



SERBIAN CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES IN ROMANIA

A JOURNEY INTO LESSER KNOWN WORLD

Almost unknown spiritual treasure of the Serbian Orthodox Church is located in the territory of neighbouring Romania. "...This string of pearls of our spiritual heritage is almost unknown by most Serbs. That heritage is so big and if there were not for it, the Serb genus and Orthodoxy in general would have been much poorer. Thank God, there was a man, who with his knowledge and skills, but above all a sense of understanding for the needs of our time, Mr. Stanko Kostić, created a book of Serbian holy places in Romania..." wrote Bishop of Timisoara Lukijan.

The photo monograph authored by Stanko Kostić was published by the Vojvodina Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in 2013. The preface of Professor Miodrag Jovanović, translated into four languages, and descriptions of churches and monasteries by art historian Dejan Radovanović are a concise study of the historical circumstances, architecture, influences and artistic achievements of builders of Serbian churches. This monograph is an excellent read for connoisseurs and lovers of sacred art, but is also an invitation "for many to go and meet the spiritual treasures of the Serbs 'live', either as pilgrims or as lovers of spiritual creativity," Bishop Lukijan recommended to the readers.

BelGuest Magazine has for years presented to its readers the sacred heritage of Serbia. In meeting with this beautiful book that reveals a rich world of which we know very little, we wanted to introduce Stanko Kostić and his work.

"I am passionately interested in the Serbian culture and tradition. So the road led me to Szentendre, where I met Bishop Lukian, who gave me some new guidelines for research. He blessed my travel to the Timisoara eparchy, and for two years - from 2003 to 2004 - I made almost two thousand photos. I visited the Arad, Socol and Timisoara regencies and photographed 59 churches and five monasteries. I used to record everything: church architecture, fresco painting, icon painting, people's life and customs. At the beginning, I did not encounter an understanding of publishers. Only when an iconostasis of the church in Ciacova - a hometown of notable Serbian

educator Dositej Obradović, was accidentally damaged in fire, people from the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments found me somehow, as they did not have qualitative photos to help them reconstruct the burned iconostasis. This is how this book evolved."

Asked which churches and monasteries he would recommend as inevitable places to visit and what has remained recorded in his eye as "the most beautiful of all beauties", Stanko Kostić says: "Serbian baroque and classicism in an icon and wall painting distinguishes us from the Catholic baroque. In churches and monasteries worked our best painters, icon painters and woodcarvers of that time - Andreja Andrejević, Jakov Orfelin, the first Serbian academically educated painter, the Aleksić icon painting dynasty, from Nikola to his grandson Stevan, Konstantin Danil, Jovan Isajlović Senior, the Janićs carvers from Arad. I will quote a top-class expert on the epoch who has said that carvings of the church of Bezdina are 'such a baroque that they could be equally exported to Rubens and Bernini's home countries'. As for my recommendation, the Church of St. Peter and Paul in Arad should certainly be visited, where great man of our history and nobleman Sava Tekelija was buried. In Timisoara, there is our Orthodox Cathedral with an eparchial court at the Union Square, and there are the Mehala and Fabric quarters as well. I have been inspired by slightly poorer churches located in a fascinating area of the Iron Gates in the Socol regency."

■ MILENA MIHALJČIĆ



STANKO KOSTIĆ – AN ART PHOTOGRAPHER

Photography was his occupation since school days. He participated in 84 collective and 43 individual exhibitions in Serbia and abroad. He has won numerous awards (including two annual awards of ULUPUDUS). Many of his photographs and reports were published in numerous magazines, books and monographs (Serbia, Beautiful Forests of Serbia, Icon Painting at Vranje Diocese, Temple of Holy Mother Assumption in Pančevo, the Beočin Monastery. He is the author of more than 30 thematic calendars on old crafts, old Serbian medals, facades of Belgrade buildings, national architecture of Eastern Serbia... Particular inspiration he is finding in his birthplace, by photographing the Homolje Mountains, the mountains Beljanica and Kučaj, the Mlava and Resava river basin, national costumes and customs.

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Iconostasis of the main church of Timisoara



PUTOVANJE U NEPOZNATE SVETOVE

Duhovno blago Srpske pravoslavne crkve koje se nalazi se na teritoriji susedne Rumunije gotovo da je nepoznato. „...Ova niska bisera našeg duhovnog nasleđa je skoro nestala u saznanju širokih slojeva srpskog naroda. A to nasleđe je toliko, da kada ga ne bi bilo, i Srpstvo i pravoslavlje uopšte bi mnogo, mnogo osiromašilo. Bogu hvala, pojavio se čovek, koji je svojim znanjem i umećem, ali pre svega osećanjem sluha za potrebe našeg vremena, gospodin Stanko Kostić, napravio knjigu svetloписа Srpske svetinje u Rumuniji“, zapisao je episkop temišvarski Lukijan.

Foto-monografiju Stanka Kostića objavio je Pokrajinski zavod za zaštitu spomenika kulture 2013. godine. Predgovor profesora dr Miodraga Jovanovića, svakako najvećeg poznavaoa i tumača srpskog umetničkog blaga u Rumuniji i Banatu, uz tekstualne opise crkava i manastira istoričara umetnosti Dejana Radovanovića, predstavljaju jezgrovitu studiju o istorijskim prilikama, arhitekturi, uticajima i umetničkim dometima graditelja srpskih crkava. Monografija je izvanredno štivo za poznavaoce i ljubitelje sakralne umetnosti, ali je ujedno i poziv „da mnogi pođu i uživo upoznaju duhovno blago Srba, bilo kao hodočasnici, bilo kao ljubitelji duhovnog stvaralaštva u nas“, reči su preporuke episkopa Lukijana upućene čitaocima knjige.

BelGuest Magazin već godinama svojim čitaocima predstavlja sakralnu baštinu Srbije. U susretu s prelepom knjigom koja otkriva jedan prebogat svet o kojem veoma malo znamo, poželeli smo da predstavimo Stanka Kostića i njegovo delo. „Strastveno se zanimam za srpsku kulturu i tradiciju. Tako me je put naneo u Sentandreju , gde sam se susreo s vladikom Lukijanom, koji mi je dao nov putokaz za istraživanja. Blagoslovio je moje putovanje u Temišvarsku eparhiju i tako sam za dve godine - od 2003. do 2004. - napravio skoro dve hiljade fotografija. Obišao sam Aradsko, Sokolovačko i Temišvarsko namesništvo i fotografisao 59 crkava i pet manstira. Beležio sam sve: crkvenu arhitekturu, freskopis, ikonopis, život ljudi i njihove običaje. U početku nisam naišao na razumevanje izdavača. Tek kada je nesrećnim slučajem u požaru stradao ikonostas crkve u Čakovu - rodnom mestu znamenitog srpskog prosvetitelja Dositeja Obradovića, ljudi iz

Pokrajinskog zavoda za zaštitu spomenika kulture iz Novog Sada su, u potrazi za kvalitetnim dokumentima koji bi im pomogli u rekonstrukciji ikonostasa, nekako došli do mene. Iz tog kontakta proizašla je profesionalna saradnja i tako smo došli i do ove knjige.“

Na pitanje koje bi crkve i manastire prepuručio kao nezaobilazna mesta za obilazak i šta je u njegovom oku ostalo zabeleženo kao „najlepša od lepota“, Stanko Kostić kaže: „Srpski barok i klasicizam u ikonopisu i zidnom slikarstvu nas izdvaja od katoličkog baroka. U crkvama i manstirima su radili naši najbolji slikari, ikonopisci i rezbari tog doba – Andreja Andrejević , Jakov Orfelin, prvi srpski akademski obrazovani slikar, ikonopisačko slikarska dinastija Aleksića, od Nikole do unuka mu Stevana, Konstantin Danil, Jovan Isajlović stariji, rezbari Janići iz Arada. Citiraću reči jednog vrhunskog poznavaoa epohe koji je rekao da su rezbarije iz Bezdina ‘takav barok da bi ga kao ravnopravni primer mogli iznositi i u otadžbinu Rubensa i Berninija’. Kada je reč o mojim preporukama, svakako bi, pored manastira Bezdina i Sendurđa, trebalo obići Crkvu Svetog Petra i Pavla u Aradu, gde je sahranjen velikan naše istorije i plemić Sava Tekelija. U Temišvaru, na Trgu ujedinjenja nalazi se naša Saborna crkva s eparhijskim dvorom, a tu su i Mehala i Fabrika. Meni su bile inspiracija i ponešto siromašnije crkve koje se nalaze u fascinantnim predelima Đerdapske klisure u Sokolovačkom namesništvu.“

■ MILENA MIHALJIĆ

Decoration inside the dome, the monastery of Saint Đurđ

Timisoara, Square of Unification with diocesan palace and the main church

STANKO KOSTIĆ - LIKOVNI UMETNIK FOTOGRAFIJE

Fotografijom se bavi od školskih dana. Izlagao na 84 kolektivne i 43 samostalne izložbe u zemlji i inostranstvu. Dobitnik je brojnih nagrada i priznanja, među kojima i dve godišnje nagrade ULUPUDS-a. Fotografije i reportaže objavio u mnogim časopisima, knjigama i monografijama (Srbija, Lepe šume Srbije, Ikonopis Vranjske eparhije, Hram Uspenja Presvete Bogorodice u Pančevu, manastir Beočin ...) Autor je više od 30 tematskih kalendara o starim zanatima, starim srpskim odlikovanjima , fasadama beogradskih zdanja, narodnoj arhitekturi Istočne Srbije... Posebnu inspiraciju nalazi u svom rodnom kraju fotografišući Homolje, Beljanicu , Kučaj, sliv Mlave i Resave, narodne nošnje i običaje.

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Tabernacle, Bezdin monastery, silver, 18th century

