



Albanian Book and Libraries in Kosovo

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ABSTRACT

The paper deals with the development of the Albanian printed book and libraries in Kosovo from a cultural and sociological aspect. Publication of books and creation of the first libraries that began in Kosovo by the 14th century was followed with a long interruption due to socio-political circumstances. The linguistic structure of the book in libraries by the middle of the sixties of the 20th century was dominated by books in Serbo-Croatian. The strengthening of the political and cultural position of Albanians was also reflected in view of the growing number of publications in Albanian and network extension of libraries also changing their cultural status. In addition the paper analyzes the institutional structure of libraries and cultural impact of the book on the growing number of readers along the process of usage of communication technologies and digitization of library books and their contents.

Keywords: Albanian printed books, Albanian libraries, Institutional structure of libraries, Cultural impact of books.

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I. Introduction

Libraries in Kosovo date back to the 14th century. The function of these libraries is mainly related to the mission of the religious communities. These publications were in the Ottoman and Serbian language. But, on the other hand, publishing activity in Kosovo has been testified in a whole new time, though it is to believe that religious communities, in parallel with the use of the book, would have also cultivated its production.

Publishing activity in Albanian in Kosovo started in the 40s of the 20th century. Since 1943 publication of brochures containing cultural, scientific and publicist began to be published. These brochures had a circulation of up to 200 copies, while Abetarja (Alphabet Book) was first published in 1946 with a circulation of 66,500 copies. But at this time, books were hard to find, as prior to 1945 in the Province only 3 libraries were open equipped with a total of 6000 books (Kosova sot/Kosovo danas, 1984, p. 48).

In 1950 in Prishtina the Publishing House Mustafa Bakija was established. At the beginning of its activity it published works translated in Albanian and later on it produced original works as well. Works by Kosovo authors were published while encouraging, supporting and promotion of artists focused mainly on the literary

magazine Jeta e re (New Life) which began publication in 1949. This magazine had a both erudite and illuminist role and supported authors in literary genres and in the translation of foreign authors. Though there were few publications, this is the period of a gradual expansion of libraries in towns, state-owned enterprises and rural agricultural cooperatives. This network was preceded by the so-called trade union libraries, established in work organizations throughout cities and villages. This was a modest library and counted no more than 150 books in Albanian (Foniqi, 2008, p. 6).

On the other hand, there was an overwhelming number of illiterates, as there was no teaching in the Albanian language. It was only after 1941, as Kosovo was occupied by the German and Italian armies that education in Albanian was allowed, as well as publications and the opening of libraries. But still the majority of the population could not read or write. Furthermore, the number of the illiterates increased with the growing population. About 84 percent of the population over the age of 10 were illiterate (Kosova sot/Kosovo danas, 1984, p. 41). With the increase if the number of books published in Albanian a library culture was slowly established along the culture of reading. The increase of primary education increased the number of people who learnt how to read and write and at the same time it encouraged the curiosity for reading books. Since we are dealing with a very poor

population, which had been stripped of properties by the Communist regime transforming them into cooperatives citizens had no concern on buying books as they needed to provide for mere social existence. For this reason, the people's regime began to extend the network of libraries and reading premises in the field. Libraries in villages were placed in premises belonging to agricultural cooperatives in order to play the role of indicators for the interest of the people's regime for education and culture of workers and peasants. In 1955 there were 442 libraries and reading halls with over 287,000 books and brochures (Kosova sot/Kosovo danas, 1984, p. 48).

The policy of Communist Yugoslavia (1945-1966) still ruled out most of Albanians of their right guaranteed by the Federal Constitution for compulsory education in their mother tongue. The ratio of inclusion of Albanian pupils in primary education is shown by the fact that in the school year 1965/66, compulsory primary education in Kosovo was attended by only 77 percent of children (Kolipi, 2012, p. 485-490). The social and educational effect of a generation, of which 23 percent had not completed primary education is much larger and long-term as it is transmitted across a generation rendering the illiterate uncompetitive in the labor and scientific market. Generations of illiterates aged 40- 50 are indicative of a very complex process with far-reaching consequences for themselves, their families and for the society.

Along the process of establishing libraries, new publications took place. The first activity of the Publishing House of Mustafa Bakija was integrated in 1956 within the printing house Miladin Popović, while in 1958, the Publishing Printing Company Rilindja, with its overall activity in several areas became the leading publisher of both translated and original works. Between 1945 and 1963, the publishing enterprises (under different names) published 1006 titles including textbooks and translated and original works of fiction, with a circulation of 5,636,225, of which 230 were translated works of classic world and Yugoslav authors (Kosova sot/Kosovo danas, 1984, p. 48). A more favorable trend for the Albanian book occurred between 1964 and 1974 when the publishing activity increased. During this 10-year period of 13,897,254 copies of books were published in the Serbian, Turkish and Albanian languages, and in 1979 a total of 375 titles were published with a circulation of 2,896,000 copies i.e. as half of the entire publishing activity over the past two decades past. Besides Albanian two other book publishing houses existed in Kosovo, one in the Serbo-Croatian and one in the Turkish language. The Turkish journal and publishing house "TAN" dealt mainly with media activities. The latter published magazines on culture, science and art "ÇEVREN" and the children's review "KUŞ". Until 1974 8 titles published in Turkish, while 6 years thereafter until 1980, TAN 8 titles published 8000 copies. Until 1974 8 titles were published in Turkish, and 6 years thereafter until 1980, TAN published 8 titles in 8000 copies. The JEDINSVO publishing house published 60 titles prior to 1974, mostly by Kosovo Serb authors. Between 1974-1980, Jedinstvo published 220 titles with 250,000 copies. It also published the literary magazine STRMLENJE and science and culture review OBELEZJE.

Of course, the main publishing activity in Kosovo in this period is the publication of manuscripts in Albanian. Besides Renaissance Publishing House, he had a special publisher for textbooks. These publications will initially come from the Institute for Publishing Textbook of Republic of Serbia, Kosovo department, and later based on the Textbooks and Education Supplies Institute, founded in 1970, or Libri Shkollor (School Textbooks) respectively. From 1962 to 1969, as a parallel outpost of the Institute of Textbooks and Education Supplies of Serbia it published 464 titles of textbooks, and in the period between 1970-1979, 492 titles of textbooks were published. In the period between 1980-1989 it published 831 titles of textbooks for primary and secondary education. From 1992 to 2001 it published 370 titles of textbooks. The Institute of Textbooks and Education Supplies, or Libri shkollor respectively, published from 1992 to 2006 about 500 titles of textbooks at all levels, including school literature. In 1955 alone 64 new titles were published.

The Publishing Board of Rilindja, with 2000 works by Albanian authors published, asserted cultural, scientific and literary publications that exceeded the limits of Kosovo. Numbers and facts confirm that prior to 1974 1073 titles were published and until 1984 an additional 3200 others. Prior to the introduction of emergency measures by the Serb regime, until 1989, Rilindja published over 3800 titles of various types of works.

The publishing activity of Rilindja, with an annual publication of 120 titles, supported the original creativity by contemporary authors, publication of complete works, and publication of works of authors of tradition and translated works. Rilindja became one of the biggest publishers in the region, including circulation of works published, affirming the Albanian culture and literature in national and international fairs. The volume of publications in this period, in 1985 in Kosovo reached one book per capita.

In 1989 Rilindja published 80 titles, and in the period between 1990-1999 and average of 30-40 new titles were published annually. This period is characterized by de-institutionalization of Albanian culture, namely the destruction and occupation, as well as paralysis of publications in Albanian by Serbian authorities in Kosovo.

In addition a publishing activity by the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo took place, with the publication of over 200 titles between 1976 and 2008 has published more than 200 in different fields such as that of linguistics, literature, social sciences, natural sciences, arts, including publication of periodical journals and magazines. Albanological Institute, however, since the beginning of its publishing activity till 2008 produced over 400 publications in the fields of Albanology: on linguistics, literature, folklore, history and ethnology.

Other educational, scientific and cultural institutions, such as the University of Prishtina, Kosovo Archive, Institute of History, National and University Library of Kosovo have developed and continue with publishing activity in their areas of scientific and professional research.

In addition to Rilindja, which found itself in a disadvantageous position to carry out its function, the

year 1990 saw the beginning of a private and independent publishing house Buzuku followed by Dukagjini in 1994.

After 1999 the Publishing Houses Faik Konica, Rozafa, Shpresa, and other publishers of commenced their activities in the field of publishing. Dukagjini Publishing House after 1999 began to publish educational literature. Publishing activity in Kosovo took place in other social and private institutions throughout municipalities in Kosovo.

II. Linguistic Structure of the Book

The structure of the book collections of public libraries by language has changed, since the beginning we had to do mainly with books in Serbian. Albanian-language books were few. Thus, in 1959 public libraries possessed 249,883 copies, 182,250 of them in Serbo-Croatian or 72.9 percent and 65,785 in Albanian or 26.3 per cent with 1,848 in other languages, or 0.74 percent respectively (Foniqi, 2008, p. 52). The number of publications in the Serbian language, which was much greater than that in the Albanian language, shows that contrary to the structure of the population cultural favoritism was based on discrimination beginning from politics and continuing to all other spheres. The discrimination trend continues in the 60's as well, as displayed in the official statistics of the period. Thus, in 1963 the libraries possessed 301,000 books with 208,000 of or 69.1 percent in Serbo-Croatian and 82,000 or 27.2 percent in Albanian and 11,000 or 3.7 percent in other languages respectively. In 1986, there were 1,722,509 in libraries, with 1,194,915 of them in Albanian, or 69.4 percent, 506,325 in Serbo-Croatian or 29.4 percent, 17,445 Turkish or 1 percent and 3824 in other languages or 0.2 percent. Per capita book in Kosovo fell to 1.08 per cent, to 0.97 for the Albanian population, for the Serbian and Montenegrin population to 2.1 percent and 1.4 percent to Turkish population and for the rest to 0.04 per cent.

Political and cultural change that was initiated at the end of the 60s, following a very difficult period for the Albanians, affected the increase in the number of publications in the Albanian language in the library. This period is also associated with the opening of high schools, vocational schools and institutions, which required the filling of the scarcity of publications in Albanian. Fifteen years after the change of cultural policies in Kosovo, the number of books in the libraries increased emphatically. In 1986, in 21 municipalities, literature in Albanian exceeded that in Serbian, with the exception of the municipality of Leposavic where books in Serbo-Croatian dominated. During 1986 a total of 52,044 books were purchased: 39,662 in Albanian, 11,736 in Serbo-Croatian and 646 in Turkish, and 3,818 books were extracted as unusable, 2,942 in Albanian and 876 in Serbo-Croatian (Foniqi, 2008, p. 55).

III. National Library

The library network of libraries in Kosovo looks as follows: the National Library of Kosovo, including in it until 2014 had the University Library. For this reason it was called the National and University Library of

Kosovo. In addition, there are also inter-municipal, university, school and special libraries.

The development of libraries in Kosovo is referred to the National and University Library of Kosovo, which has gone through several stages, and with different designations: Regional Library of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija (1944-1952), the Library Center of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija (1956-1961), the Provincial People's Library (1961-1970), People's and University Library of Kosovo (1970-1990), People's and University Library of Kosovo and Metohija (1990-1999), and since 1999 - National and University Library of Kosovo and National Library respectively (2014).

The current building of the National Library of Kosovo was inaugurated on 25 November 1982. Its includes a space of 16,500 square meters. It is made with zenithal windows with a total of 99 domes bearing particular architectural symbolism. The National Library is the central library institution of Kosovo and center of library information on a national level. The activity of the National Library of Kosovo is similar to other national libraries in different countries of the world and it is a member of various international associations.

With the collapse of the constitutional position of Kosovo in 1989, library activities, as in other spheres of culture, education and science, were discriminated against by the Serbian authorities. The 1998-1999 period marks the period of occupation and the inquisition, i.e. the destruction, desertion and burning of library collections in public and private libraries in Kosovo. From 1990 to 1999 in the National and University Library of Kosovo the Serbian government applied violent measures denying Albanian readers the right to services. In addition to being occupied by Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia in the March-May 1999 period, during the NATO intervention, the building of the National and University Library of Kosovo served as a Serbian military base.¹

During the Serb administration the National and University Library of Kosovo increased by 22,000 books, all in Serbian and not a single one in Albanian, while in this period 100,000 books in Albanian, which had been earmarked for exchange and donation disappeared by the enforced administration of the institution (Monografia Kosova, 2011). Likewise, in the Library a sweep of collections of national value took place, especially works of authors of Albanian tradition were destroyed.

According to the revision of library collections in 2004, the collections of the National Library and University number 1,890,194 library units , with 475,324 titles, of which books: 382,806 units; magazines: 281,591 units; newspapers: 984,022 units and other publications: 241,775 units. From 2004-2008 the enrichment of library funds in the National and University Library of Kosovo, through mandatory sample, purchase and gifts, has increased to over 30,000 titles. The oldest book in the

¹ The paper "Kosova Libraries: History and Development" was presented at the History of Libraries-SIG Session of the 76th IFLA Congress held in Gothenburg (Sweden) on August 14, 2010. The paper is published in both Albanian and English. The presented version of the paper can be found on the IFLA's Congress proceeding at: <http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/papers/ifla76/136-bashota-en.pdf>

National and University Library of Kosovo is The History of Life and Deeds of Skanderbeg, Prince of Epeirotes, by Marin Barleti, inscribed in the Latin language, and translated in German by Johan Piniciani, published in Augsburg in 1533 (<http://biblioteka-ks.org/Botimet.php>).

As of 2005 the National and University Library of Kosovo has a functional automated library system Aleph 500 and by early 2009 electronic bibliographic cataloging was done for 54,921, or 79,319 physical units (Monografia Kosova, 2011). The National and University Library of Kosovo through Electronic Library Consortium has access to the most popular electronic magazines in the world.

The library activity is also conducted in inter-municipal libraries in Kosovo, which are considered as second-level commercial libraries. These libraries are functioning in the major centers of Kosovo: Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Mitrovica, Gjakova, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Leposavic, while municipal libraries in smaller towns in Kosovo are considered as public third-level libraries.

In 1998-1999 in public and private libraries in Kosovo thousands of library collections disappeared or were burned. According to local and international sources, in only 183 libraries in Kosovo between 1990-1999 close to 1,000,000 copies of different publications were lost (Bashota, 2004).

In 1989 Kosovo had 328 school libraries, while in 1992 only 146 such libraries remained. In 1989 there were 176 public libraries, and in 1995 they were only 59. Before 1990 public libraries in Kosovo had 2,014,628 copies, while after 1999 there were only 1,114,060 copies of books. Statistical data show a mass extinction of library collections in Albanian in most of Kosovo libraries. In 2005 Kosovo had 498 libraries of all types. The general fund of these libraries consisted of 1.396.121 titles and 3.465.372 library units (Bashota & Kokollari, 2010).

The library activity in Kosovo developed in other scientific and educational institutions, such as the Library of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo, Albanology Institute Library, libraries of the faculties of the University of Prishtina, school libraries, etc.

The book and libraries in Kosovo have gone through different development and termination periods. Facts and evidence point out stages of normal development and affirmation of publishing and libraries, and of stages of discrimination and occupation, starting especially from the 80's of the twentieth century until 1999.

IV. Reading and Libraries

Does Kosovo have its readers in the time of modern communication technology with the book through the internet and electronic catalogs? Does one still have to be looking for forms and ways to restore the reader to the book, suggesting the restoration of the dignity of literature. Within this problem two ways should be considered:

The first problem: to what extent is the book present in our homes, in school libraries, faculties, public libraries, etc.

The second problem: are the literary works still being explained by old methods in most lower, middle and

superior education institutions where biographism, historicism, positivism are alpha and omega of lecture. So, methods, criteria, selection of authors testify to a way of reading, teaching, explaining, interpreting and understanding the literature.

In the first case, all the statistics may prove that the book published in Kosovo is not distributed to all libraries in Kosovo. The problem lies in the organization network, manner of distribution and lack of purchasing funds. While publishers are legally bound to submit to the National and University Library of Kosovo a compulsory specimen, public libraries should be aware that enrichment with new publications is a social duty and obligation.

Based on international standards there should be 1.5-2.5 books per capita. Kosovo is far back from these standards not yet by the lack of strategy on how to promote the book in addition to the library expansion and greater development of the culture of reading in these institutions and currently on how to take advantage of its services wherever found.

According to the latest data in Kosovo operate 468 libraries. This includes the National and University Library of Kosovo, public libraries, and faculty and special education libraries. In all these libraries the book fund is over 3 million copies, approximately as many as in a public library in a major European city.

V. Cooperation on the Book and Library

In Kosovo there is a shortage of scientific journal representation through electronic the consortium of electronic libraries in the portal of various digital companies in Europe and beyond. Higher education institutions, which perform the function of teaching, do not still have their scientific journals according to different fields, with the exception of four or five faculties. For the lack of UN membership Kosovo has not yet established a National Agency for the standard number of magazines (ISNN) that would join international institutions.

Now the institutions of Kosovo have applied to the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture UNESCO and it is expected that the new state in the Balkans will soon become a member of this international organization.

The National and University Library of Kosovo through Electronic Library Consortium of Kosovo provides access to the most popular electronic outlets in the world. At first, services to electronic library sources are supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society until the second half of 2005, while in the period of 2006-2009, access to the database in these electronic sources was made through companies EBSCO and GALE, with financial support from the US Embassy in Prishtina. Electronic sources of OXFORD Scholarship Online and Oxford Journals, have been supported by the OSCE mission in Kosovo, while the Oxford Music Online by Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo. Users of these electronic sources in various fields of science have access to electronic books and most popular electronic journals in the world.

Since 2004 NULK has been publishing its professional journal "Bibliolettra". This periodical delivers the most complete information on the development of NULK, and the libraries of Kosovo in general. The review, however, has become a forum of experts to uphold libraries of Kosovo and their experience in this regard. Also, in the field of publications, NULK so far has published over 60 books and other various professional, original and translated publications and in this regard is providing the most advanced knowledge in the contemporary library sciences.

In the field of international cooperation, NULK, apart from being cofounder of the Library Balkans Union in 2009 in Edirne, Turkey, is a member of various organizations at the international level. NULK is an ISBN agency for the publishing of books in Kosovo, an ISMN agency for musical publications in Kosovo, and member of eIFL.net. The institution has signed cooperation agreements with numerous national libraries, cultural, scientific, educational, and other institutions. There is collaboration with the Library of Congress in the US, and with various libraries in France, Switzerland, Poland, Romania, Germany, Turkey, England, Croatia, Macedonia, as well as libraries of the Balkan region. In August 2009 NULK became a regular member of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries of the World. However, a rather more fruitful cooperation with the National Library of Albania is the most special chapter of NULK results and successes.

VI. Challenge of Being Part of the Global Library Network

Without books there would be no scientific thought. National libraries around the world are important study, research, and scientific centers. Libraries are very important institutions of the state, which, among other things, provide services of scientific character providing study and reference literature. National libraries, public libraries, university and school libraries, special libraries, etc., each of them may contribute through certain activities to the development and promotion of science.

Libraries in scientific institutions are of a special character, performing services for scientific research, not only in native language, but in different languages of the world.

By collaborating with various international institutions for the exchange of scientific literature through online electronic catalog libraries become centers for promoting national cultures in many scientific activities.

Old books and rare manuscripts, as well as other documents, including unique ones represent an exceptional value for scientific studies.

In the National and University Library of Kosovo the activity of Referral Center, and the collection of master papers and doctoral dissertations provide scientific information to enable the development of research knowledge in various fields of knowledge.

In the digitalization era, many institutions have created library consortiums of electronic libraries in their countries. Popular magazines in electronic form, which are of scientific nature may impact on receiving information about new results in various fields of science.

National and University Library of Kosovo has established its Electronic Library Consortium of Kosovo and so far has provided efficient and relevant services to access electronic databases of the most powerful companies in the world.

Libraries of scientific institutes, research centers, academies of sciences, etc., should also contribute more to the development of Albanian science with new programs, promoting, firstly, the experience of yesterday's renowned scientists and results of today's young scientists.

In the world many organizations and societies function, which contribute to the advancement of science through modern communication technologies, and popular scientific contributions of scientists.

An important contribution comes from BOOK (League of European Research Libraries). The association was joined by over 45 research libraries, among them the National and University Library of Kosovo since 2004. This library association cooperates with the Council of Europe, European Commission, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions etc.

The activity focuses on the development of research projects in Europe, organization of joint activities and European cultural heritage preservation, and by all means on the advancement of more efficient services to the most advanced scientific information.

Bibliographic institutes within the national libraries and the presentation of bibliographic entries of the Albanian book in the World Catalogue (World Cat) would be very important for Albanian science in international relations.

Although the book does not have a favoring role in society, however, books, magazines, photo-documents, phono-documents, both old and rare, which relate to the presentation of cultural and national identity will strengthen the mission of a national library in all levels.

Digital national sources of Kosovo available in the World Digital Library, which is the goal of the National and University Library of Kosovo would promote values of cultural heritage in Kosovo both in content and importance, providing information and offering special values of cultural heritage well beyond Europe.

National bibliographic information in the world today is an asset, not only for the national library of a country, but beyond it as well. For this reason the modernization of libraries through library automation systems favoring the newest technologies is a prerequisite for the advancement of knowledge and human society in the era of globalization, where culture and the book carry out their mission in the world network of information and communication.

VII. Conclusion

Library in Kosovo is still lagging behind in the process of expansion of the book in the libraries, as well as, in addition, to the digitization of the book and library content. Convergence of information resources at the national and international level is important. It is urgent to create electronic publications, including unique catalogs, which are regarded as one of the most sustainable developments in the librarianship activity of a country.

The book as a cultural and civilization essence can become more present through projects and involvement of the most advanced communication technologies in library networks. This vision is the test of the book and library in Kosovo, which based on the data above, it seeks to turn and bid as an electronic book, as it will become part of the cultural market in the area of national and international communications. In this regard, the rich cultural heritage of Kosovo owes to a mission that culture and global communication of knowledge requires and it has to do with the translation in different languages, creating the possibility of an easier exchange of library and librarianship achievements.

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Ibrahim Berisha was born on 20 March 1955. In a young age he started as a journalist (covering culture) in Rilindja daily newspaper where he remained for many years, to continue as editor on magazines such as Ora, Exclusive, Albanica, and Jeta e Re. He writes prose, poetry, and essays, many of which have been translated in a number of foreign languages. Berisha was one of the co-founders of the peaceful movement of Kosovo Albanians for freedom in 1989. He holds a PhD degree in sociological sciences, and teaches sociology at the University of Prishtina. His publications include poetry, short stories, novels, sociological and culture studies. Some of them include: Mediakultura (Mediaculture), Media-Agjensët e Komunikimit (Media-Communications Agents), Konvergjencia Intelektuale (Intellectual Convergence), Media dhe Tranzicioni (Media and Transition), Sociokulturë (Socioculture), Gruaja e Vëtmisë (Woman of Solitude), Fryma e Shiu (The Scent of Rain), Të Martën Mbrëma (Tuesday Evening), Origjina e Rinjohjes (The Origin of Rediscovery), Hardhia e Mureve (The Wall Vine-Tree), Sipëfaqja e së Dieles (Surface of Sunday), Fundi është i mundshëm (The End is Possible), Kafazi i Frikës (Cage of Fear), Fisi i Mbretërve të Humbur (The Tribe of Lost Kingdoms) ect. He lives in Prishtina.



Sali Bashota was born on 31st of August 1959. He enrolled in the Department of Albanian Literature and Language in the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina and graduated in 1982. In 1988 he mastered on philological sciences on the topic Mitrush Kuteli's Fiction Work, and defended his PhD in 1998 on the topic Character in the Albanian fiction between two world wars (Konica, Koliqi, Kuteli, Migjeni). In 1984 he took a position as fellow professor at the Faculty of Philology, advancing to the title of a lecturer (1994), docent (2000), associate professor (2005) and ordinaire professor (2010).

In the Faculty of Philology he teaches the following subjects: Arbereshi Romanticist Literature, Albanian Romanticist Literature, Literary Ideas and Albanian Publicistics. Since 1999 he is editing director of the Publishing House "Rozafa" in Prishtina. Between the years 2000-2003 he was editor in chief of the literary magazine Jeta e Re, and during 2000-2004 he was chief of the Department of Albanian Literature in the Faculty of Philology. In 2005, upon a proposal by the Embassy of the United States in Prishtina, he

attended the project on Library Administration in the USA and was certified by the State Department on an international management program. He is author to thirty books of poetry, poetic prose, studies on literature and literary criticism. He is also one of the most translated poets in Kosovo in different languages and presented in many collections in the country and abroad. His poetry has been translated into English, French, German, Romanian, Polish, Italian, Turkish, Swedish, Hungarian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Esperanto, etc., and his works were promoted in Paris, Sete, Bucharest, Sofia, Basel, Malmö, etc., and in various international poetry events. He is a member of PEN Center of Kosova and National Council of Kosova World's Memory. From January 2003 to October 2013 he was Director of National and University Library of Kosova. From December 2013 to May 2015 he was President of Managing Board of the Kosova National Library "Pjetër Bogdani".