

КАМЕН РИКЕВ

Университет „Мария Кюри-Склодовска“ – Люблин

✉ rikev@umcs.pl

КЪМ ЕДНА ВЪЗМОЖНА ИСТОРИЯ НА БАЛКАНСКИТЕ ЛИТЕРАТУРИ

Kamen Rikev

Marie Curie-Sklodowska University – Lublin

✉ rikev@umcs.pl

TOWARDS A POSSIBLE HISTORY OF BALKAN LITERATURES

The paper offers several preliminary considerations towards constructing a common history of Balkan literatures. Without disputing sceptic opinions on such an endeavour, it highlights basic challenges faced by literary historians. In determining the territorial scope of the region in view of its literary development, the author accepts the widest possible range – the territories of contemporary Bulgaria, Greece, European Turkey, Albania, Romania and former Yugoslavia. In terms of the starting point and the periodization of literary phenomena, the author acknowledges several options and suggests the foundation of Constantinople (330) as a conditional boundary, after which literary processes can be reviewed in the period of Byzantine domination, the period of Ottoman domination, the age of national revivals, and the modern period. The paper questions the criteria of literariness (of literature as an art) and fiction as unproductive in the Balkan context and proposes the incorporation of texts without genre restrictions. The historiographical approach, on the other hand, should aim at a general consensus between representatives of local and non-Balkan traditions, as well as at the simultaneous consideration of national and supranational perspectives in the literary processes of the region.

Keywords: Balkan literatures, literary history, theory of literature, national literatures, Balkan cultural heritage
