

IN MEMORIAM

Dragoljub Simonovic (1935-2019)

Writing and creating for economy is serious business, similar to creating in the other sciences, and it is done with great responsibility. I was introduced to Professor Dragoljub Simonovic by his colleague and friend Zivorad Zlatkovic fifty years ago at the Faculty of Economics in Nis. The introduction was short, for we soon began a conversation about the economy, especially the economy of our agriculture, about which Professor Dragoljub had already written extensively, paying great attention to it. I immediately noticed that he was different from many creators in economics because he possessed universal knowledge.

Simonovic obtained his university education at the University of Skopje, and had further advanced training in: France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine and Greece. About the work of D. Simonovic, there have been published several news vouchers and over 300 distinguished articles.

He has been translated into world languages, and his textbook *The Economics of Agriculture* (the first post-war textbook of its kind) has been translated into Chinese (Beijing, 1982) and Italian (Lugano, 1992).

He was listed in the publication of the American Bibliographic Institute and was selected as *The Personality of the year in 2000*. (*The International Directory of Distinguished Leadership*, North Carolina, U.S.A, 1998). He was listed because of *Who's Who in Serbia in 1995*; *WHO IS WHO IN YUGOSLAVIA 1970*; and *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SERBIAN PEOPLE 2008*

At the very beginning of his profession, Simonovic had already participated in turbulent events at the Faculty, where he spent his entire working life from assistant to full-time professor and emeritus professor (from 1962 until his retirement). During his work of many years, he always tried to be independent, thinking with his own head, but naturally, he knew that nobody was perfect. He had in mind everything that other creators thought about economics, but he remained original in his views and fought for them. The old professor, who combined economics and professional experience, was in fact a kind of enriched creator in the pedagogy of economics. He adhered to a logical-analytical commitment in immersing himself in the professorship and a role of a professor. He lectured to many generations of students at the Faculty of Economics in Nis, Belgrade, Novi Sad and Lugano. He cultivated respect for everything progressive in agrarian economics, equally in the views of scholars of different ideological orientations. Because of this trait, there were always many young people (students and scholars) around him who enjoyed his lectures and discussions, anthological memories of his colleagues in economics, especially those who tangled with the problems of farmers. .

This way Dragoljub, enthralled with his *Agrarian Economy*, continued to multiply texts about his research. He would always, he used to say, recall the reforms in our agriculture by blaming the responsible ones, but of course he was pleased when other connoisseurs of our opportunities in the agrarian community recognized and supported his views and attitudes.

With excitement, Professor Simonovic told me that he was editing the international journal for economic theory and practice and social issues "Economics" in Niš with a lot

of problems. And it was not easy for him, during his editing, the most eminent people from our country and abroad were publishing their scientific papers, and all scientific responsibility had to be submitted stoically. Professor Dragoljub was involved in all the external and content forms of the journal, which in difficult economic conditions (along with it) continued to be shaped by his son Professor Zoran. He said that he felt his son as a younger colleague who resisted all the temptations of working in a magazine, and his associates, especially from the Faculty of Economics in Nis, as very altruistic and important.

Professor Simonovic collaborated with the greatest thinkers in the field of agriculture from the country and abroad. He was respected by his colleagues from the Faculty, which is why he was often elected to many positions in the city, Serbia and the former SFRY - of which he was deputy.

Each encounter with Professor Simonovic was a literal economic experience - endless stories in which economic science constantly lived. He would often refer to his former colleagues who were no longer alive, and who had all been forgotten, that they were the best interpreters of science in this part of Serbia. He was able to understand others, which is why he cited many in his textbook.

He prepared and edited the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NIS (four volumes, 1995 - 1996), and the monograph of the Faculty of Economics in Nis (1960 - 2000).

He was a member of the Scientific Society of Economists of Yugoslavia, the Association of Serbian Writers, President of the Association of Scientists and Artists of Nis, and was professor at the invitation of the Interuniversity Center in Lugano (Switzerland) since 1992.

He received the October Award of the City of Niš, the Order of Work with the Gold Wreath, numerous charters and plaques, thank-you notes and other awards.

Dragoljub Simonovic published over 1000 papers in various publications in the country and abroad. He was the manager of over 30 scientific projects funded by the Ministry of Science and other contracting authorities.

Total work of prof. D. Simonovic can be divided into Scientific (13 monographs, 17 textbooks, 4 encyclopedias, 4 ethno-anthropology and history, writing down folk songs, stories, proverbs and more, publishing) and Literary (4 collections of poems, 3 Vidianstva in Serbs trilogies, 3 other collections, 6 anthologies of folk songs and poetic records).

The emergence of a comprehensive and comprehensive study of the economics of agrarians in Professor Simonovic's Serbian economic public was an event worthy of attention. When an author publishes an economic study of an agrarian, which belongs to the central areas of his field of expertise, then it is certainly an event worth noting. In this study, Simonovic pointed to many problems in our agriculture, offering solutions.

He was a mentor for several master's theses and doctoral dissertations or a member of the defense committees.

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