



## SLOBODAN BERBERSKI

(Veliki, Serbia October 20, 1919 – Belgrade, Serbia, 1989)

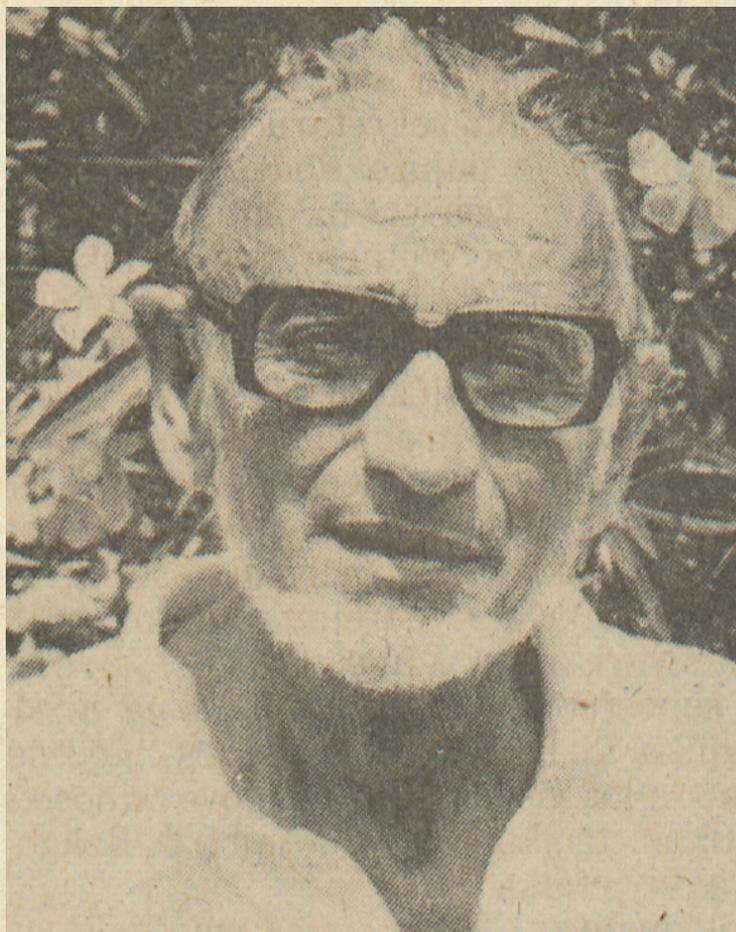


Photo published in the book: Paripović, Jovo. 1982. "Ili sam Rom ili nisam ništa!", *Vjesnik*, June 27, 1982., p. 5.

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Slobodan Berberski was born on October 20, 1919, in Veliki Bečkerek (now Zrenjanin), and died in 1989 in Belgrade.

During his high school education, he became a sympathiser of the communist movement, and in 1936, he joined the **Communist Party of Yugoslavia**. In 1941 he was arrested on account of communist activities but managed to escape from prison to Belgrade, and soon after joined Šumadija, the First partisan detachment, where he distinguished himself as a commissioner.

After World War II, Berberski spent a short time performing political duties in Vojvodina, which he would give up to become a writer. Dedicated to his work, **he published several poetry collections and novels on issues of social injustice, discrimination, poverty, persecution and related subject matters.**

One of several Roma leaders in Serbia (and Yugoslavia), Berberski was the **president of the Belgrade association**

**“Roma”**. He was one of the initiators and organisers of the **First World Roma Congress in London (April 8, 1971)**, where he served as president. He is considered one of the first prominent Roma writers.

In a 1982 interview with Berberski, the prominent Romani writer stated, “Do we forget those who had the courage to call themselves Roma, and fight for the revolution? I am not the only Roma fighter from 1941. There are other national heroes from among the Roma ranks. And that is why my answer is yes: either I am Roma, or I am nothing!...” (Paripović 1982., 5).

## Sources:

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4. Paripović, Jovo. 1982. "Ili sam Rom ili nisam ništa!", *Vjesnik*, June 27, 1982., p. 5.

This biography has been written by Daniel Vojak