

Ordanče PETROV

On the Life and Deeds of Profesor Elica Maneva

Disce a doctis!

UDK 929 Maneva, E.

Ph. D. Elica Maneva was born in Bitola where she completed her elementary education and attended a classical gymnasium.

She completed the graduate and postgraduate studies at the Department of Archaeology within the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade under the mentorship of Prof. Aleksandrina Cermanović-Kuzmanović.

Ever since her early days as a student, Maneva has been a participant in significant research projects and field work under the guidance of her professors. Among these were Lepenski vir, Banja – Priboj, Viminakium – Kostolac (Serbia), as well as the archaeological campaigns led by the scholar Milutin Garashanin in Skupi and along with the American team in Anzabegovo in Ovče Pole, the Republic of Macedonia.

She completed her MA on the topic: “A Few Types and Forms of Hellenistic and Roman Pottery from Heraclea” in 1977. She published the master thesis under the same title in 1979, a thesis in which she elaborates on the Hellenistic and Roman pottery from certain closed parts of the city of Heraclea. Thus she made a significant step ahead in the ceramology of Antiquity that comes from this geographic area. This work in which was published, documented and reconstructed a great number of pottery from the Antiquity remains to be one of the fundamental studies on this matter and is one of the referential professional literature for our area and the neighboring areas, as well.

She defended the Ph.D. dissertation titled “Medieval Jewelry in Macedonia” in 1991 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje under the mentorship of Prof. Ivan Mikulčić and this extensive study was published in 1992. This study depicts about a thousand samples of jewelry from nearly a hundred sites in the area of the Republic of Macedonia. It collects, classifies and dates all the things that were amenable to analysis and that originate in the area of the Republic of Macedonia. The timeframe spans from the end of the 6th to the 14th century, and at times it extends up until the 18th century. This study grasps, interprets and professionally elaborates on one of the

most numerous and impressionable segments from the archaeological heritage from the Early to the Late Middle Ages in our area. Apart from the continuous ancient remains and artifacts from the Byzantine cultural influence, what was also noted were the Slavic affinities in the creation of symbiosis while forming a specific variant of this type of material culture on our ground.

Prof. Elica Maneva has continuously been a participant in all the research and conservation undertakings in Heraclea starting with her high school days up until 1974, which marked the end of the activities in the Yugoslav Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments from Belgrade.

In 1974 she worked as a curator in the Heraclea Board, and then from 1976 to 1983 she worked in the Institute for Protection of the Cultural Monuments, Museum and Gallery in Bitola.

Since 1976 she started to produce independent projects at the peripheral areas of Heraclea, that were threatened by the activities of modern urbanism. She implemented this within the framework of the project "Assessment of the city area of Heraclea". All the while she performed conservatory excavations at the location "Partizanski grobišta" where she came upon remains from a necropolis of the Late Antiquity, and she also performed revisionist undertakings at the south wall – the so-called "Treta insula" from the excavations of M. Grbić (1938/39) and East of the city walls near the location "Avtoremont", where she stopped the building of a parking for heavy vehicles.

On the latter location, the conservatory excavations (1976-1980) continued in systematic research spanning across the years (1981-1986).

Since the end of the 70s and the 80s of the 20th century, she published a series of professional and scientific essays mostly elaborating on the topic of the archaeology of the Antiquity and the Late Antiquity inspired by the excavations on the significant site Heraclea in Bitola. It was a period when many studies saw the light of the day, studies referring to certain segments of the necropoles, the profane buildings, the suburbs, the objects for daily use: tools, lamps, pottery and other archaeological material.

The discoveries in Hereaclea on the location *extra muros*, on the Basilica De with a necropolis from the 6th century, overlayers with a cemetery chapel and graves from the 10th-11th century, as well as the discovery of nomadic, reflex bows and arrows were a turning point in her further professional preoccupation. On that occasion were published numerous studies from the field of the Early Christian and the Early Medieval material culture. For the first time artifacts from the period of the Great Migration and the Avar archaeology saw the light of day. The publication of the study for the unique helmet of the type Baldenheim from Heraclea from the end of the 5th – beginning of the 6th century helped revise certain topics in the European archaeology for its origins and genesis. This was widely approved by the world literature for military defensive equipment and it became a model for new views on this problem. In this spirit was written the positive review in the magazine *Germania* no. 38 from Munich coming from the greatest expert in this matter Prof. Joachim Werner.

Apart from the Heraclea projects, in this period she was involved in various interventions for the sake of conservation in Bitola and the surrounding area, on the Early Antique necropolis Beranci, in Stobi, Skupi and also in the conservatory excavations *Kale-Streževo* etc. She was an active participant in the formation of the Archaeological map of Macedonia through performing field survey of the territories in the Bitola and the Demir Hisar region.

Since 1983 she has been a professor at the Institute of Art History and Archaeology at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, where in 2001 she was elected a full professor and taught the subjects: Early Christian and Medieval Archaeology and Medieval Numismatics at the study groups for archaeology, art history, history and ethnology. She also taught subjects with the same content at the postgraduate and doctoral studies at the University Ss Cyril and Methodius.

The period from 1986-1992 for her was filled with various study projects in renowned universities, museums and institutes for conservation. Part of this was analyzing the study collections, visiting the field work, as well as occasional teaching on the archaeological matter from the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

Apart from the Universities in Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana and Zadar, she was also on study stays in Paris (Sorbonne and Paris IV), Munich (Foundation J. Werner), the School of Architecture – Thessaloniki, Ravenna, Vatican, Politechnika Wrocławska – Poland, in Bratislava – Slovakia, Brno – Moravia, in Blagoevgrad and Sofia in Bulgaria.

Her archaeological, museological and scientific experience, mostly in the area of the cultural heritage of South East Europe and the Mediterranean region, was enriched by the precious experience that she gained during the study stays on almost all of the more significant museums in former Yugoslavia (within the framework of the project for organization of the Museum of Bitola), in Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Tunisia, as well as in Greece, where she stayed in the French School and the American School, as well as in the activities at the Agora of Athens and the excavations in Corinth (in cooperation with The American School of Classical Studies at Athens).

The knowledge acquired through the cooperation with the renowned archaeologist Valentin Sedov on the matter of the Novgorod shrine of Perun and afterwards through her cooperation with the Polish, Czech, the Moravian and Slovak archaeologists and the occasional visits on the research of the Slav ruins and other sites from Central and Eastern Europe, was applied by Maneva in the analysis of the Slavic archaeology on our ground. In 1988 she excavated the site Keramidarka in cooperation with the Museum of Strumica, as well as the necropolis of Vodocha, where she worked intermittently up until 2002.

In the period between 1992-1994 and between 1995-1997, she carried out two consecutive projects titled “*Medieval necropolises in the Middle Vardar region*“ within the framework of the research at the Institute of Art History and Archaeology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje.

As a result of the archaeological excavations of various medieval necropolises of this project: *Krstevi – Demir Kapija*, *Pepelište – Negotino* and *Čukarka – Delčevo* between 2000-2004, three monographs were published with the findings from these archaeological undertakings. This study and a wealth of other ones affirmed professor Maneva at the beginning of this century as a researcher of the funerary archaeology and of the jewelry as the most dominant material at this type of sites. All the while, she did not analyze jewelry only as an aesthetic category, but also as a status, gender, age, amulet-like, practical, symbolic and even individual connection with its bearer.

In the 90s of the 20th century, professor Maneva published various studies on the medieval problematics, starting with the Early Slavic material culture. She published the Slavic amulet from Davina, the deer handle from Vodoča, the findings on the jewelry – fibulae from the Martinovka culture and various treatises on the Slavic mythology. In 2013 in the study *Early Medieval Material Culture in Macedonia (Macedonia cultural-historical facts, volume 3, 2013, p. 1263-1328)*, she summed up these results with a general overview of the total material remains from the Early Slavic period. Apart from that, in the same place she addresses the remains of the Early Medieval culture Komani in Macedonia with quite an in-depth approach.

During the last decade, professor Maneva has been occupied with analysis of the spacious necropolis Vodoča near Strumica, with over 1000 tombs. Since 2003 until today there has been ongoing office research: conservation, documentation and preparation for publishing of the materials of the spacious necropolis Vodoča near Strumica, in which have been involved several master's and doctoral candidates working under her mentorship.

Her sense for monitoring the continuity of the funerary Christian archaeology in this case resulted with various announcements, studies, treatises and monographic publications (*Ancient Jewellery from Macedonia, Necropolis Vodoča 15th-19th century*, Skopje 2007 and *Inventaria Archaeologica Personarum, Necropolis Vodoča*, Skopje 2013). As part of them were published findings and stories on the buried population starting from the 13th-14th century, up until the 19th century. This raised the interest for archaeological observations, many unknown people of the Christian population were discovered from the period of the *Turkish Middle Ages* (15th-18th century) and the *Macedonian Revival* (19th century). The rituals for burial remain conservative, unchanged, but exactly in the jewels, clothes, as well as in the influence of the medieval tradition, the Orient and Western Europe lies the seed of creation of the popular style.

According to the analysis of professor Maneva, it can be seen that in 15th-16th century, there are still reminiscences of the medieval heraldics, emblematics and sphragistics. In the 17th and 18th century severe economic and social crises were noticeable and since the end of the 18th and 19th century was created the more affluent layer of the population coming from the Christians.

In the period between 2010 and 2013, professor Maneva was a professional consultant for the Middle Ages on the project *Kale* - Skopje.

During her long work, professor Maneva was a participant at various scientific gatherings, symposia and congresses.

Since 1977 ending with 2010 she actively presented her scientific efforts at all the symposia of MASS (the Macedonian Archaeological Scientific Society), which can be seen in the volumes of the magazine *Macedonia Acta Archaeologica*. Also, she actively presented her announcements on the symposia and congresses organized by AASY (Association of Archaeological Societies of Yugoslavia) starting from 1986 up until the breakup of Yugoslavia. The listed essays refer mostly to the newly discovered results from the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

Since 1993 on she has been a participant at the scientific gatherings organized by MASA (Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ohrid, 1993) with an essay dedicated on the findings from the rich tomb number 4 from the end of the 10th century discovered on the site *Krstevi* near Demir Kapija.

In a series dedicated on the “Civilisations on the Soil of Macedonia”, she presented the studies on the archaeological specifics of the medieval necropoles (1994), on certain aspects of the Macedonian Middle Ages (1995), on the preserved traces of the medieval clothes (1998), as well as on the archaeological and historical testimonies about the Prosek theater from the beginning of 13th century (2000).

In 2001 during the Gathering in honour of the academician Ksente Bogoev she elaborated on the numismatic samples from the Early Byzantine helmet from Heraclea.

On the Commemoration of the 100 anniversary of the birth of the academician Mihail D. Petrushevski in 2011, she had a presentation of the luxurious circular earrings, starting with the grandee’s samples from the 14th century ending with their decorated folk variants in the folk jewelry.

In 2012 (Ohrid) on the occasion of the 50 anniversary of work of the academician Cvetan Grozdanov, she presented her newly discovered group finding of grandee jewelry: earrings and agraffe-brooch from the end of the 14th century of Kale in Skopje.

During the round table organized by MASA (2014) on the occasion of 1000 anniversary from the death of Samuel, she presented the new knowledge that supports the thesis that the ancient fortress of Heraclea was actually the fortress of medieval Bitola, one of the mobile capitals of his country.

Apart from all this, Maneva during her long-term professional work was actively participating in certain projects implemented by MASA. Part of that is her engagement in the preparation of the “Dictionary of Terminology”, “The Archaeological Map of the Republic of Macedonia”, “the Encyclopedia of Macedonia”, editing certain volumes of the edition “Civilisations on the Soil of Macedonia” (volume 17, 18, 19) etc.

As a scholarship holder at the University of Bologna, or rather the Institute of Early Byzantine and Ravenna Studies (1988) in Ravenna and the Politechnika Wrocławska (1989) she held a series of lectures in Ravenna, Wrocław, Poznań, Kraków and Warsaw from the area of the Early Christian archaeology in Macedonia.

In 1991 she participated at the 12th World congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric sciences held in Bratislava with a synthetic study on the problematics of the bracelets as a specific jewelry.

In 1992 at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas, on the occasion of the celebration of Ss Cyril and Methodius, she presented the medieval jewelry from Macedonia with an emphasis on the Christian marks.

In 1994, Vatican organised the 13th Congress of ACIAS dedicated on the Early Christian archaeology where Maneva presented the continuities of the heritage of the Late Antiquity in the medieval era of Macedonia.

During the symposium “Migrations” (Skopje 1997) organized by the Institute on National History she addressed the thesis about the Komani culture.

In 2007 (Ohrid) during the 39th International Seminar on Macedonian language, Literature and Culture, she presented the findings of the Christian necropolis Vodoča from the Turkish *Middle Ages* (15th-18th century).

During the gatherings in the honour or in commemoration of prof. Aleksandrina Cermanović-Kuzmanović, the academician Milutin Garashanin and PhD Gordana Vujović (all of them published in Belgrade), she presented studies on: the phenomenon of glass armlets from the 12th century, the findings from the Grave 23 of St Erasmo – Ohrid, as well a representation of the unique silver diadem – headband from the end of the 10th century from Krstevi – Demir Kapija.

In 2010 in Zadar, on the occasion of the jubilees of the prof. Janko Belošević, she presented a series of signet rings from the 14th to the 16th century.

In 2012 in Pula was held a scientific gathering under the aegis of UNESCO on the topic of medieval games, where prof. Maneva presented her study on the theatrical, square games from Macedonia from 13th – 17th century.

On top of everything else, Maneva paid special attention to publishing. She was the initiator for the revival or the formation of archaeological magazines. She has been member of several editorial boards such as *Heraclea*, *Anthology of Essays – Bitola*, *Anthology of Essays – Strumica*, *Maced. Acta Archaeol.*, *Annual Anthology of the Faculty of Philosophy - Skopje*, *Stobi*, *Balkanoslavica*, *Cultural heritage, Macedonian heritage*, *Monumenta* – published by the MASA and others.

She came up with the idea and formed the magazine with an international composition of the Editorial board and with a high impact factor - *Folia Archaeologica Balkanica* and she was its editor-in-chief of the numbers 1 and 2. It is an edition of the Institute of Art History and Archaeology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. Also, she initiated the magazine for funerary archaeology *Inventaria Archaeologica Personarum* published by Kalamus – Skopje.

During her long-standing career as a teacher, Maneva was the mentor of dozens of diploma works, of 14 master’s (out of which 10 have been defended) theses and 8 doctoral dissertations (out of which four have been defended).

She reviewed a large number of monographs, articles and professional announcements from the scope of her professional preoccupation.

During her professorship, she was also the head and vice-head of the Institute of Art History and Archaeology. From 2000 to 2004 she was responsible for the postgraduate

studies in two terms, and between 2011 and 2013 she was the head of the doctor's studies.

In the early 80s, Maneva organized the first museum collection at the site Heraclea. Afterwards she actively participated in the restoration of the Museum of Bitola.

Other remarkable feats are her engagements for the physiognomic organization of the medieval departments of the Museum collection at the Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje, as well as at the Archaeological Museum of Macedonia in 2014.

For her long-standing work in education, she was awarded the state award "St Clement of Ohrid". Also, she has received many thank-you certificates for her engagements in archaeology coming from the Board of Heraclea – Bitola, the museums in Macedonia, among which those of Negotino and Strumica, as well as from the Politechnika Wrocławska – Poland.

Professor Maneva with her professional engagements covered all the stages of archaeological activities: field surveys of newly discovered archaeological sites, field excavations, work on museum presentations of fixed and mobile objects, publication of the materials, as well as their presentation during the professional and scientific gatherings in Macedonia and all around the world. All the while, she did not adhere to the narrow, local framework, but she also put efforts to analyze the problematics in global relations, with a necessary caution and scientific foundation of the conclusions.

She placed the archaeological discoveries in well nuanced historical milieu and she detected the discovered findings even in the depictions of art, most of all in the rich fresco painting. Quite often she joins the ethnographic material to the findings as an analogy or a later, folklorized derivative preserved in the folk work. We consider all this to be a sort of a virtue and a post-process approach in the interpretation of the cultural heritage.

These are just bits and pieces from the rich professional engagement of prof. Elica Maneva that illustrate her great commitment to the archaeological profession which is in essence a painstaking scientific forensic, but at the same time, it is a philanthropic life stance.

We stand convinced that her constructiveness, erudition and diligence will contribute *in the work of the future generations of archacologists.*