

Jonathan M. Schwartz, *Pieces of Mosaic: an essay on the Making of Macedonia*, Tabahon, Skopje 2010, ISBN 978-608-4566-02-1

In 2010 in the production of the publishing house TABAHON from Skopje the book *Pieces of Mosaic: an essay on the Making of Macedonia* was released. It is a piece from an American anthropologist who lives and works in Denmark, Jonathan Matthew Schwartz.

Although all become a bit skeptical when it comes to a foreign author who writes about Macedonia, these doubts are fully rejected when it comes to the anthropologist Jonathan M. Schwartz, as he is not like the other “strangers”, he is not labeled as left or right oriented, instead he takes a third, independent side. Representing an unassuming and realistic attitude in his research, he is an anthropologist such as we imagine all good anthropologists should look like. Jonathan Matthew Schwartz is a Professor of Social Anthropology, who has been living and working in the capital of Denmark, Copenhagen for a long time. In the seventies he began to contact the Macedonian migrant workers in Denmark and gained interest in their emigration life. Inspired by conversations with migrant workers, he visited Macedonia and started doing field research, and a result of that research was this book and many other publications.

This book represents an anthropological study for Macedonia, through the examples of everyday life in Resen, offering a picture of the changes that happened in Macedonia after the collapse of SFR Yugoslavia. In the study, Jonathan M. Schwartz does not emphasize any minority, but puts the Turkish minority in Resen in the first plan with which he attempted to demonstrate the possibility of a new method and style for research in the community. This new method, the author believes, allows equal thinking about all groups in local, regional and national contexts without any background, without margins and without double structures. (Schwartz 2010:6) The book according to the chronicle of events marks the period of the changes that happen after the collapse of Yugoslavia until the first years of the Macedonia independence. The book is a real treasure of ethnographic descriptions. Jonathan Matthew Schwartz began his field research in Prespa, and his home was a tent set up in the camping spot “Krani”. He walked everyday to the villages where he met with migrant workers, and sometimes he had the opportunity to help with picking apples and performing other domestic chores. With such an approach to his “subjects” Schwartz tried to exceed the limit between researcher and his interlocutors. With that the researcher was represented more as benevolent guest who helps the host rather than an “imposed” researcher. Following such an experience, making a path from thin stone pieces that are arranged in the form of a mosaic, in the yard of one of his friends from Resen, Jonathan Matthew Schwartz created the title of the book “Pieces of mosaic.” Making a mosaic is a metaphor for the the image of Macedonia forming slowly.

“Pieces of mosaic” represents a direct report from the field, a document with reflections, a book that can help all those who are involved in field research. This fieldwork report from Macedonia, at home and in the diasporas points to “post-reflective” ethnography. “... Every ethnic community refracted those close to him. The prism does the segmentation synthesis... Sections are analytical refraction of the whole and the whole is a synthetic refractive of the parts. Maintaining a social community is itself a constant, vari-

able refractive process.” (Schwartz 2010:6) - says the author Jonathan Matthew Schwartz in the introduction to the Macedonian edition of “Pieces of mosaic.”

The legitimacy of this book in the academic circles is gaining importance because of the publication of the Macedonian edition, made available by PhD Ljupcho S. Risteski and staff from the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” in Skopje. The translation from English into Macedonian language was made by PhD Ilina Jakimovska who is also a professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology. The book’s first plan is to present the author’s experiences from the field, doing so in a proficient way, it is interesting for reading not only for students and researchers from modern European anthropology but, as the author says, this book can be read by the people belonging the local community, migrant and non-migrant, in one word, all lovers of the written word who want to learn more, especially about “myths” and the reality of the Balkans.

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