in alphabetical order, according to the first letter of the translators' names):

1. Ana Pejchinova for the English translation of "Selected Poems" by Rudyard Kipling, published by "Polica", 2024
2. Daniela Spiroska for the English translation of "Songs" by Dylan Thomas, published by "PNV Publications", 2026

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3. Dragana Evtimova for the translation from Slovenian of "Tusculum" by Denis Škofić, published by "PNV Publications", 2025
4. Eli Pujovska for the translation from Dutch of "Golden Wreath - Selected Poems by Aneke Brassinga", published by "Struga Poetry Evenings", 2026
5. Zvonko Taneski for the translation from Slovak of "Golden Wreath - Selected Poems by Ivan Štrpka", published by "Struga Poetry Evenings", 2025
6. Ivan Shopov for the translation from Bulgarian of "Letters to the One I Didn't Give Birth to" by Dimana Jordanova, published by "Chudna uma", 2026
7. Igor Radev on the translation from Chinese of "Insignificant Poems" by Shi Chuan, published by "Struga Poetry Evenings", 2026
8. Juliana Velichkovska for the English translation of "The Burial of the Mousesock" by Derrin Rhys-Jones, published by "PNV Publications", 2025
9. Ksenija Chochkova for the translation from German of "The Reintroduction of the Hourglass" by Michael Krieger, published by "Struga Poetry Evenings", 2026
10. Nikola Gjilinski for the English translation of "Disorder" by Peter Mackay, published by "Struga Poetry Evenings", 2026
11. Nikola Madzhirov for the translation from Bulgarian of "Where We Are Not" by Georgi Gospodinov, published by "Either-Or", 2025
12. Petar Andonovski for the translation from Greek of "30 Contemporary Greek Authors", published by "Prozart", 2025

2026 "Dragi" International Award

The jury also decided that the international "Dragi" award for the best translation of a literary work originally written in Macedonian should be awarded to Borislav Pavlovski for the translation into Croatian of the novel "Bajazit and Olivera" by Dragi Mihajlovski, published this year by the prestigious publishing house "TIM Press" from Zagreb, Croatia.

Borislav Pavlovski is one of the prominent translators from the Macedonian language, recognizable for his exceptional linguistic sense, literary precision and dedication to the

transfer of valuable works of Macedonian literature to the Croatian cultural space. With his long-standing oeuvre and activity, he significantly contributes to the affirmation of Macedonian literature, while in his latest translation, Pavlovski is faced with an exceptionally complex and multi-layered text, in which the historical and the intimate, the poetic and the philosophical, the sublime and the bodily are intertwined. The translator, with great linguistic sensitivity and literary precision, manages to convey the richness of the author's expression, preserving its rhythmicity, stylistic peculiarity and emotional depth.

A special value of translation is the ability to establish a natural and convincing literary language, which not only faithfully follows the original, but also functions independently as a literary text. Through careful choice of words, precise transmission of nuances, and a sense of historical and cultural context, Pavlovsky creates a translation that allows the reader from another linguistic space to feel the full drama and complexity of the novel.

The translation of "Bajazit and Olivera" is an example of a translation work in which fidelity to the original and creative freedom are in a carefully established balance. This is precisely where its greatest value lies: in the ability of Dragi Mihajlovski's work to speak with the same intensity, literary power and universality to a new reading audience.

This recognition also has symbolic significance, as the awarding coincides with the 75th anniversary of the birth of Dragi Mihajlovski – one of the most significant Macedonian writers, translators and literary thinkers, in whose honor these translation awards are organized. Therefore, the awarding of the translation of his work represents not only recognition of Pavlovski’s extraordinary work, but also a reminder of the enduring value of Mihajlovski’s literature and its ability to transcend linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Due to the exceptional quality of the translation, the linguistic and stylistic sensitivity of the translator, as well as the symbolism that this recognition brings in the year marking the 75th anniversary of Dragi Mihajlovski's birth, the "Dragi" award is awarded with particular pleasure to Borislav Pavlovski for the translation of the novel "Bajazit and Olivera" into Croatian.

Borislav Pavlovski (Bjelovar, 1950) is a Macedonian scholar, philologist, theater scholar, translator, university professor and author. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb in South Slavic Languages and Literatures and Philosophy, where he later received his master's and doctorate degrees in the fields of philology and theater. His master's thesis is dedicated to the shaping of

characters in the plays of Kole Čaušle, and his doctoral dissertation to the space in Čaušle's plays.

From 1975 to 1978, he worked as a permanent correspondent for "Nova Makedonija" from the Republic of Croatia, reporting on cultural and social life. In 1978, he was elected assistant at the Department of Macedonian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. At the same faculty, he continued his long-standing academic career and from 1986 until his retirement in 2020, he was the head of the Department of Macedonian Language and Literature.

As a visiting lecturer and professor, he taught Macedonian language and literature at the universities of Osijek, Rijeka, Gothenburg, Maribor and Zadar. During his career, he was head of the Department of South Slavic Languages and Literatures, president of the Croatian Philological Society, and vice-president and president of the Croatian-Macedonian Society, of which he is one of the founders.

Pavlovski has published numerous literary criticisms, essays, studies, literary discussions and encyclopedic contributions dedicated to Macedonian literature, in Croatian and foreign encyclopedic and lexical editions. He has devoted particular attention to the study of the staging of the works of Croatian playwrights Marin Držić, Miroslav Krleža and Ivo Brešan on Macedonian stages.

He is the author of the books "In the Sign of Comparative Reading" (2000), "Spaces of Theater Ceremonies" (2000) and "From Text to Performance" (2007), and is also a co-author of the book "Macedonian Literature". As an anthologist and editor, he has authored, among others, "Modern Macedonian Dramas", "Lords of the Labyrinth", "Anthology of the New Macedonian Drama" and "Anthology of Contemporary Macedonian Poetry - The Found Word" (2023).

A particularly important place in his work is occupied by the translation and affirmation of Macedonian literature in the Croatian cultural space. Borislav Pavlovski's translation work covers more than four decades of work and represents a significant contribution to the affirmation of Macedonian literature in the Croatian cultural space. He translated and edited works by the most significant Macedonian authors from various genres - novels, short stories, plays, poetry, literary-historical and scientific works, essays and journalism. Among the authors whose works he translated are Petre M. Andreevski, Vlada Urošević, Goce Smilevski, Venče Andonovski, Luan Starova, Dragi Mihajlovski, Goran Stefanovski, Blaže Koneski, Aco Šopov, Mateja Matevski, Bogomil Gjuzel, Lidija Dimkovska and many others. His work on anthologies of contemporary Macedonian drama and poetry is particularly significant, with which he

introduced a large number of Macedonian writers to the Croatian audience. His translations have been published in books, magazines, newspapers, anthologies and collections, and some of his plays have been performed on Croatian theater stages. In addition to translations from Macedonian, he also translated from Slovenian and Bulgarian.

He also edited the bilingual edition of Konstantin Miladinov's poetry "Da vidam Ohrid, Struga da vidam / Da vidim Ohrid, Strugu da gledam" (2001), with a selection, translations, and biobibliographic contributions to Croatian poets.

For his scientific, professional, lecturing and translation work, he has received numerous awards, including the Medal of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb, the Medal "Apostle Paul" of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Racin Award and the International Award "Blaže Koneski" of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 2008, the University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje and the Faculty of Philology "Blaže Koneski" awarded him the title of doctor honoris causa - honorary doctor of philological sciences .

The international award "Dragi" for the most significant translation from Macedonian into a foreign language takes into account various parameters when a particular translation appears in another cultural environment. First of all - the level of the translation, but also the topicality, reviews, influence, stimulating interest in the author, recognition, increasing intercultural dialogue, etc. With this award, for the fourth year in a row, a serious incentive is given to all literary translators from the Macedonian language to approach the translation of Macedonian literature with great care and to more often decide to have the works of our authors included in the offer of publishing houses from Europe and the world.

This year's edition of the "Dragi" award is realized by the publishing house "Antolog" with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Macedonia and in cooperation with the Faculty of Philology "Blaze Koneski" - Skopje.

For the "Dragi" award, 24 works translated into Macedonian by 27 translators were initially nominated. The books were published by 9 publishing houses, and the translations were made from 12 different languages. The works (independent books or selections from the works) of 22 foreign authors were included, and when the two anthologies are taken into account, a total of works by about a hundred world poets were included. For the first time since its establishment, this

award will be awarded for the translation of a poetic work, which will fill a large gap in our cultural environment, and at the same time, the name of Dr. Dragi Mihajlovski, who made the greatest contribution precisely in the translation of literary works into verse, will be worthily honored.

The award for the best translation into Macedonian "Dragi" was established in 2022, and the first honorary recognition was awarded to Dragi Mihajlovski (1951 – 2022), a Macedonian writer, translator, essayist and university professor. In addition to his prose works, Mihajlovski left a lasting mark on Macedonian culture with his translations of works by Shakespeare, Milton, Shelley, Keats, Blake, Eliot, Milton, etc. He also published several studies and essays in the field of translation theory, and with his views on translation, he influenced both the students of the "Blae Koneski" Faculty of Philology in Skopje, where he was a professor, and all those involved in the science of translation (translotology).

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