

The fourth issue of the magazine of «Arche» is dedicated to the Balkans in all their diversity, namely to different aspects of modern cultural and political life of the region and to the literature written by contemporary Balkan authors. The issue starts with the foreword of its editor **Siarhiej Smatryčenka**, where he turns reader's attention to uncertain state of Balkan's borders.

Balkan Peninsula is a place where the question of political and religious tolerance has always been extremely important. That's why the issue has a separate block «Manifest» that contains one of the main texts of Serb intellectual **Danilo Kiš** «About nationalism».

Block «Balkans: Antimyth» includes theoretical texts, which analyze stereotypes and myths concerning almost whole Balkan region: an extract from the famous book «Imagining the Balkans» by **Maria Todorova**, and the articles «The Eros of Identity» by **Ivaylo Ditchev**, «Muslim Women, Croatian Women, Serbian Women, Albanian Women...» by **Vesna Kesić**, and «Invention and In(ter)vention: The Rhetoric of Balkanization» by **Vesna Goldsworthy**.

Block «Field studies» includes reportage notes: fragments from the travel books by **Rebecca West** («Black Lamb and Grey Falcon») and **Walter Starkie** («Raggle-Taggle: Adventures with a Fiddle in Hungary and Romania»), which were created before the WW2; extracts from the books of modern authors: **Robert D. Kaplan** («Balkan Ghosts. A Journey Through History») and **Andrzej Stasiuk** («Travelling to Babadag»); and a small text of Belarusian blogger **Anton Jurkaviec** «Yuppie-rom hit the drom!»

The issue continues with a conversation of Polish journalist **Wojciech Tochman** with former Special U.N. emissary to Bosnia and Herzegovina **Tadeusz Mazowiecki** «Order of feelings of the first degree».

Block «Image» contains essays, publicistic and popular-science texts dedicated to selected Balkan countries — some aspects of their contemporary life and history and some famous people of the region. For instance, **Aleš Debeljak** in his essay «The Poet and the Politics» reveals personality of philosopher and writer Danilo Kiš. Three outstanding persons in Romania history — Nyagoe Basarab, Dimitrie Cantemir and Lucian Blaga — and their influence on Romanian philosophic thought and Romanian mentality in general are the topic of **Constantin Noica's** text «Eternal and historical in Romanian culture». The articles of Belarusian authors **Jan Maksimiuk**, **Stefanija Kavaleuskaja** and **Nadzieja Šakun** are dedicated to Slovenia («Small, proud, insignificant Slovenia»), Croatia («The Balkan history of Croatia») and Macedonia («Macedonia: so ancient, so young»). One more Belarusian author, historian **Natallia Prystupa** created two texts: «The authority and Serbian Orthodox church (1945—1953)» and

«How the Bulgarian opposition was destroyed». **Fatos Lubonja** in his article «Virtual beauty, tiny reality» describes socialistic period in his native Albania. The same tragic times, but in Romania, are shown in essay «Hunger and silk» by Nobel prize winner **Herta Müller**. Texts of **Dubravka Ugrešić** («Life like a soap opera»), **Ivan Čolović** («Culture, nation, territory») and **Armina Galijaš** («Political song in modern Serbia and Bosnia») are dedicated mainly to the questions of political propaganda during the recent wars and after them. **Dragan Radulović** in his ironical-sarcastic sketches from the book «Knights of the Nothing Order» creates typical character of modern Montenegro inhabitant. Finally, three more authors create in their works quite critical image of socialistic and modern Bulgaria: **Georgi Markov** — «Sofia sea», **Martin Karbovski** — «Vulgaria, or our image in the world», and **Anna Dimova** — «Romany minority and Bulgarian majority in transition».

The issue contains wide variety of fiction works. There's a comics about war in Bosnia «Safe Area Goražde» by **Joe Sacco**. Poetry lovers can find two ancient epic poems «Sick Dojčin» and «Prince Marko and Musa the Robber», poems of Croatian author **Tatjana Gromača**, and a compilation of poems by three outstanding German-writing authors born in Romanian Bukovina: **Adolf Meschendörfer**, **Immanuel Weissglas** and **Paul Celan**. Prose is represented by **Miljenko Jergović** (storybook «Sarajevo Marlboro»), **Ivo Andrić** (story «Letter from the year 1920»), **Bora Ćosić** (two parts from the novel «The role of my family in the world revolution»), **Stanislav Stratiev** (short texts compilation «Bulgarian model»), **Ornela Vorpsi** (three stories from the digest «A country, where nobody dies»), **Beqë Cufaj** (story «Endless Saturday»), **Venko Andonovski** (story «The last Macedonian rector»), **Momo Kapor** (fragments from the book «Hello Belgrade»), **Andrej Skubic** (extract from the novel «Fužiny blues»), **Mircea Cărtărescu** (passage from the novel «Nostalgia»), **Palmi Ranchev** (story «Night: masks and faces»), **Andrej Nikolaidis** (fragment from the novel «Son») and **Nenad Veličković** (story «Knight Hypothalamus»).