Dr. DRAGAN POTOČNIK

The Wikipedia entry for my name states that I am a Slovene professor of history, poet, writer and world traveller.

I have been dealing with the cultural and civilizational identity of the islam for many years. I have written two books on this topic (History of Islamic Civilization and The Art and Science of the Islamic World), and I am currently writing a third: Relations between the West and the Islamic world. In the introduction to the new book, I wrote: I came to know different ideas and images of the Orient in several ways. I have traveled many times to timeless landscapes from Khorasan to Husestan, from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf, from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean. I was a visiting professor and Farsi student at the University of Esfahan, a guest of nomads, religious and political leaders, wrote a book on the history of Iran and a novel on love between Sinin and Amir. I am in love with Hafez and Rumi's mystical poetry, I am filled with Sufism.

I have also written several scientific articles on this topic.

I was born in Maribor, Slovenia, where I went to school. In 1998 I obtained my PhD on the topic of the cultural history of the Slovene people at the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor, Slovenia. Before receiving my PhD, I obtained a position as an assistant at the Department of History at the same faculty. Later I received the title of an associate professor of history, which I hold now.

My interest in history and the philosophical though of Asian and African cultures led me to travel to different countries of both of these continents already when I was a student. Early on, I started writing travel reportages, essays and I also did field research for my studies.

I have written down my travel experiences and impressions in literary works. I published two collections of poems, entitled *Sebil* and *Šahrah*,, a collection of short stories *Stories from African and Asian Backyards* and novels:

Poem for Sinin jan, Mountain, sing to me and Heavenly rain.

I am also the author of the following monographs:

*Cultural Life in Maribor in the years 1918 – 1941;*

*Asia between the past and the present;*

*Historical Context of the Activities of General Rudolf Maister in Styria, Carinthia and Prekmurje;*

*History, the Teacher of Life*

*Sources in the Teaching of History;*

*Students from Primorska at the Classical Grammar School in Maribor;*

*Iran, the Country between Persia and Islam*;

*History of Islamic civilization,*

*The art and science of the Islamic world.*

I am also a co-author of several history textbooks, such as the textbooks for the second year of secondary schools, and the seventh and eighth years of primary schools.

As a researcher of Slovene and non-European history I am the author of numerous original scientific and review articles. I am best-known as a specialist in the field of the history of non-European nations. I was the first Slovene university professor to work as a guest professor at the University of Esfahan in Iran (the winter semester of 2008/2009). Later I was also a guest professor at Universities in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

I am also the recipient of the highest awards in the field of culture (Glazer Award), literature (best novel), recognition of the Islamic community in Slovenia.