



RAJKO ĐURIĆ

(Malo Orašje, Serbia, October 2, 1947 – Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, November 2, 2020)



Photo published in the book: Grubišić, Maja. 2011. "Bilješka o autorima. Dr. Rajko Đurić" In: *Povijest romske književnosti*, Rajko Đurić, Veljko Kajtazi. Zagreb: Udruga za promicanje obrazovanja Roma u Republici Hrvatskoj 'Kali Sara' p. 145. Udruga za promicanje obrazovanja Roma u Republici Hrvatskoj 'Kali Sara'.

Rajko Đurić was born on October 2, 1947, in Malo Orašje (near Smederevo, Serbia).

After graduating from high school, he studied philosophy, physical chemistry and theology at the University of Belgrade, where he graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy with a degree in 1971, and a doctorate in sociology in 1985. From 1972 to 1991, **he worked as a journalist for the Belgrade daily Politika**, where, among other things, he was the editor of a cultural column.

From 1991 to 2004 he worked in Berlin, and from 2004 to 2006 he was the **assistant editor-in-chief of Tanjug** (Telegraph Agency of the New Yugoslavia; national news agency). He also served as a member of the National Assembly (2007). Đurić died in Belgrade – "international community and Serbia lose Roma scientist and great fighter for democracy".

Đurić lectured at both the Free University of Berlin and at the INALCO University of

Paris. He distinguished himself as a writer, **publishing numerous literary works on the Roma's history of suffering during World War II**, such as the poem "Ja sam Jadvašem" (I am Yad Vashem). He also wrote a history of Roma literature and published works on Roma tradition and culture, including *Romske zagonetke = Romane garadine alava* (Roma riddles; Belgrade: Srpska akademija nauka i umetnosti, 1980); and *Загонетке, митову и веровања Рома* (Riddles, myths and beliefs of the Roma; *Seobe Roma – krugovi pakla i venac sreće* (Roma Migrations – circles of hell and the wreath of happiness; Belgrade: BIGZ, 1986).

Among his scientific works, *Istorija Roma* (History of the Roma), *Istorija romske književnosti* (History of Roma Literature) and the *Istorija holokausta Roma* (History of the Roma Holocaust) occupy a special place. He wrote *Gramatika romskoga jezika* (Grammar of the Romani language) and the study *Romski glagoli, njihovo poreklo i značenje* (Romani verbs, their origin and meaning), which is the first scientific research work of its kind in the world.

A distinguished Roma activist, he was the **president of the International Roma Organisation** and the **founder and president of the Roma PEN Center and the Roma Academy of Arts and Sciences** (2011).

Sources and further information:

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2. Đurić, Rajko, Kajtazi, Veljko. 2011. *Povijest romske književnosti*. Zagreb: Udruga za promicanje obrazovanja Roma u Republici Hrvatskoj 'Kali Sara', pp. 93–100.
3. Đurić, Rajko. 2007. *Povijest Roma: (pre i posle Aušvica)*. Zagreb: Prosvjeta, p. 255.
4. "Preminuo Rajko Đurić, novinar, književnik i borac za prava Roma"
<https://www.telegraf.rs/pop-i-kultura/knjige-stripovi/3257901-rajko-djuric-umro-smrt> (2 November, 2020).

This biography has been written by Daniel Vojak