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

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Publishing house "Anthology"

The international "Dragi" award for the best translation of a literary work originally written in Macedonian is being 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, announced the publishing house "Antolog", which awards the award.

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.

> 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, say the jury that decided to award the "Dragi" award.

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, says the explanatory statement of the award.

> Through careful choice of words, precise conveyance of nuances, and a sense of historical and cultural context, Pavlovski creates a translation that allows the reader from another language area to experience the full drama and complexity of the novel, it added.

The decision comes in a year when the Macedonian cultural public marks the 75th anniversary of Mihajlovski's birth.

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 field of philology and theater. His master's thesis is dedicated to the shaping of characters in the plays of Kole Čašule, and his doctoral dissertation to the space in Čašule's plays. At the beginning of his career, he also worked as a permanent correspondent for the newspaper "Nova Makedonija" from Croatia. For his many years of scientific and translation work, he is an honorary doctor of sciences from the University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje and a recipient of the "Blaže Koneski" awards of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the "Apostol Pavle" award.



The jury also announced the list of 12 works from eight different languages that will enter the second round of selection for the domestic award "Dragi". This year, the award focuses for the first time on the translation of poetic works into verse. The shortlist includes:

Ana Pejčinová for the English translation of "Selected Poems" by Rudyard Kipling, published by "Polica", 2024
Daniela Spiroska for the English translation of "Poems" by Dylan Thomas, published by "PNV Publications", 2026
Dragana Evtimova for the Slovenian translation of "Tusculum" by Denis Škofić, published by "PNV Publications", 2025
Eli Pujovska for the Dutch translation of "Golden Wreath - Selected Poems by Aneke Brassinga", published by "Struga Evenings of Poetry", 2026
Zvonko Taneski for the Slovak translation of "Golden Wreath - Selected Poems by Ivan Štrpka", published by "Struga Evenings of Poetry", 2025
Ivan Šopov for the Bulgarian translation of "Letters to Her Whom I Never Gave Birth" by Dimana Jordanova, published by "Strange Forest", 2026
Igor Radev for the translation from Chinese of "Meaningful Songs" by Shi Chuan, published by "Struga Evenings of Poetry", 2026
Juliana Velichkovska for the translation from English of "The Burial of the Mousetrap" by Deryn Rees-Jones, published by "PNV Publications", 2025
Ksenija Chochkova for the translation from German of "The Reintroduction of the Hourglass" by Michael Krieger, published by "Struga Evenings of Poetry", 2026
Nikola Dzhelincheski for the translation from English of "Disorder" by Peter McKay, published by "Struga Evenings of Poetry", 2026
Nikola Madzhirov for the translation from Bulgarian of "Where We Are Not" by Georgi Gospodinov, published by "Either-Or", 2025
Petar Andonovski for the translation from Greek of "30 Greek Contemporary Authors", published by "Prozart", 2025

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 "Blaže Koneski" Faculty of Philology in Skopje, where he was a professor, and all those involved in the science of translation (translotology).

#BAYAZIR AND OLIVERA #BORISLAV PAVLOVSKI #DEAR AWARD