

## INTRODUCTION

Before the readers is the fourteenth issue of *Knjiženstvo*, a journal for studies in literature, gender and culture, launched in 2011 as part of the research project titled *Knjiženstvo - Theory and History of Women's Writing in Serbian until 1915*, funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia. First of all, we are thrilled that this year the journal *Knjiženstvo* has been included in the international citation database Scopus. That is great news, as it will significantly increase the visibility and citation of our journal on a global scale. Unfortunately, like last year, we are welcoming this December 2024 with anxiety and disbelief before the "shipwreck of civilizations" that is shaking the whole world. We want to believe that the diverse contributions in this issue will be inspiring to readers and will serve as a necessary guide in the general chaos, reflecting on which direction we can (and must) think, and then act.

Traditionally, the largest section *Women's Writing and Culture* opens with a paper by Nina Sirković on the essayistic prose of Oscar Wilde and Virginia Woolf, which is „beyond the framework“ subversive, chameleon-like, artistic and highly aesthetic, and as such, undermines monocentric concepts in literature by giving voice to the marginalised and the excluded. Following in the footsteps of Oscar Wilde and his play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a paper by Marta Brkljačić meticulously analyzes the polyvalent identity of the individual through the characteristics of „masculine“ and „feminine“, „social“ and „personal“, and finally, through the categories of sexuality, gender and art. This follows a paper by Sara Matin that introduces us to the thematization of the female experience of grieving for a beloved man, using the example of the autobiography *The Year of Magical Thinking* (2005) by the American author Joan Didion. The global ecological anxiety of our time highlights the paper by Aleksandra Panić, exploring the intersection of Achille Mbembe's theory of necropolitics and the concept of ecological anxiety, using the example of the novel *Weather* (2020) by the American writer Jenny Offill. The paper by Svetlana Velimirac gives us a sociolinguistic perspective on the writings of Mabel Annie St Clair Stobart and Jelena Lozanić (Helen Losanitch Frothingham) analyzing the complication of a woman's identity while displaced in another, non-native environment. A paper by Natalija Stepanović in English follows, which introduces us, from „bohemia to feminism“, to the prose and radio dramas of Sunčana Škrinjarić in the context of Yugoslav cultural history, as well as socialist and contemporary reflections on women's authorship and women's writing. An insight into the poetics and paradigm of the post/Yugoslav antiwar feminist and/or women's

novel, using the phenomenon of alcoholism in the novel *Rio Bar* by Ivana Sajko is presented to us by Merima Omeragić's paper, which examines the possibilities of creating a subgenre and the potential for systematizing the hitherto unexplored materials. In a similar tone, a paper by Melisa Slipac follows, based on the examples from the novels by Stela Jelinčić, Dunja Radosavljević and Ajla Terzić, which focuses on the points of intersection between the constructed female gender and spatial identity, more precisely the regional Balkan identity and the feminist approach. The section closes with a paper by Dubravka Đurić, offering a feminist, contextual, and poetic analysis of Ljiljana Đurđić's prose.

In this issue, we present the bibliography of the journal *Women's World: The Journal of Serbian Women's Charity Associations*: Part VI, which covers four years of publication (1908–1911), compiled by Gordana Đoković and Dragana Grujić. The bibliography contains 789 bibliographic entries, described in the language and script of the publication, and the subject register is also created, which makes it easier to search the specific topics within the journal.

This year's interview titled *As if I Were Floating Above the Ocean* was conducted by Biljana Dojčinović with Biljana D. Obradović, a Serbian-American poetess, critic and translator. The immediate occasion for the conversation was a selection of poetry in its translation into English by Dubravka Đurić, published in 2024 titled *The Politics of Hope (After the War)*. The entire interview for this issue has been translated into English.

In the *Reviews* section, five monographs published in 2023 or 2024 are presented, which testify to the zeal of Serbian women writers in literature and culture: a book by Magdalena Koch on Serbian feminist essayism from the 19th to the 21st century, which is a logical sequel to the previously published book titled *When we mature as a culture. Early 20th-century Serbian Women's Writings (canon-genre-gender)*, translated into Serbian in 2012; next, there are reviews of the scopes of charitable work of *The Maternal's Association* (1904 – 1941) authored by Jasmina Milanović, and *The Correspondence of Savka Subotić* prepared and edited by Nataša Katić. In her monograph, Lidija Vasiljević writes about deconstructing the myths of women's mental health, while the review of Slavica Garonja's book on the traces of matriarchy in Serbian literary heritage closes this fantastic and inspiring series of monographs.

In the *Events* section, for this issue we single out the following: The presentation of the *Memoirs* of Jelica Belović-Bernadzikowska (Ljuba T. Daničić) at the National Library of Serbia, on March 25, 2024, edited by Enes Omerović and Tomasz Jacek Lis; The publication of *Letters from Niš about Harems* by Jelena Dimitrijević translated into Albanian and published

by the *Aureli* publishing house from Priština, then lectures at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, on Slovenian women writers and Julka Chlapec-Đorđević delivered by Alenka Jensterle Doležal, a professor at Charles University in Prague, and finally, the interdisciplinary international summer school titled *Sexual Desire Unbound: Literature, Landscapes, and Digital Dialogues* within the CEEPUS Network *Women Writers in History*, held from August 27 to September 2, 2024, organized by the University of Nova Gorica, and supported by the organization *Women Writers Route*.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and Advisory Board  
Vladimir Đurić  
Editor-in-Chief of the *Knjiženstvo* journal