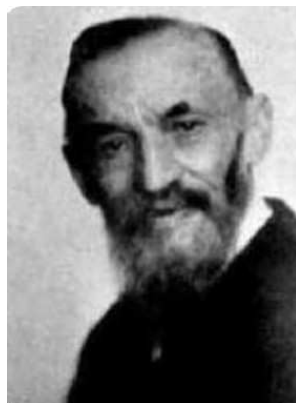


# PROGETTO COMENIUS 2009-2011

## ***GREAT ITALIAN PEOPLE*** *Artists, Scientists, Writers*



*Liceo Scientifico "G. Peano"*  
*Cuneo*



# Giuseppe Peano



Giuseppe Peano was born on 27th August, 1858 on a farm in Spinetta, a small village near Cuneo, in Piedmont, Italy.

He attended the University of Turin, and then he worked there as professor.

In 1887, Peano married Carola Crosio, the Turin-based painter Luigi Crosio's daughter.

He published over 200 books and he is known for the Peano axioms, the space filling curve, the "Formulario Project" and the latino sine flexione. He died on 20th April 1932.

## THE SPACE FILLING CURVE

It appeared in 1890 as a counterexample. He used it to show that a continuous curve cannot always be enclosed in an arbitrarily small region.

## THE FORMULARIO PROJECT

Formulario Mathematico (last edition 1908) expresses fundamental theorems of mathematics in a symbolic language developed by Peano himself.

Many of the symbols and abbreviations introduced in the book are

used in Mathematics all over the world still today. Examples include  $\square$ ,  $\square$ ,  $\cap$ ,  $\square$  and A-B.

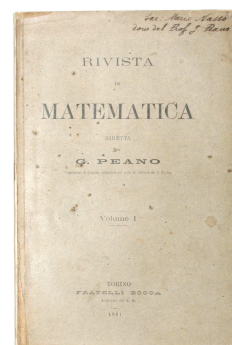


## THE LOGIC

Peano played a key role in the axiomatization of mathematics and in the development of mathematical logic. An axiom is a proposition that is not proved or demonstrated. In mathematical logic, the Peano axioms, also known as the Peano postulates, are a set of axioms for the natural numbers.

## LATINO SINE FLEXIONE

Latino sine flexione ("Latin without inflections") is a language invented by Giuseppe Peano in 1903. It is a simplified version of Latin. It was published in the journal *Rivista di Matematica* in an article entitled *De Latino Sine Flexione, Lingua Auxiliare Internationale*, which explained the reason for its creation. The article argued that other auxiliary languages were unnecessary, since Latin was already established as the world's international language. The article was written in classical Latin, but it gradually dropped its inflections until there were none.



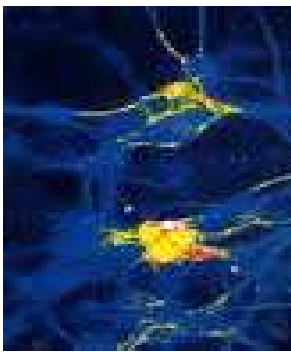
# Rita Levi Montalcini

## HER LIFE

Rita Levi Montalcini was born in Turin in a Jewish family on April 22, 1909. At the end of high school she decided to attend medicine after seeing a friend dying of cancer. During her life she had to overcome lots of difficulties like the war and the Jews' persecution; but she never lost heart and also during those years she continued to research and to carry out experiments in her laboratory. With her team of researchers she discovered the NGF (nerve growth factor) in 1958.



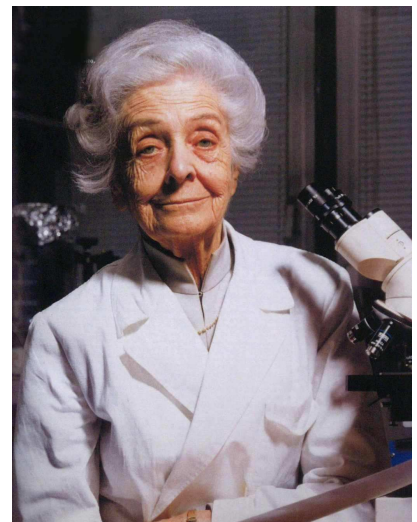
## RITA LEVI MONTALCINI'S DISCOVERY



The NGF is a small protein in our brain that creates neurons. It is true that neurons cannot reproduce themselves but thanks to the NGF peripheral neurons can be generated. She discovered this factor thanks to a lot of studies and tests on mice and chickens. She put mice tumoral cells in chickens' embryo and she noticed a growth of sensorial nerves. She understood that there had to be a factor to control the growth of nerves and consequently also of neurons.

## CONSEQUENCES OF HER DISCOVERY

Thanks to the discovery of the NERVE GROWTH FACTOR, now scientists can study the problems of the nervous system more easily and probably they will likely to be able to treat cancers more successfully. That's the reason why we can consider her one of the most important scientists not only in Italy, but in the world.



## RITA LEVI MONTALCINI TODAY!

In 1986, she received the Nobel Prize in medicine with Stanley Cohen, the scientist who worked with her on the Nerve Growth Factor.



She is still alive, but blind and too old to work. She still loves talking to young people. Besides, she is life member of the Italian Senate.



# Beppe Fenoglio



Beppe Fenoglio was born in Alba, in the province of Cuneo on 1st March 1922 and died on 18th February 1963 in Turin. He was an important Italian writer who was fond of English literature and writers such as Shakespeare, Lawrence and Yeats, and became famous after the second world war.

He studied Italian literature at university in Turin, but he never took his degree because he left university to join the army in Rome. In 1943 he returned to his town where he became a partisan.



## HIS WORKS

Fenoglio wrote many novels: three of them were published during his life, while the others were issued after his death. Some of them describe the rural world of the Langhe and deal with family traditions; whereas others deal with the partisan war.

The writer's favourite genres were novels and short stories. His most famous works are: "I ventitré giorni della città di Alba" written in 1952; "La Malora" which followed two years later; "La paga del sabato" and "Il partigiano Johnny" were published posthumously in 1968 and 1969.

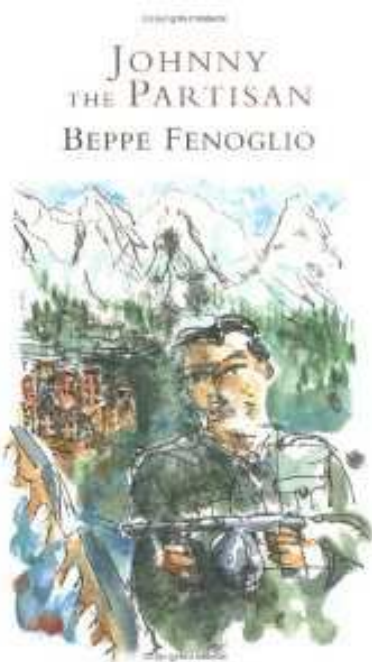


## FENOGLIO'S IMPORTANCE IN EUROPE

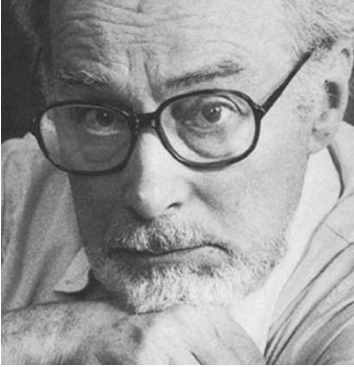
Beppe Fenoglio is an important figure of the Italian 'Resistance'. Through his works he wanted to describe the feelings and ideals which got the partisans to fight against Fascism.

Thanks to his novels we can understand how the society of that period changed and how the relationships between people weakened because of the war.

In addition, his knowledge of English allowed him to translate some of his works which were published and became popular abroad. His most important novel translated in English is 'Johnny the Partisan', which was turned into a film and enjoyed worldwide success.



# Primo Levi



Primo Levi was born to a Jewish family in Turin in 1919. After his studies in chemistry he started to work in Milan and there joined a Jewish resistance group. He was captured and deported to the concentration camp in Auschwitz. He survived and upon his return home he wrote various books about his experiences. He committed suicide in 1987, perhaps due to the psychological problems caused by his imprisonment.

## HIS PRESENCE OUTSIDE ITALY

Primo Levi is a very important holocaust literature writer. He did not just write about the pain endured by the prisoners in the concentration camps, but he also described small aspects of everyday life which helps us to understand how life was there. His books,

translated in lots of languages, are very famous all over the world.

The most popular among them are: **La tregua**, **La chiave a stella**, **Se non ora quando** and **I sommersi e I salvati**, a book that talks about the holocaust and tries to analyze why some people in the camp survived and others did not.

A few of these have won important prizes in Italy and have been translated into many languages.

### Se questo è un uomo

Se questo è un uomo  
Voi che vivete sicuri  
Nelle vostre tiepide case,  
Voi che trovate tornando a sera  
Il cibo caldo e visi amici:  
Considerate se questo è un uomo  
Che lavora nel fango  
Che non conosce pace  
Che lotta per mezzo pane  
Che muore per un sì o per un No.

### If this is a man

You who live safe  
In your warm houses,  
You who find, returning in the evening,  
Hot food and friendly faces:  
Consider if this is a man  
Who works in the mud  
Who does not know peace  
Who fights for a scrap of bread  
Who dies because of a yes or a no.

### Si esto es un hombre

Los que vivs seguros  
En vuestras casas caldeadas  
Los que os encontrais, al volver por  
la tarde,  
La comida caliente y los rostros  
amigos:  
Considerad si es un hombre  
Quien trabaja en el fango  
Quien no conoce la paz  
Quien lucha por la mitad de un  
panecillo  
Quien muere por un sí o por un no.



### Bu da bir insan midir?

Güven içinde yaşarsınız  
Ilık evlerinizde,  
Bulursunuz, akşam döndüğünüzde  
Sıcak aş ve dost yüzler:  
Düşünün bu da bir insan mıdır  
Çamurlarda çalışır  
Barış nedir bilmez  
Savaşır bir dilim ekmek için  
Kal de kalır öl de ölür...

# Giacomo Balla

Giacomo Balla was born in Turin, Piedmont, on 18th July 1871. His father was an industrial chemist. At 9, when his father died, he began to work in a lithograph print shop. By the age of twenty his interest in art was so great that he decided to study painting at the local arts academy. He exhibited several of his early works at the University of Turin.

For several years he worked in Rome as an illustrator and caricaturist as well as doing portraits. In 1899 his works were shown at the Venice Biennale and in the following years they were on display at major exhibitions in Rome, Venice, Munich, Berlin and Dusseldorf as well as at the Salon d'Automne in Paris and art galleries in Rotterdam.



## **HIS WORKS**

Influenced by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Giacomo Balla adopted the Futurism style, creating paintings with light, movement and speed. He signed the Futurism Manifesto in 1910.

His new style is shown in the 1912 work titled *Dynamism of a Dog on a Leash* and in his 1914 work *Abstract Speed + Sound*.

In 1914, he also began sculpting.

During World War I Balla's studio became the meeting place for young artists but by the end of the war the Futurist movement was showing signs of decline. In 1935 he was made a member of Rome's Accademia di San Luca.

***Dinamismo di un cane al guinzaglio, Albright-Knox***

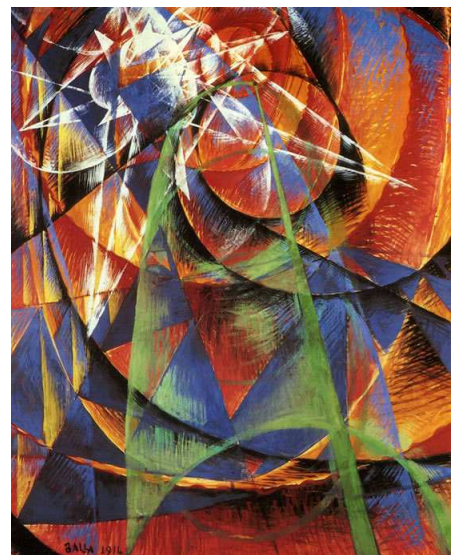


Balla participated in the documenta 1 1955 in Kassel, Germany. He died in Rome on 1st March 1958. His most important paintings are in many museums all over the world:

***Lampada ad arco – Museum of Modern Art (New York) Art Gallery (Buffalo)***



***Mercurio passa davanti al Sole – Centre Pompidou (Paris)***



# Giugiaro, a famous Italian designer

Giorgio Giugiaro was born in Garessio, in the province of Cuneo, in 1938. When he was 14, his main interest was art and so he attended Liceo Artistico and evening classes of technical drawing.

An important manager of FIAT saw his drawings and employed him, so he started working for the "Design Center" in this important car factory.



In 1967 he founded his first company: the "Italdesign", creating a lot of models of cars for different companies worldwide (including Lamborghini, Audi and Renault). In the early 90s he founded a new group called "Giugiaro Design".

With the help of his son Fabrizio, he collaborated with prestigious international companies in many different fields (including Apple, Ferrero and Oreal).

Nowadays "Giugiaro Design" is working exclusively for the group "Volkswagen", where it perfectly combines Italian design with the great technical ability of the Germans.



The project management style of "Giugiaro Architettura" is based on a rather different approach, which has changed the standard rules of design. It involves not only buildings, but also street furniture, interior design, yacht design, exhibition stand set-up, urban and country planning and illumination.

His primary aim is therefore to transform ideas into real projects.



## MAIN AWARDS GIVEN TO GIUGIARO

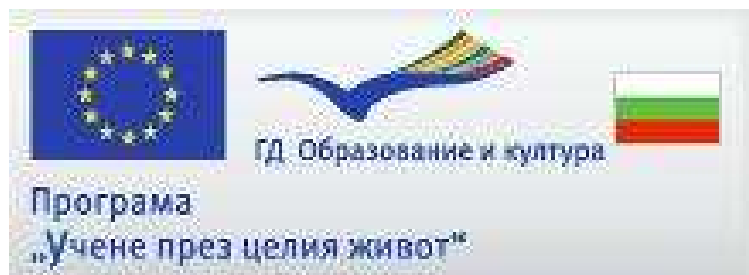
During his career he has received several awards including the 2007 "Leonardo Award" The prize was given to him for representing Italian style and design in the world.

After receiving the title of "Designer of the Century" in Las Vegas in 1999, he received an "Honorary Degree" in architecture from the University of Turin for being able to combine technology and design to suit every need.

The "Giugiaro Design" has also organized themed exhibitions on invitation of international institutions Barcelona are some of the cities that have hosted exhibitions by Giugiaro and his group.



The new Volkswagen designed by Giugiaro.



# COMENIUS PROJECT 2009-2011



***GREAT BULGARIAN PEOPLE***



**BULGARIA**



## Konstantin Velichkov (1855 - 1907)



Born in Pazardjik and known as a writer in the post-liberation literary period, he is also famous as a poet, a fiction-writer, a memoirs writer, a playwright, a translator, a literary critic and a publicist, painter and politician.

### **From Prisoner to Minister**

Velichkov received his education in the Galatasaray Lisesi in Istanbul. After the end of the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878) that resulted in the creation of a new liberated Bulgarian state, Velichkov returned to Pazardzhik, which became part of the newly formed state of Eastern Rumelia, remaining a vassal to the Sultan. He started a political career and in 1894 in the strive for unification between Eastern Rumelia and the Principality of Bulgaria.

### **Velichkov – the Memoirs Writer**

The most significant literary piece of Velichkov's, written in Istanbul prison (sentenced to death by the Ottomans), is his memoirs “V temnitza” (In Prison) - a historical document about the moral greatness of Bulgarians during the rebellious days of April 1876.

### **Velichkov – the Poet and Playwright**

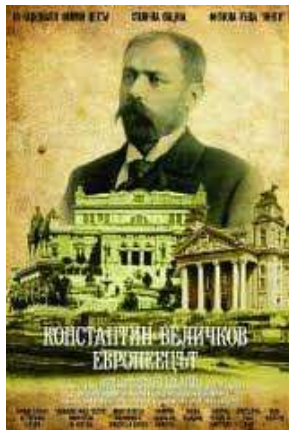
He is the author of the dramatic works: Opalchenetz (Soldier-Volunteer).

His lyric diary “Tzarigradski Soneti” (Istanbul Sonnets) has a special place in Bulgarian classic literature and “Pisma do Rim” (Letters to Rome) is an original in form and content piece of work revealing in an elegant style, an interest towards the fine arts for the first time in our country.

### **Velichkov – the Artist and Translator**

He is also the translator of many masterpieces from French, Italian and Russian among which the most precious is his translation of Dante's Hell - it has been unsurpassed in its quality in Bulgarian literature so far.

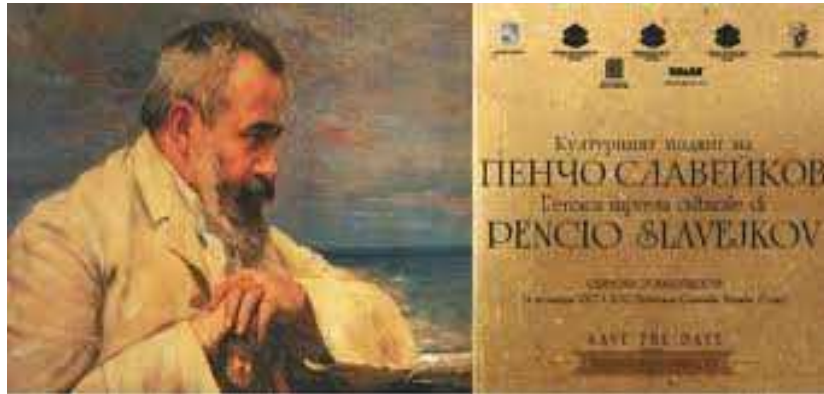
Meanwhile Velichkov managed to study law in France and later painting in Florence, Italy. He is the initiator for the opening of the Drawing School in Sofia in 1896 (which has grown to become the Bulgarian Academy of Fine Arts).



### **Prominent Career**

During the first three decades after the national liberation in 1878 K. Velichkov was one of the most prominent public figures in Bulgaria - he was elected many times to be a Member of the Bulgarian Parliament, a Minister of Education, an ambassador, active member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, one of the builders of the national culture and educational system.

## Pencho Petkov Slaveykov (1866 – 1912)



He was a noted Bulgarian poet and one of the participants in the Misal ("Thought") literary circle.

Director of the National Library of Bulgaria (1909–1911) and of the Bulgarian National Theatre(1908–1909).

### **Early Years and illness**

Born in Tryavna during the Bulgarian National Revival under Ottoman rule in a family of a Bulgarian writer and teacher.

After an accident he fell ill, and despite lengthy treatment in Germany and France, this illness left him with serious impairments - he could not walk without a cane, and he wrote and spoke with difficulties.

He suffered from melancholic episodes, which forced him to find a cure in literature and to strengthen his will.

### **Slaveykov – Poet and Critic**

Slaveykov's works include poems and intimate lyrics. He collaborated with a number of magazines, which issued his works, and spent a part of his life in Leipzig studying philosophy, where he became familiar with German literature and art.

After returning to Bulgaria in 1898, Slaveykov joined the Misal literary circle with a number of other noted writers.

### **A Nobel Prize Laureate**

He became a director of the National Library of Bulgaria(1909–1911) and a director of the Bulgarian National Theatre (1908–1909).

He was fired from the post because of political beliefs.

He went to live in Switzerland and Italy in 1911.

He remained in Rome, later set off in May 1912 to travel through Florence and the mountains looking for a cure. In the end he arrived in the small town of Brunate near Lake Como, where he died on 28 May 1912.

Due to his death, the suggestion by Swedish professor Al. Jensen that Slaveykov to be awarded a Nobel Prize for literature was not considered by the Nobel Prize committee.

## Christo Vladimirov Javacheff - Christo (13 June, 1935)



**Christo** (born Christo Vladimirov Javacheff), Bulgarian and Jeanne-Claude were a married couple who creates environmental works of art.

**Their works include the wrapping of :**

- the Reichstag in Berlin
- the Pont-Neuf bridge in Paris
- the 24-mile artwork called Running Fence in Marin county in California,
- the Umbrellas - Japan-USA and
- The Gates in New York City's Central Park.



Although their work is visually impressive and often controversial as a result of its scale, the artists have repeatedly denied that their projects contain any deeper meaning than their immediate aesthetic impact.

The purpose of their art, they contend, is simply to create works of art or joy and beauty and to create new ways of seeing familiar landscapes.

Art critic David Bourdon has described Christo's wrappings as a "revelation through concealment".



To his critics Christo replies, "I am an artist, and I have to have courage ... Do you know that I don't have any artworks that exist? They all go away when they're finished. Only the preparatory drawings, and collages are left, giving my works an almost legendary character. I think it takes much greater courage to create things to be gone than to create things that will remain."

## **Raina Kabaivanska (December 15, 1934)**

### **Bulgarian Opera Singer**



“Kabaivanska is infinite: each role of hers is like the fresco of a famous painter.” John Rody

"Tosca of the past was Maria Callas. Tosca of our time is Raina Kabaivanska." Luciano Pavarotti

**Raina Kabaivanska** is a Bulgarian opera singer (born in Burgas), one of the leading lyric-spinto sopranos of her generation, particularly associated with Verdi and Puccini, although she sang a wide range of roles.

Her repertory includes: G. Verdi, G. Puccini, Richard Wagner, Gaetano Donizetti, Ruggero Leoncavallo, Jules Massenet, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Richard Strauss, Franz Lehár and etc.

She studied in Sofia and made her debut at the Bulgarian National Operain 1957.

The following year, she left for Italy for further studies.

In 1961, she gave her first performance at La Scala in Milan. She sang widely in Italy, Genoa, Venice, Parma and notably in Turin in 1973, as Elena in *I vespri siciliani*, in the only production ever directed by Maria Callas.

In 1962, she made her debuts at both the Royal Opera House in London, as Desdemona in Verdi's *Otello*, and the Metropolitan Operain New York.

She went on performing at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the Paris Opéra, the Vienna State Opera, the Budapest Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the San Francisco Opera, the Dallas Opera, etc.

A versatile singer with a beautiful voice and fine musicianship, she is also a singing-actress of considerable ability.

At present, Kabaivanska is a professor at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana, in Siena, Italy. She has a Master Class for performers of Puccini's works, as well as master classes in Bulgaria, Spain, Italy and France.

She is also a jury member for many prestigious competitions all over the world.

#### **Kabaivanska - The Voice**

“Raina’s voice, considered in itself, as pure sonic material, as an instrument, is almost as non-existing. – this is the only praise to which a singing-actress should aspire”. Rodolfo Celletti



## John Vincent Atanasoff(1903-1995) The Father of the Computer



Born in 1903 in Hamilton, New York in the family of the Bulgarian immigrant - Ivan Atanasoff.

In 1925 he received a bachelor degree from the State University of Florida.

In 1926 – a Master’s degree from the State University of Iowa

In 1930 – PhD – University of Wisconsin

Afterwards he returned to the State University of Iowa, where he worked

until 1945 as a professor of Mathematics, and later he taught Physics.

In 1942 with his partner Clifford Berry, he finished developing the first electronic calculating machine Atanasoff-Berry’s computer “Eniac”.

In its development they used 4 brand new methods:

- Regenerative memory
- Logic circuits
- Electrical design elements
- Binary



John Atanasoff received medal for achievements in the field of Technical Science from the Bulgarian Academy of Science in 1985.

His highest award was from the American president G. Bush – National medal of Technology and Innovation 1990.

The scientist died in 1995, aged 91.

Bulgarians are proud that the scientist who invented the first computer in the USA has Bulgarian origin.

## Georgi Nadjakov

### The Scientist Who Helped the Invention of the Photocopier



Born in 1897 in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria . In 1920 he graduated in physics and mathematics at the Sofia University.

Later he specialized in Paris in Paul Langevin's laboratory (1925 -1926) and the Radium Institute in the Sorbonne.

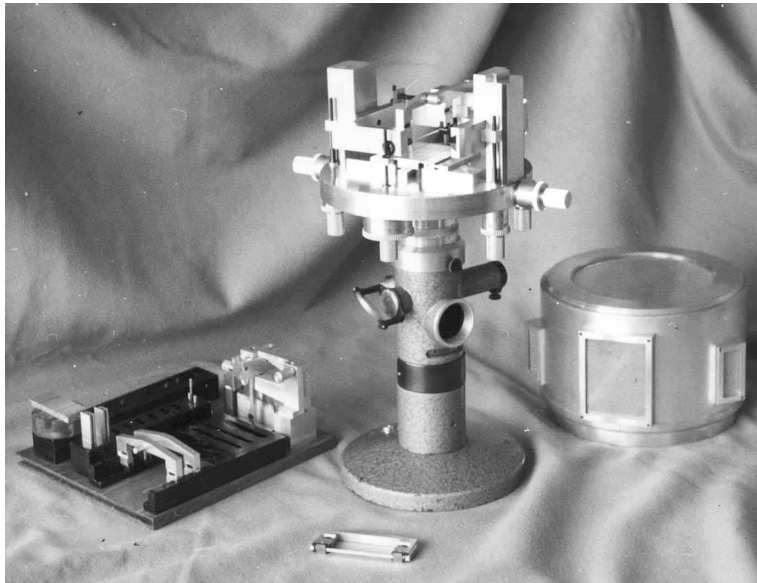
He was elected for: Associate professor (1927), Professor in Physics(1932), Head of the Department of Experimental physics (1937-1962), Dean of the Physics and Mathematics faculty of Sofia University (1939-1940, 1944-1947), Academician (1945), Rector of Sofia University (1947-1951), member of the American Association for progress in science(1965).

George Nadjakov created the Institute of physics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and was its director for many years.

He published over 60 scientific works, concerning the problems of the solid state physics .

He discovered the photoelectric state of substances, and his name was put down in the world history of physics and technology. This permanent state of solids he calls photoelectretno, and the substances it occurs with – photoelectrets.

His certificate for scientific discovery is signed as number 1 in the Bulgarian Academy Scientific Register.



The world recognized his enormous scientific contribution on June 22nd 1937.

He won the Gold Medal of Peace (Frederic Jolio Curie in 1967).

Presently the mechanism of creating photoelectrets is well known.

It is connected with the finding which gives the polarization “long life”.

Later those two findings met and the first photo-copier was created!

**COMENIUS PROJECT**  
**2009-11**



**GREAT GREEK PEOPLE**

**GRECIA**

## Mikis Theodorakis



Mikis Theodorakis of Cretan descent was born in Chios Greece, 29 July 1925. He lived in many cities in Greece before settling in Athens, where he now lives. From 1954 to 1960 he worked in Paris and London composing symphonic music, ballet and film music. In 1960 he places himself as leader of the regenerative cultural-political movement in Greece centered on the union of poetry and music, composing dozens

of song-cycles, oratorios, revues, music for the ancient Greek drama and other. This movement was connected with the progressive political forces of that period, which aimed, beyond the establishment of democratic life in Greece, to a much deeper and broader rebirth of the Greek people. This brings him often at the center of political life, climaxing with his active participation in the resistance movement against the military dictatorship (1967-74). Theodorakis wrote for all musical forms. His work, rich and versatile, transcends the limits of music and covers areas such as poetry, prose, philosophy, musicology, even political essays. The first period of his musical creation (1940-53) includes songs, oratorios, chamber music, ballets and symphonic works, the *First Symphony* being his most significant work. The second period, the Paris period (1954-59), includes chamber music, ballets and symphonic works, the major work being the ballet *Antigone* commissioned by Covent Garden in 1959. The third period, 1960-1980, is devoted to the popular music. Outstanding works produced are the oratorios *Axion Esti* and *Canto General*. There follows the fourth period, 1981 to 1988, during which, while composing song-cycles, he returns to the symphonic music. Most significant works written are the *Third Symphony*, the *Seventh Symphony*, his first opera *Kostas Kariotakis (The Metamorphoses of Dionysus)* and the *Zorbas ballet*. Finally, during the fifth period (1989 to date), he composes three operas (lyric tragedies) *Medea*, *Electra* and *Antigone*. This trilogy is complemented by his new Opera *Lysistrata*. With these works Theodorakis ushers in the period of the Lyrical Life, that is, his complete turn to lyricism and perfection of the lyrical musical expression within the total range of his musical achievement.



## George Papanicolaou: Inventor Of The Pap Smear



George Nicholas Papanicolaou, the famous physician and medical scientist, was born on the island of Euboea in the town of Kimi, Greece. He was born on May 13, 1883 to Nicolas Papanicolaou, a physician, and Maria, a well-cultured lady. Growing up on the island with one brother and two sisters, he enjoyed the outdoor lifestyle, particularly boating and hiking in the mountains. At age eleven, he began attending school in Athens. In 1898, he began taking courses in humanities and music at the University of Athens.

Seeking to please his father, Papanicolaou received a medical degree from the University of Athens in

1904. For two years after that, he served in the Greek military as an assistant surgeon.

After serving in the army, Papanicolaou worked for one year taking care of patients at a leper colony just north of Kimi. He was more interested in medical science and in 1907 left for Jena, Germany to do postgraduate work at the Zoological Institute at the University of Munich. The institute was considered at the time to be the best center for zoological research in the world. While there, Papanicolaou worked with Professor Ernst Heinrich Philipp August Haeckel, an early proponent of Darwinism. By 1910, he had earned his Ph.D. in zoology.

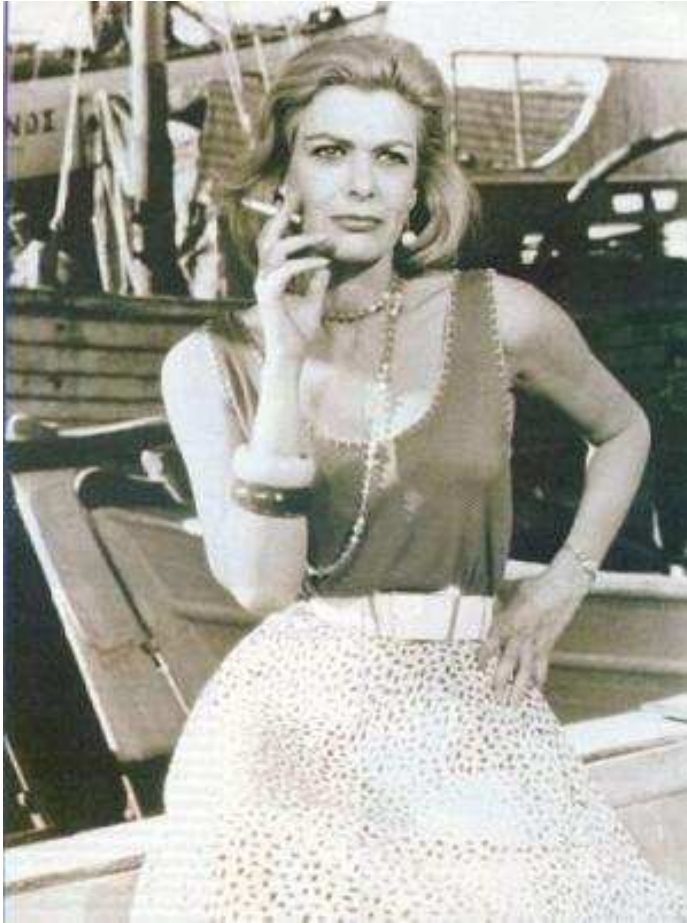
For one year from 1910 to 1911, Papanicolaou, worked as a physiologist at the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco. He returned to Greece when his mother passed away in 1911. While back in Greece, he met and married Andromache Mavroyeni, the daughter of a military officer.

From 1912 to 1923, Papanicolaou served in the military for the Balkan war against the Turks. He was a second lieutenant in the medical corps. After the war, he and his wife moved to the United States. They arrived on October 19, 1913 with almost no money and speaking no English. Papanicolaou worked as a rug salesman, musician, and clerk before finding a position in the pathology department of New York Hospital. He then became an assistant at Cornell Medical College.

In 1927, Papanicolaou received his U.S. citizenship. While working at Cornell, he focused on the study of reproduction and cytology. His most important development was the Pap smear, a technique for diagnosing cervical and uterine cancer. He developed this simple, low-cost test, by working on guinea pigs. By simply looking at vaginal and cervical cells under a microscope, he could distinguish between normal and cancerous cells.

When the Pap smear came into common practice, the incidence of cervical cancer in American women dropped drastically. In 1961, Papanicolaou left Cornell to direct the Miami Cancer Institute (now named in his honor). He died only three months later of heart disease.

## Melina Mercouri



A late starter, Melina Mercouri was 35-years-old when she appeared in her first film, *Stella*, in 1955.

However, it was not until she turned 40 that she really found fame for her role in *Never on Sunday* (*Pote tin Kyriaki*), which was directed by her eventual husband Jules Dassin. Her performance earned her the Cannes prize as well as an Oscar and a BAFTA nomination.

In 1962, she starred in the classic tragedy, *Phaedra*, alongside Anthony Perkins. Although it flopped in the United States, its popularity in many European countries propelled Perkins on to the international stage.

Melina married Dassin in 1966 and they remained together until her death in 1994.

During the period of dictatorship in Greece from 1967 to 1974, Mercouri lived in France. During those years she recorded four records in France, one with Greek lyrics and the other three with French lyrics, all created by Greek musicians.

Politically conscious, she was elected to the Greek Parliament in 1977. She would later become the first woman to hold a senior cabinet post when she accepted the role of Minister of Culture.

Melina Mercouri died of lung cancer in New York on March 6, 1994.

## Nikos Kazantzakis



**Nikos Kazantzakis** was born in Megalokastro, Ottoman Empire, now Iráklion, Crete, as the son of **Michael Kazantzakis**, a farmer and dealer of animal feed, and his wife, the former **Maria Christodoulzki**. Kazantzakis was raised among peasants and although Kazantzakis left Crete as a young man, he returned to his homeland constantly in his art. He attended the Franciscan School of the Holy Cross, Naxos, and the Gymnasium at Herakleion (1899-1902). Kazantzakis then studied four years at the University of Athens, becoming Doctor of Laws in 1906. From 1907 to 1909 he studied philosophy in Paris at the Collège de France under **Henri Bergson**. His first book, "**OPHIS KAI KRINO**", was published in 1906. In the same year appeared his play "**XEMERONEI**". During the Balkan Wars he fought as a volunteer in the Greek Army. In 1914 he met **Angelos Sikelianos**, with whom he travelled to Mount Athos and elsewhere in Greece. Kazantzakis spent many years in public service and in 1919 he was appointed director general at the Greek Ministry of Public Welfare. After the Wars he travelled to many European and Asian countries in 1918 - 1919 to Switzerland and Russia as a senior civil servant, assisting in the repatriation of Greeks from the Caucasus. 1922 - 1924 he lived in Vienna and Berlin. In 1924 returned to Greece and to Crete. 1925 - 1929 made three journeys to Russia, publishing travelogues from his trips (Spain, Egypt-Sina, China-Japan, What I saw in Russia, England etc.). In 1927 he published the book "**ASKITIKI**", the main work of his philosophy. 1932 - 1933 Travelled to Spain for several months and in 1935 to China and Japan. His best-known novel, "**Vios kai politeia tou Alexi Zorba (Zorba the Greek)**", was made into a popular and highly successful movie (1964). The story focuses on the relationship of a writer and intellectual, modelled on Kazantzakis, and an uneducated man, Zorba, who drinks, works, loves and lives like a force of nature. His character has been seen as the personification of Henri Bergson's ideas of *élan vital*. He doesn't care about books, he values more experience and understanding than scholarly learning. The narrator meets Alexis Zorbas in Pireus. He plans to reopen on the island of Crete an abandoned mine and Zorbas becomes his foreman. Kazantzakis weaves the narrator's childhood memories and thoughts against the life and teaching of Zorbas. After a series of tragedies, failures and small victories, the narrator leaves Crete, but asks Zorba to teach him to dance. "How simple and frugal a thing is happiness: a glass of wine, a roast chestnut, a wretched little brazier, the sound of the sea." (from Zorba the Greek) He became famous, however, during the last years of his life, when he turned to pezo-graphy. During that time he published, among others, Zorba the Greek (**Vios kai politeia tou Alexi Zorba**), The Last Temptation of Christ (**O teleutaios peirasmos**), Freedom and Death (**O Kapetan Mihalis**), The Greek Passion (**O Hristos ksanastauronetai**), and his autobiography Report to Greco (**Anafora ston Greco**). His book, The Last Temptation of Christ, was considered quite controversial when first published in 1955, and prompted angry reactions from both the Roman Catholic Church which banned it, and from the Greek Orthodox Church which excommunicated him! Body of Nikos was buried on one of the bastions of the Venetian fort surrounding Iraklion, Martinego. In the Historical Museum of Crete there is a room devoted to Nikos Kazantzakis. His desk, library, some of his personal belongings as well as manuscripts of many of his works are displayed.

## Odysseus Elytis



Descendant of an old family of Lesbos, he was born in Heraclion (Candia) on the island of Crete, November 2, 1911. Some time later his family settled permanently in Athens where the poet finished his secondary school studies and later visited the Law School of the Athens University. His first appearance as a poet in 1935 through the magazine "Nea Grammata" ("New Culture") was saluted as an important event and the new style he introduced - though giving rise to a great many reactions - succeeded in prevailing and effectively contributing to the poetical reform commencing in the Second World War's eve and going on up to our days.

He has twice been Programme Director of the Greek National Radio Foundation (1945-46 and 1953-54), Member of the National Theatre's Administrative Council, President of the Administrative Council of the Greek Radio and Television Service as well as Member of the Consultative Committee of the Greek National Tourist's Organisation on the Athens Festival. In 1960 he was awarded the First State Poetry Prize, in 1965 the Order of the Phoenix Brigade and in 1975 he was proclaimed Doctor Honoris Causa of the Philosophical School of the Thessaloniki University and Honorary Citizen of the Town of Mytilene. During the years 1948-1952 and 1969-1972 he settled in Paris. There, he listened to philology and literature lessons in the Sorbonne and got acquainted with the pioneers of the world's avant-garde (Reverdy, Breton, Tzara, Ungaretti, Matisse, Picasso, Chagall, Giacometti). Starting from Paris he travelled and visited subsequently Switzerland, England, Italy and Spain. In 1948 he was the representative of Greece at the "International Meetings of Geneva", in 1949 at the Founding Congress of the "International Art Critics Union" in Paris and in 1962 at the "Incontro Romano della Cultura" in Rome. In 1961, upon an invitation of the State Department, he traveled through the U.S.A.; and - upon similar invitations - through the Soviet Union in 1963 and Bulgaria in 1965.

Elytis' poetry has marked, through an active presence of over forty years, a broad spectrum. Unlike others, he did not turn back to Ancient Greece or Byzantium but devoted himself exclusively to today's Hellenism, of which he attempted - in a certain way based on psychical and sentimental aspects - to build up the mythology and the institutions. His main endeavour has been to rid his people's conscience from remorse unjustifiable, to complement natural elements through ethical powers, to achieve the highest possible transparency in expression and to finally succeed in approaching the mystery of light, "the metaphysic of the sun" - according to his own definition. A parallel way concerning technique resulted in introducing the "inner architecture", which is clearly perceptible in a great many works of his; mainly in the *Axion Esti - It Is Worthy*. This work - thanks to its setting to music by Mikis Theodorakis - was to be widely spread among all Greeks and grew to be a kind of the people's new gospel. Elytis' theoretical ideas have been expressed in a series of essays under the title (*Offering*) *My Cards To Sight*. Besides he applied himself to translating poetry and theatre as well as creating a series of *collage* pictures. Translations of his poetry have been published as autonomous books, in anthologies or in periodicals in eleven languages.

## Maria Callas



Maria Callas (born Kalogeropoulos) was born to Greek immigrant parents. As a small child she enjoyed listening to gramophone records and radio programmes, and took piano and singing lessons.

Because of marital and financial problems, Mrs Kalogeropoulos returned to Greece with her two daughters, and Maria studied singing under a famous singing master in Athens. After several school performances, she was offered a part at the Royal Opera, in Suppé's 'Boccaccio'.

In 1940, Greece became engaged in the Second World War and, from time to time, Maria performed for the enemy troops. In 1942, she replaced an unwell soprano at the opera to play 'Tosca'.

When Athens was liberated by the British Forces, she worked as an interpreter for some time, but decided to return to her father in New York, in September 1945.

She should have debuted in Chicago, but the company went bankrupt so, when Maria was offered a contract for 'La Gioconda' in Verona, she gladly went to Italy.

In Italy she met her future husband Meneghini, as well as her mentor, Tullio Serafin. Her sensational performance in Wagner's 'Walküre' and, two days later, in Bellini's 'I Puritani', received worldwide publicity. From then on she was a star and she received many recording offers from gramophone record companies. These records made her famous and popular the world over.

The press haunted her constantly and her divorce from Menighini and her affair with Aristotle Onassis were covered all over the world. She contracted a throat disease which caused her voice to lose quality, but she refused to take it seriously.

After Onassis' marriage to Jacqueline Kennedy, Maria broke down, then made several attempts to resurrect her career, but her voice was a mere shadow of its former self; fans were saddened by its deterioration.

She died of heart failure in September 1977.

**Cultural Mosaic of Europe: Past, Present and Future**  
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## An Italian writer of the past:

### Eugenio Montale



Eugenio Montale was born in Genoa on 12th October 1896. He was one of the most important poets of the twentieth century. After technical studies and The First World War, he devoted himself to classical studies. His works focused on the "*evil of life*" as in "Ossi di Seppia" a 1925 collection. Montale gave great importance to the figure of women because they were very important in his life: he gives his women different and symbolic names. His last collection was "Satura" published in 1971, where he returned to the ideal of the Latin satire. He received the "Nobel Prize" in Literature in 1975, "*for his distinctive poetry which, with great artistic sensitivity, has interpreted human values under the sign of an outlook on life with no illusions*". He died in 1981.

The most important influence in Montale's formation was surely that of Thomas Stearns Eliot: the metaphysical poet who had introduced in his poetic the "*correlative objective*", that is the use of a series of concrete images to describe a feeling, a moment of life and abstract feelings that the poet cannot describe with simple words. We have this rethoricism in Montale's works with the concept of "*pure poetry*", a concept that Montale claims to have developed regardless of Eliot's model. The most obvious similarity between the two poets is their love for Dante, the Florentine poet. Nevertheless we cannot exclude the direct derivation of Montale's poetic style from Eliot, although he did not admit it.

Montale was the most widely read poets of the first half of 1900 even if his fame did not die with him. His writings began to circulate in 1925 with the publication of "Ossi di Seppia", his first and perhaps most famous collection.

## An Italian Writer of the present:

### Dario Fo



Dario Fo was born in Leggiuno, near Varese, in 1926. After completing his studies at the Accademia delle Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, from 1950 he started working for radio and television as an actor and author of satirical works. On 24 June 1954 he married his colleague Franca Rame with whom the artistic and marital relationship continues even today. In 1968 the theatre group Nuova Scena was founded, with the objective to “*return to the popular origins of the theatre and to its social worth*” and in the same year “*Il Mistero Buffo*” is performed on the stage and it is probably his most famous work. In 1973 he was arrested because he didn’t want the police to stop his play from being performed “*War of the people in Chile*”. He received the Nobel Prize in 1997 because he was considered a man “*who emulates the jesters of the Middle Ages in scourging authority and upholding the dignity of the downtrodden*”. Currently he is still involved in the theatre and working with the actor Paolo Rossi on a new edition of “*Il Mistero Buffo*”. The central work is based on the use of *Grammelot*, an invented language that mixes words of different origin and with no sense, which derives from the language in Charlie Chaplin’s film “*Modern Times*”. The cause of Dario Fo’s worldwide fortune and fame was due to *Grammelot*, which he made “*understandable*” all over the world.

“*Il Mistero Buffo*” is a clear demonstration of why Dario Fo can not be imitated by many since his works are not conventional and their features are so personal that they would lose strength if they were imitated by others. This is why Dario Fo’s plays are different from one performance to another.

His plays derive from the sixteenth century Comedy of Art and his greatest source of inspiration comes mostly from Beolco Angelo, called Ruzante, an actor and a playwright.



## An Italian scientist of the past :

### Guglielmo Marconi



He was an Italian inventor, known for his development of *Marconi's law* and a radio telegraph system, which served as the foundation for the establishment of numerous affiliated companies worldwide. He shared the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics with Karl Ferdinand Braun "*in recognition of their contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy*". During his early years, Marconi had an interest in science and electricity. One of the scientific developments during this era came from Heinrich Hertz, who demonstrated that one could produce and detect electromagnetic radiation—now generally known as "radio waves", at the time more commonly called "Hertzian waves" or "aetheric waves". Marconi began to conduct experiments, building much of his own equipment in the attic of his home at the Villa Griffone in Pontecchio, Italy. His goal was to use radio waves to create a practical system of "wireless telegraphy"—i.e. the transmission of telegraph messages without connecting wires as used by the electric telegraph.

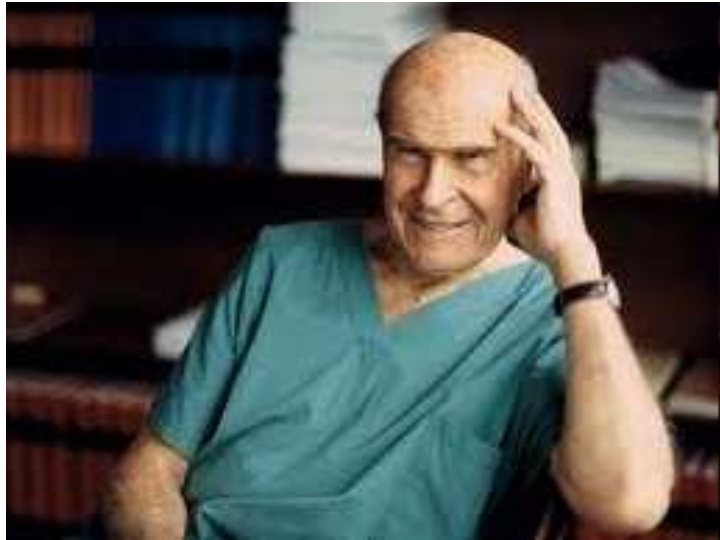
On 13 May 1897, Marconi sent the first wireless communication over open sea. It crossed the Bristol Channel from Lavernock Point (South Wales) to Flat Holm Island, a distance of 6 kilometres (3.7 mi). The message read "*Are you ready*".

On 18 June 1912, Marconi gave evidence to the Court of Inquiry into the loss of the *Titanic* regarding the marine telegraphy's functions and the procedures for emergencies at sea. Britain's postmaster-general, referring to the *Titanic* disaster, said "*Those who have been saved, have been saved through one man, Mr. Marconi...and his marvellous invention*".

Marconi died in Rome in 1937 at age 63. As a tribute, all radio stations throughout the world observed two minutes of silence. Marconi had expanded the boundaries of communication and a new era began for humanity.

## **An Italian scientist of the present:**

### **Umberto Veronesi**

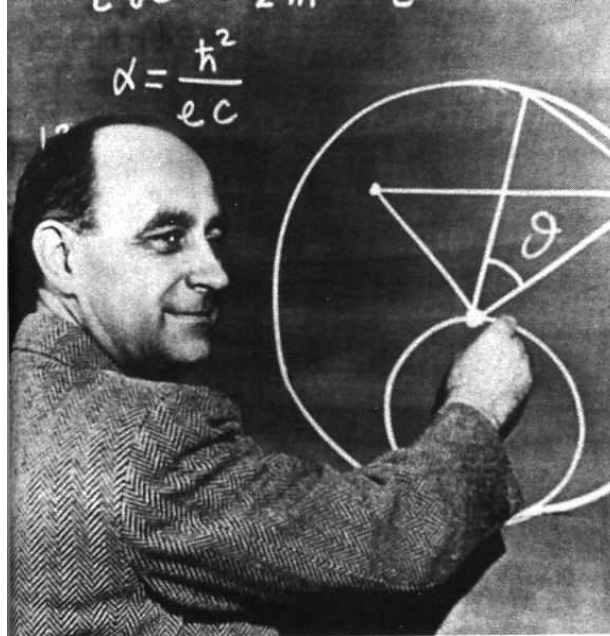


Umberto Veronesi obtained his degree in medicine at the University of Milan in 1950, and soon decided to dedicate his professional activity to the study and treatment of cancers; after brief periods in England and France, he joined the Italian Cancer Institute in Milan as a volunteer.

Veronesi is known as the founder of breast-conserving surgery in breast cancer treatment with the invention of the technique of quadrantectomy which challenged the idea, then dominating among surgeons, that cancers could be treated only with aggressive surgery; since then, he has supported and promoted scientific research aimed at improving conservative surgical techniques. He also contributed to breast cancer prevention, conducting studies on tamoxifen and retinoids and verifying their capabilities to prevent the formation of carcinoma.

He has always been an activist in many anti-tobacco campaigns. In 1994 he founded the European Institute of Oncology, which he still directs.

## An Italian scientist of the past: Enrico Fermi



Enrico Fermi was an Italian physicist particularly known for his work on the development of the first nuclear reactor, Chicago Pile-1, and for his contributions to the development of the quantum theory, nuclear and particle physics and statistical mechanics. He was awarded the 1938 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on induced radioactivity.

Fermi is widely regarded as one of the leading scientists of the 20th century, highly accomplished in both theory and experiment. Along with J. Robert Oppenheimer, he is frequently referred to as "*the father of the atomic bomb*".

He also held several patents related to the use of nuclear power.

At the age of 24, Fermi took a professorship at the University of Rome (first in atomic physics in Italy) which he won in a competition held by Professor Orso Mario Corbino, director of the Institute of Physics. Corbino helped Fermi in selecting his team, which was soon joined by notable minds like Edoardo Amaldi, Bruno Pontecorvo, Franco Rasetti and Emilio Segrè. For the theoretical studies only, Ettore Majorana also took part in what was soon nicknamed "the Via Panisperna boys".

Fermi's activity regarded many fields of physics, and he is universally recognized as one of the greatest scientists of all times. In 1938 he received the Nobel Prize for Physics for his identification of new elements of radioactivity and the discovery of nuclear reactions with slow neutrons.

Enrico Fermi designed and guided the construction of the first nuclear fission reactor, which produced the first controlled nuclear chain reaction. He was one of the technical directors of the Manhattan Project, which led to the creation of the atomic bomb in Los Alamos.

## An Italian artist of the past:

### Umberto Boccioni



Futurism is a literary and artistic avant-gard movement founded in 1909 by the writer Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. Each new creation which looks at the future has to be born from progress and replace the traditional form completely. Many Italian artists, like Boccioni, Balla, Carrà, Russolo and Severini, were influenced by these concepts.

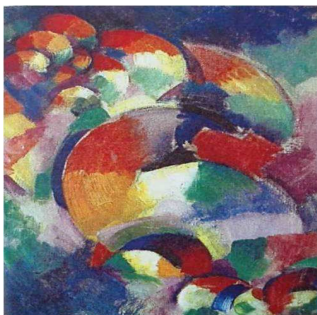
Boccioni, born in Calabria, after various periods in Europe, moved to Milan, the city centre, in full urban planning and industrial expansion.

His painting “The city which goes up” is described by the artist as “*an enormous synthesis of work, light and movement*”, representing a modern city which sprawls and advances inexorably.

Through the examples of Italian artists, there have been role models to those painters who started a process of renewal of the locally figurative culture. For example, Raggismo in Russia, Synchronism in France and Vorticism in London.

Raggismo is characterized by the decomposition of the color schemes and interpretations of marked black lines that produce a dynamic effect.

Synchronism is a movement which emerged in Paris in 1912. It highlighted the chromatic rhythms, referring on the Orphism theories, but it also appears influenced by Futurism.



Vorticism is characterized by vertical planes, sharp diagonal lines, large expanses of pure colours without shades.



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**GREAT POLISH PEOPLE**

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# Henryk Sienkiewicz

## Henryk Adam Aleksander Pius Sienkiewicz

was the most outstanding Polish novelist and journalist who was born in Wola Okrzejska on 5th of May in 1846. At the beginning of his career he was writing for magazines such as "Gazeta Polska" and "Niwa" and used a pen name "Litwos". In 1872 he published a trilogy: "Stary Sługa", "Hania" and "Selim Morza". Influenced by travels to the United States (in 1876) he wrote a few novels: popular "Latarnik", "Komedia z Pomyłek", "W Krainie Złota", "Wspomnienia z Maripozy" and "Sachem". After his return to Europe in 1878 he wrote "Janko Muzykant" (Janko Musician). In 1883 he wrote the first part of the most known trilogy "Ogniem i Mieczem", then he wrote "Potop", and in 1887 the third part "Pan Wołodyjowski". In 1896 he published his most popular historical novel "Quo Vadis" which made an outstanding career in Europe. The book was translated into many languages, including Arabic, Japanese and Esperanto. Quo Vadis has had a lot of film adaptations and the first one was an Italian. The most popular



one, however, was an American film with the same name "Quo Vadis" (1951). Henryk Sienkiewicz published his very popular historical novel "Krzyżacy" in 1900. In the same year Jagiellonian University granted him a title "doctor honoris causa". In 1905 Henryk Sienkiewicz received the **Nobel Prize** for lifetime achievements. In 1910 Kurier Warszawski published parts of Sienkiewicz's novel for teenagers "W pustyni i w puszczy". After the outbreak of World War I, he left to the Switzerland. He died in Vevey on 15th of November in 1916 where he was buried but in 1924 writer's ashes were ceremoniously taken to Poland.

### His most important books:

- *Janko Muzykant*
- *Latarnik*
- *Sachem*
- Trilogy: *Ogniem i mieczem* (1884), *Potop* (1886), *Pan Wołodyjowski* (1888)
- *Quo vadis*
- *Krzyżacy*
- *W pustyni i w puszczy*

### Film Adaptations of the most popular Sienkiewicz's novels:

- Quo Vadis (1912) - Italian silent movie
- Quo Vadis (1924) - Italian silent movie
- Quo Vadis (1951) - American adaptation
- Krzyżacy (1960)
- Ogniem i mieczem (Col ferro e col fuoco) (1962) - Frech-Yugoslav-Italian adaptation
- Pan Wołodyjowski (1967)
- Przygody pana Michała (1969) - soap opera based on "Pan Wołodyjowski"
- Potop (1974)
- Ogniem i Mieczem (1999)
- Quo Vadis (1985) - Italian soap opera
- W pustyni i w puszczy and Quo Vadis (2001) - feature films
- Quo Vadis (2002) - soap opera

# Dorota Masłowska



**Dorota Masłowska** was born on 3 July 1983 in Wejherowo and grew up there. She applied for the Gdansk' s University, however she left the studies and joined the culture studies at the Warsaw University.

In 2009, she left Poland and went to German Academic Exchange where she got a scholarship.

She collaborates with a number of magazines like: *Przekrój*, *Wysokie Obcasy*, *Lampka* and the quarterly *BEAT* magazine.

She first appeared in the mass-media when her debut book *Wojna polsko-ruska pod flagą biało-czerwoną* was published.

Her language seen by many as vulgar and cynical was controversial.

Lisa Goldman and Paul Sirett translated her first play *Dwoje biednych Rumunów mówiących po polsku*. The play was performed for the first time in the UK at Soho Theatre. (28 Feb-29March 2008)

## **Impact:**

Masłowska's works have, in the opinion of critics, inspired the young generation of writers e.g. Agnieszka Masłowska Drotkiewicz and colleague from college, Mirosław Nahacz

## **Awards:**

-PEGAZ award nomination in the category of literature.

-Nike Award in 2006 (for the book: *The Queen s Peacock*)

## **Works:**

-2002 *Wojna polsko-ruska pod flagą biało-czerwoną*

-2005 *Paw Królowej*

-2006 *Dwoje biednych Rumunów mówiących po polsku*

-2008 *Między nami dobrze jest*

-2010 *SchneeweiB und Russenrof*



## Maria Skłodowska-Curie

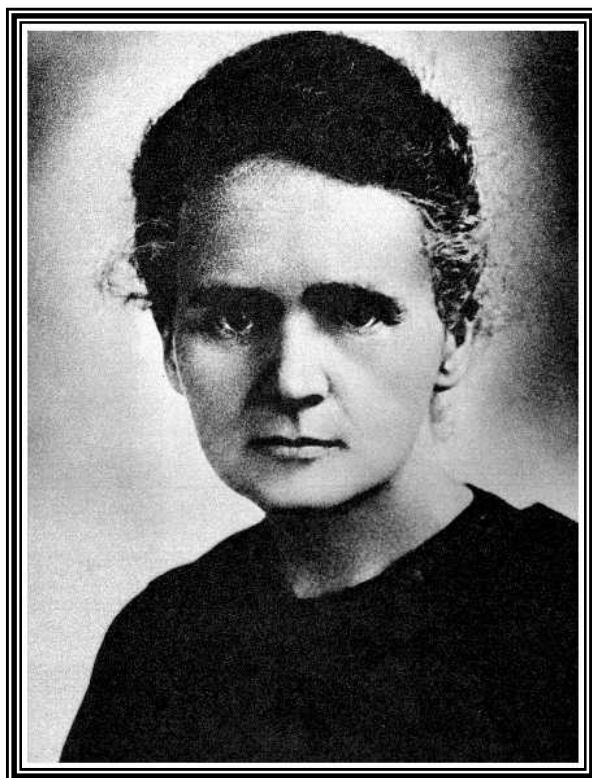
She was born on 7 November 1867 in Warsaw and died on 4 July 1934 in Passy, Haute-Savoie in France. She was 66 years old.

In XIX century it was hard for women to finish university, so Maria moved to Paris. There she became a student of the Sorbona university, as one of 23 girls for 1825 students. She was the wife of Pierre Curie and the mother of Irene Joliot-Curie and Eve Curie.

She was a pioneer in the field of radioactivity and the first person honoured with two Noebel Prizes – in physics and chemistry. She also received Dary Medal, Mateuci Medal and honorary doctorates from Lwow Polytechnic, Poznan University, Jagiellonian University and Warsaw Polytechnic. She discovered two chemical elements: polonium and radium.



With Her husband – Pierre Curie



Maria Skłodowska – Curie

# Maria Siemionow



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Maria Siemionow was born on 5 May 1950 in Krotoszyn. She received her Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy in microsurgery from Poznań Medical Academy. She's a Polish surgeon in Cleveland Clinic in the USA. The President of Poland Lech Kaczyński honoured her with the title of professor in 2007. She gained fame performing the first face transplant in the USA.

The patient's face had been almost completely damaged and bone-shattered by her husband's gunshot. She survived, but the injuries were horrible. Connie couldn't breathe herself, had only her upper eyelids, forehead, lower lip and chin. She lost her senses of smell and taste too. Siemionow, in a 22-hour operation, gave Connie 80% of her new face. The next year Ambassador Robert Kupiecki awarded her with the Commander's Cross of the Merit of the Republic of Poland.

# Wisława Szymborska

Wisława Szymborska was born on July 2 1923. She is a Polish poet, essayist and translator, literary critic, columnist, member of the Polish Writers' Association and the Polish Academy of Sciences. She was awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize in literature but she hasn't published more than 250 poems to date. Her work has been translated into many European languages, as well as into Arabic, Hebrew and Chinese.

Szymborska is inextricably linked with Krakow and has repeatedly stressed its commitment to this city.

She was awarded, inter alia, the Order of White Eagle, Knight's Cross of the Rebirth of Polish and the Award of Goethe, Herder Prize. Wisława Szymborska receives the Order of the White Eagle from President Bronisław Komorowski (Krakow, 17 January 2011).

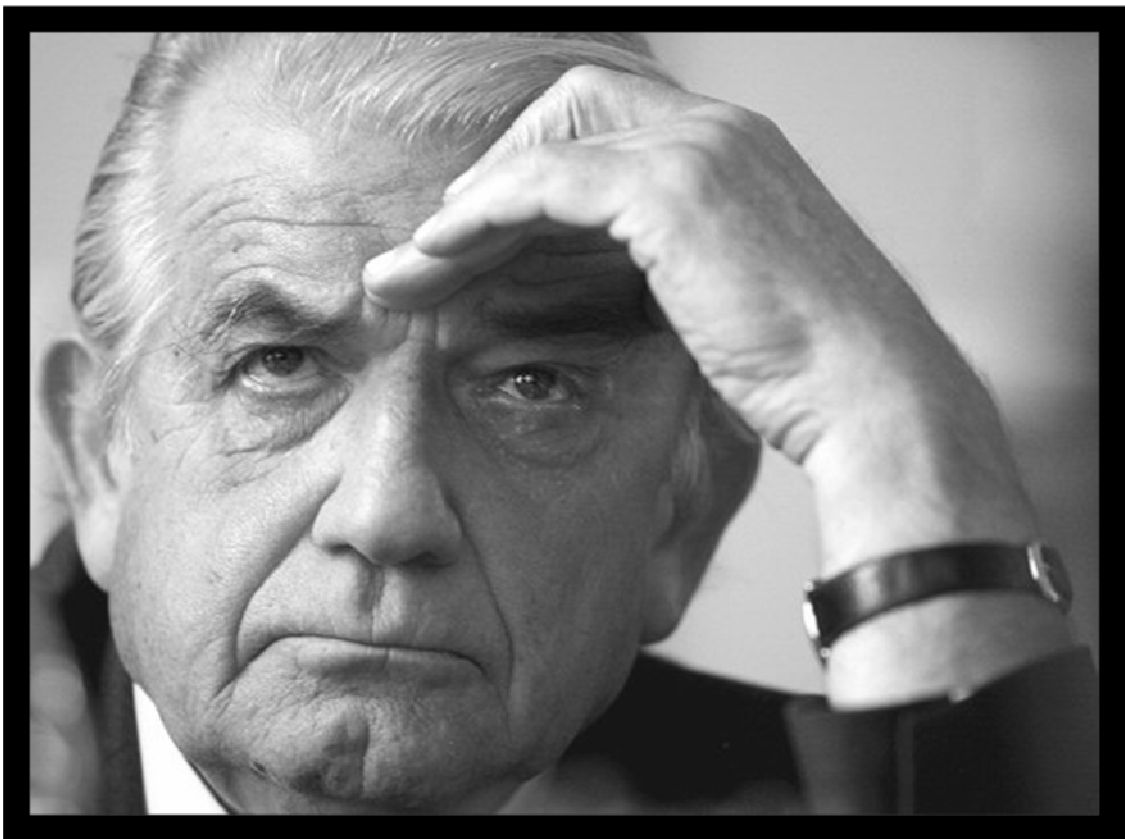


Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

In 1949, the first book of poems by Szymborska's Poems (according to other sources of sewing banners) was not allowed to print as it "did not meet the requirements of the socialist". The first book was released in 1952 was book of poems "That is what we are living for". In 1953, she joined the staff of the literary review magazine *Życie Literackie* ("Literary Life"), where she continued to work until 1981 and many of her essays from this period were later published in book form. From 1981 to 1983, Szymborska was an editor of the Kraków-based monthly *Pismo*. During the 1980s, she intensified her oppositional activities, contributing to the periodical *Arka* under the pseudonym "Stańczykówna", as well as to *Kultura* in Paris."

# Zbigniew Religa

An outstanding scientist, scholar and renowned resident cardiac clinics and research centers in the U.S. Professor of Medicine. meritorious for the development of Polish and European cardiac surgery, author of numerous research teams in the country and abroad. An outstanding teacher. The promoter of several doctoral theses. A great social worker honored with the highest state awards. Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Lviv and the Academy of Białystok Medical and Katowice. Religa led the team that performed the first heart transplant operation in Poland. He used a new method of preventing formation of blood clots, while reducing the risk of postoperative patients with artificial connected chambers. The first operation was carried out in November 1985. Until his death, Professor moved them very much, many people who underwent surgery are still alive today.



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**GREAT LITHUANIAN PEOPLE**

**LITHUANIA**

# ANTANAS GUSTAITIS



**Antanas Gustaitis** (1898 - 1941) was an officer in the Lithuanian Armed Forces who modernized the Lithuanian Air Force, which at that time was part of the Lithuanian Army. He was the architect aeronautical engineer who undertook the task to design and construct several military trainers and reconnaissance aircraft.

Gustaitis was born in the village of Obelinė, in Javaravas county, in the Marijampolė district. He attended high school in Yaroslavl, and from there studied at the Institute of Engineering and School of Artillery in Petrograd. After joining the Lithuanian Army in 1919, he graduated from the School of Military Aviation as a Junior Lieutenant in 1920. Later that year, he saw action in the Polish-Lithuanian War. By 1922 he began to train pilots, and later became the head of the training squadron. He also oversaw the construction of aircraft for Lithuania in Italy and Czechoslovakia.

Gustaitis was one of the founding members of the Aero Club of Lithuania, and later its Vice-President. He did much to promote aviation among the young people in Lithuania, especially concerning the sport of gliding. He also won the Lithuanian Chess Championship in 1922.

Between 1925 and 1928, Gustaitis studied aeronautical engineering in Paris. After his graduation he returned to Lithuania, and was promoted to deputy Commander-in-Chief of Military Aviation and made chief of the Aviation Workshop (Karo Aviacijos Tiekimo Skyrius) in Kaunas. During this time, he reorganized the workshop and expanded its capability to repair aircraft as well. The aircraft he designed were named **ANBO**, an acronym for *Antanas Nori Būti Ore* – "Antanas wants to be airborne".

In 1934, he became Commander-in-Chief of the air branch, and in 1937, attained the rank of Brigadier General. He reorganized Lithuanian military aviation, forming fighter, bomber, and reconnaissance groups, and developed a system of training for pilots and their crews, and ground crews as well.

After Lithuania's occupation by the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Lithuanian Army, he was a lecturer at Vytautas Magnus University, but fearing arrest he attempted to flee to Germany in 1941. He was caught attempting to cross the border on 4 March, arrested, and taken to Moscow where he was shot on the 16 October.

Following the restoration of Lithuanian independence he was commemorated by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University when the *Antanas Gustaitis Aviation Institute* was named after him.



In front of an ANBO



Stamp - Birth Centenary of Antanas Gustaitis

# JUSTINAS MARCINKEVIČIUS



*"Someday the advent of the book will be compared to the theft of divine fire, for there is no other protection against darkness and the violence of beasts but the book, for only the book can warm our numb souls and lead us through the labyrinths of the world and our own hearts."*

Justinas Marcinkevičius: A Diary Without Dates, 1981.

Justinas Marcinkevičius was born in 1930 in Važatkiemis, Prienai district. In 1954 he graduated from Vilnius University History and Philology faculty with a degree in Literature. He worked for a number of years as vice-chairman of the board of the official Union of Lithuanian Writers.

In 1990 the poet became a member of the Movement initiative group and participated in the restoration of Independence of Lithuania actively. He died (2011) in Vilnius.

Justinas Marcinkevičius, poet, playwright, translator, Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Science, is the author of many famous poems, including "Kraujas ir pelenai / Blood and Ashes" (1960), "Siena / The Wall" (1965), and "Pažinimo medis / The Tree of Knowledge" (1979), and books of poetry: "Duoną raikančios rankos / Hands Breaking Bread" (1963), "Mediniai tiltai / Wooden Bridges" (1966), "Liepsnojantis krūmas / The Burning Bush" (1968), "Gyvenimo švelnus prisiglaudimas / Life Touched Me Gently" (1978), "Būk ir palaimink / Be and Bless" (1980), "Vienintelė žemė / The Only Land" (1984), and "Prie rugių ir prie ugnies / By the Rye Field and by the Fire-Place" (1993). In 1981-83 the Selected Works of Justinas Marcinkevičius in 5 vol. were published. For several decades theatres in Lithuania and other countries have staged this whole dramatic trilogy or its parts: "Mindaugas" (1968), "Mažvydas" (1977), "Katedra" (1971). J. Marcinkevičius is the author of the essay collections "Dienoraštis be datų / A Diary Without Dates" (1981) and "Tekančios upės vienybė / The Harmony of the Flowing River" (1994).

Selected works by J. Marcinkevičius have been published in German, Russian, English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Norwegian, Estonian, Romanian, Serbian, Latvian, Slovak, Armenian, Czech, Uzbek, Georgian, Moldavian, Kirghiz, Ukrainian, and other languages. Some of his poems have been published in Italian, French, Spanish, Finnish, etc. anthologies and magazines.

The poet's major theme is Lithuania, its past and present, nature and culture, human existence in one's homeland and in the world, and existential problems: happiness, responsibility, suffering, fear, faithfulness, kindness. Justinas Marcinkevičius has translated into Lithuanian selected works by A. Pushkin, M. Lermontov, S. Yesenin, A. Mickiewicz, etc. and the Finnish epic poem Kalevala.

Justinas Marcinkevičius has twice received the State Award of Lithuania for his literary works and has received the Santarvė Award of Lithuania (1994) for his civic activities. In 2001 J. Marcinkevičius became the winner of the National Culture and Art Prize, in 2002 – a citizen of honour of Vilnius, in 2008 the poet received the National Culture Progress Prize.

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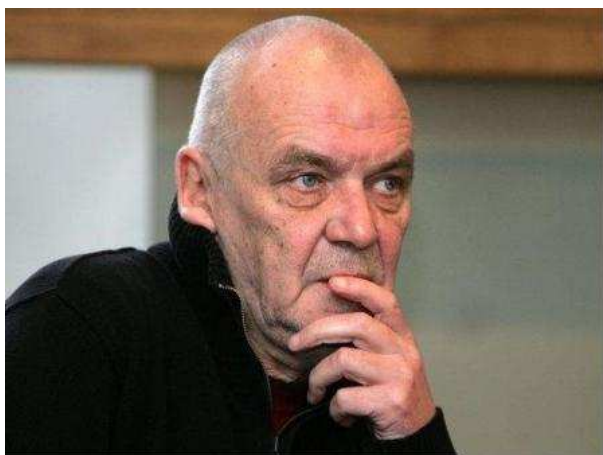
*I fear for forests and for birds,  
I'm anxious for the lakes and rivers,  
I'm worrying about that birch-tree  
which shortly you intend to fell.*

*I'm also anxious for that word  
which is forsaken and forgotten,  
which in the fields like a stray boulder  
is lying overgrown with weeds.*

*I fear for that old song now silent,  
and for the bedspread time has tattered,  
and for the wooden bat now rotting,  
I fear for the old-fashioned flail:*

*How will they all survive without us?  
What shall they do without us now?*

# EIMUNTAS NEKROŠIUS



**Eimuntas Nekrošius** (born on November 21, 1952 in Pažobris village, Raseiniai district municipality is one of the most renowned theatre directors in Lithuania. In 1978 Nekrošius graduated from Lunacharsky Institute of Theatre Arts in Moscow. After returning to Lithuania Nekrošius has been working in the Vilnius State Youth Theatre from 1978 until 1979. In 1979 he moved to the Kauna State Drama Theatre, where he stayed for a year until 1980. 1980 he returned to Vilnius State Youth Theatre, where he staged series of notable plays: Among the features characteristic to his plays are the soothing background music of a repetitive pattern throughout the performance, extensive use of dance and

movement and unique props on stage, as well as an employment of natural substances as water, fire, wind, ice and stone. The length of a single performance often exceeds conventional viewing time, since Nekrošius favours complex and challenging pieces to stage, such as the *Song of Song* or *The Seasons* by Kristijonas Donelaitis.

## Notable plays

The Square (1980), Pirosmani, Pirosmani (1981), Rock opera *Love and Death in Verona* by Sigitas Geda and K. Antanėlis' (1982, renewed in 1996), Chinghiz Aitmatov's *The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years*(1983), Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* (1986), Nikolai Gogol's *The Nose* (1991), *Little Tragedies* by Aleksandr Pushkin, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (1997), *Macbeth* (2002) *Bolshoi theater, Moscow*) (*The Children of Rosenthal* (2005) (*Bolshoi theater, Moscow*) Johann Wolfgang Goethe's *Faust*(2006). "Idiot" by Fiodor Dostojevski.

## Awards

Plays by Nekrošius were awarded diplomas of various theatre festivals in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia and other countries. Nekrošius is a laureate of numerous state awards.

- 1994 Nekrošius received a special prize of the Lithuanian Theatre Union as the Best Director of the Year, and an award of the Baltic Assembly for Aleksandr Pushkin's *Little Tragedies* (*Mozart and Salieri. Don Juan. Plague*) as the best theatre performance in the Baltic States.
- 1997, Nekrošius produced one of his most successful directions – *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, starring Lithuanian music idol Andrius Mamontovas. The play took part in nearly all main European theatre festivals and received numerous awards including Lithuanian National Prize.
- 1997, Nekrošius received prestigious polish prize for directors - Konrad Swinarski Award of miesięcznik "Teatr", polish theatre monthly journal - for "Hamlet".
- November 2002, Nekrošius produced Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Macbeth* at Teatro Comunale Florence.
- In 2001, Nekrošius received the prestigious international Konstantin Stanislavski's award in Moscow.
- In 2005 he received the Herder Prize. In January 2008, Italian theater critics recognized Nekrošius' staged play *Faust* as the best foreign production in Italy and awarded UBU Prize, a third one in Nekrošius carrier.
- 2008 Nekrosius received the third Honorary Award of the 16th International Istanbul Theater Festival.

More information: <http://www.menofortas.lt/>



# MIKALOJUS KONSTANTINAS ČIURLIONIS



Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis ( 1875 - 1911), a foremost Lithuanian artist, composer and cultural figure, has laid foundation for Lithuanian professional art and music. In his art he sought universality and synthesis and revealed individually perceived spiritual unity between cosmos, nature and human. Čiurlionis' heritage is comprised of paintings (oil, graphics), music compositions, literary works and photography. Among his most significant paintings are Sonatas (7 cycles) exposing analogies with musical structures, extraordinary and manifold concentration of ideas, and innovative conceptualism. His music displays features of late romanticism, original principles of development and suggestive expression. He was the first Lithuanian composer to write polyphonically elaborated folk song arrangements for choir; his remarkable late

choral works stand out from the Lithuanian music of that time. The most copious and original is his output for piano.

Since 1877 Čiurlionis lived in Druskininkai (Lithuania), where he graduated from the folk school. His first music teacher was his father, church organist. Later (1889-91) Čiurlionis studied at the orchestral school of Duke Michal Oginski in Plungė. In 1894-99 he studied at the Warsaw Institute of Music, beginning as a pianist, later continuing as a composition student. In 1900 Čiurlionis wrote symphonic poem "In the Forest", which earned a special jury commendation at the Maurycy Zamoyski competition. In 1901-02 he studied at the Royal Leipzig Conservatoire. He also attended lectures in aesthetics, history and psychology at the Leipzig University. While in Leipzig he composed string quartet, symphonic overture "Kęstutis", a number of polyphonic works for piano, organ, and mixed choir. In 1902 he graduated from the Leipzig Conservatoire earning teacher's diploma. In 1902-03 Čiurlionis lived in Warsaw, attended J. Kaucik's drawing class, and in 1904-06 he studied at the School of Fine Art. In 1903 he started working on the symphonic poem "The Sea" (completed in 1907). Concurrently he worked as a director of Lithuanian Mutual Aid Society's choir (1905-06) in Warsaw. His first personal painting exhibition was organised at the Warsaw School of Fine Art in 1905. In 1907-08 Čiurlionis lived in Vilnius, where together with his colleagues established Lithuanian Fine Arts Society, displayed his paintings in the first Lithuanian art exhibition.

In 1908 – 1909 he lived in St. Petersburg. He got acquainted with the members of Russian Artists' Association Mstislav Dobuzhinsky and Alexandre Benois, took part in their exhibitions. Čiurlionis' piano works were performed in St. Petersburg along with the compositions by Alexander Scriabin, Nikolai Metner, Igor Stravinsky and Sergei Rachmaninov. Čiurlionis initiated a music division at the Lithuanian Fine Arts Society and organised the first competition for Lithuanian composers. At the time a collection of his folk song arrangements "Vieversėlis" was published in Warsaw.

In the mean time his art was beginning to receive international recognition: in 1910-11 his paintings were displayed in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Riga, Minsk, Vilnius, Kiev, Paris, he was invited to participate in the exhibition of New Artists' Union in Munich, he was elected a member of "Mir iskusstva" (World of Art) Society in St. Petersburg. He died on April 10, 1911.

Čiurlionis contributed to symbolism and art nouveau and was representative of the fin de siècle epoch. During his short life he composed about 250 pieces of music and created about 300 paintings. The majority of his paintings are housed in the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, in Kaunas, Lithuania. His works have had a profound influence on modern Lithuanian culture. The asteroid 2420 Čiurlionis is named after him.



*Sonata of the Sea*



*Serenity*

## JONAS MEKAS



Jonas Mekas was born in 1922 in the farming village of Semeniškiai, Lithuania. He currently lives and works in New York City. In 1944, he and his brother Adolfas were taken by the Nazis to a forced labor camp in Elmshorn, Germany. After the War he studied philosophy at the University of Mainz. At the end of 1949 the UN Refugee Organization brought both brothers to New York City, where they settled down in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Two weeks after his arrival in New York he borrowed money to buy his first Bolex camera and began to record brief moments of his life. He soon got deeply involved in the American Avant-Garde film movement. In 1954, together with his brother, he started *Film Culture* magazine, which soon became the most important film publication in the US. In 1958 he began his legendary Movie Journal column in the *Village Voice*. In 1962 he founded the Film-Makers' Cooperative, and in 1964 the Film-Makers' Cinematheque, which eventually grew into Anthology Film Archives, one of the world's largest and most important repositories of avant-garde cinema, and a screening venue.

During all this time he continued writing poetry and making films. To this date he has published more than 20 books of prose and poetry, which have been translated into over 12 languages. His Lithuanian poetry is now part of Lithuanian classic literature and his films can be found in leading museums around the world. He is largely credited for developing the diaristic forms of cinema. Mekas has also been active as an academic, teaching at the New School for Social Research, the International Center for Photography, Cooper Union, New York University, and MIT.

Mekas' film *The Brig* was awarded the Grand Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1963. Other films include *Walden* (1969), *Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania* (1972), *Lost Lost Lost* (1975), *Scenes from the Life of Andy Warhol* (1990), *Scenes from the Life of George Maciunas* (1992), and *as I was Moving Ahead I saw Brief Glimpses of Beauty* (2000). More recently, in 2007, he completed a series of 365 short films released on the internet, one film every day.

Since 2000, Mekas has expanded his work into the area of film installations, exhibiting at the Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Moderna Museet (Stockholm), PS1 Contemporary Art Center MoMA, Documenta of Kassel, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, and the Venice Biennale. In 2007, the Jonas Mekas Center for the Visual Arts opened in Vilnius, Lithuania.

More information in web page: <http://jonasmekasfilms.com/diary/>

## ARVYDAS SABONIS



**Arvydas Romas Sabonis** (born December 19, 1964) is a retired Lithuanian professional basketball player and a businessman. Born in Kaunas, Lithuania, Sabonis began playing basketball at age 13. By the time he was 15 years old he was a member of the Soviet national junior team.

Sabonis made his professional debut in 1981 with BC Žalgiris in his hometown, Kaunas. He won three consecutive Soviet League titles and reached the 1986 Euro league finals with the team.

Sabonis was selected by the Atlanta Hawks with the 77th pick of

the 1985 NBA Draft. However, the selection was voided because Sabonis was fewer than 21 at the time of the draft. The following spring, he suffered a devastating Achilles' tendon injury. Nevertheless, he was selected by the Portland Trail Blazers with the 24th pick of the 1986 NBA Draft.

Sabonis was not allowed to play in the NBA by Soviet authorities until 1989. However, he did go to Portland to rehabilitate his injury with Blazers trainers. He also practiced with the team.

In the 1988 Summer Olympics, Sabonis led the Soviet Union to a gold medal with a win against a United States team that featured future NBA All-Stars David Robinson, Mitch Richmond and Danny Manning in the semi-finals. The team later beat Yugoslavia in the finals.

The 1985–1988 stretch of a heavy playing schedule and lack of rest took a significant toll on Sabonis' future health and durability.

In 1992, after playing with CB Valladolid for three seasons, Sabonis joined Real Madrid and won two Spanish League titles and a Euroleague title in 1995.

After the 2000–2001 NBA seasons, Sabonis refused to sign an extension with Trail Blazers and retired from the NBA. In his own words, he "was tired mentally and physically."

Sabonis came back to Žalgiris to play his final season in 2003 – 2004. He led the team to the Top 16 stage of the Euroleague that year and was named the Regular Season MVP and the Top 16 MVP. He also became the team's president. Sabonis would officially retire in 2005.

On August 20, 2010, Sabonis was inducted into the FIBA Hall of Fame in recognition of his great play in international competition. On April 4, 2011; Sabonis was named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, to be inducted in August 2011.

**COMENIUS PROJECT**  
**2009-11**



**GREAT SPANISH PEOPLE**

**SPAIN**



## DIEGO VELÁZQUEZ

Diego Velázquez was probably Spain's greatest baroque artist. He was born in Seville, in 1599. Between the ages 11 and 16 he worked as an apprentice for the Mannerist painter, Francisco Pacheco. At that time he also gained the influences of Flemish and Italian realism.

For the first few years after he had served his apprenticeship, Velázquez's works fell into three categories. These were the 'bodegón', which comprised everyday subjects combined with still life, portraits, and religious scenes. He also showed a strong tendency towards naturalism.

As an independent master, one of his earliest 'bodegones' was 'The Meal'.

Another one was 'The Water Seller of Seville'. This is often compared with the work of Caravaggio because it has a very clever use of light and shadow, and is a realistic portrayal of nature. Velázquez used the people of Seville as models for his religious paintings and his 'Adoration of the Magi'. Velázquez moved in the intellectual circles of Seville, and was introduced to many of the poets and writers of the time. This influenced him later in his life when his work adopted more classical themes. In 1622, he painted a portrait of the great poet Luis de Góngora y Argote.

Velázquez travelled to Madrid in 1623, and painted a portrait of King Philip IV, which is now on display in El Prado, in Madrid. After this he was appointed the King's official painter. He spent most of his next 6 years painting portraits of the Royal Family. He also painted some mythological pictures, as 'The Drinkers', which is also in El Prado museum. Velázquez was interested in realism, but still maintains his mythological theme as in 'The God of wine'. In 1629, Velázquez left for Italy, and spent the next two years travelling around the country. During his time there he studied Italian art and current trends. One of the works that he produced on his travels, 'Joseph and his brothers', is on display in El Escorial, near Madrid. This combines the sculptural style of Michelangelo with the light and shadow techniques of many of the Italian masters.

When Velázquez returned to Madrid he continued as the court painter. He produced many notable works, including 'Prince Baltasar Carlos with a Dwarf'. He also contributed to the decoration of the throne room in the new royal palace of Buen Retiro, alongside some of the most famous painters of the day. His most famous piece is the battle picture 'The Surrender of Breda'. Velázquez continued as a court painter and architect until his death in 1660.



( More information: <http://en.wikipedia.org> )



## Juan de la Cierva

*De la Cierva was born in Murcia, Spain. He was a Spanish civil engineer, pilot and aeronautical engineer. His most famous accomplishment was the invention in 1920 of the Autogiro.*

*After four years of experimentation De la Cierva developed the articulated rotor which resulted in the world's first successful flight of a stable rotary-wing aircraft in 1923 with his C.4 prototype.*

*De la Cierva started building aircraft as early as 1912 and in 1919 he started to consider the use of a rotor to generate lift at low airspeed, and eliminate the risk of stall. He experienced several failures, this difficulty was resolved by the introduction of the flapping hinge. In 1923, he first successful Autogiro was flown in Spain by Lt. Gomez Spencer and crossed the English Channel in an improved model in 1928.*

*The Farnborough demonstration was a great success, and resulted in an invitation to continue the work in the UK.*

*On the morning of 9 December 1936, he died.*



(More information: [http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Juan\\_de\\_la\\_Cierva.aspx](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Juan_de_la_Cierva.aspx))

## Pablo Ruiz Picasso

Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1881, in Málaga, Andalucía (Spain). He is known as Pablo Picasso, and he was one of the most important painters and sculptors in Spain, and even in the world. He is considered one of the greatest artists in the world, as he made more than 2000 fantastic works in his life, many of them now in museums all around Europe and the entire world.



He was the first painter who used the “cubism” technique in his works. Cubism consists of painting using only geometric figures as squares, rectangles, triangles or similar ones. The more cubic it is, the better-looking it gets.

One of his most important cubic works is “Guernica”. On 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1937, the horrible Guernica bombing took place in Spain (Guernica is a real Spanish town). An architect asked him to make a painted wall for the “Second Spanish Republic Pavilion”. Before the bombing, Picasso didn’t know what to paint for the pavilion, but finally, he decided to paint “Guernica” in honor to the bombing victims. It is a great example of cubic art.

Many people thought that his cubic paintings were awful but the truth is that, with those cubic paintings, he made one of the most important innovations in the art field.

But he not only made paintings and sculptures, he also made drawings, engravings, book illustration, ceramic works and scenery design (he designed scenery outfits, too).

Picasso said he was a pacifist and communist. Picasso died on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1973, in Mougins, France.



(More information: <http://www.arthistoryarchive.com/cubism/Pablo-Picasso.html>)



## SEVERO OCHOA

Severo Ochoa was born in Luarca, Asturias, on September 24, 1905. His parents were the lawyer Don Severo Manuel Ochoa and Mrs Carmen de Albornoz. After the death of his father, when Ochoa was 7 years old, his mother and he moved to live to Málaga, where Severo studied his primary secondary education.

Soon he developed an interest in Biology due to the publications of the neurologist Santiago Ramón y Cajal, the first Spanish scientist who won a Nobel Prize. In 1923 he went to study Medicine at Alcalá de Henares university, with the hope to work with Cajal. During his studies he stayed at the Students' Residence. He was a pupil of Juan Negrín in the laboratory of Physiology of the Residence, and he centred on the study of the energy metabolism, with special attention to the molecules phosphorylation.

Many of his most important articles were:

MALIC DEHYDROGENASE FROM PIG HEART (1955), MALIC ENZYME (1995), BIOSYNTHESIS OF DICARBOXYLIC ACIDS BY CARBON DIOXIDE FIXATION, ISOLATION AND PROPERTIES OF AN ENZYME FROM PIGEON LIVER CATALYZING THE REVERSIBLE OXIDATIVE DECARBOXYLATION OF L-MALIC ACID (1948).



(More information : [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severo\\_Ochoa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severo_Ochoa))



## **ISAAC PERAL, the Spanish inventor**

**Reporter:** Good morning, I am a reporter and I will interview Isaac Peral who was a Spanish inventor. His most important achievement was the submarine.

How did your career start? and what did you study?

**Isaac P.:** I studied a degree of navy engineering because when I was a teenager I loved all the things related to the sea.

**Reporter:** What did you do when you were in the navy?

**Isaac P.:** I participated in the project which created the first submarine.

**Reporter:** How was the project?

**Isaac P.:** It was created because I thought that this project would be a good weapon for wars.

**Reporter:** Nowadays the submarine created by Isaac Peral is very important because it was the first submarine of the history.

How did this project help the humanity?

**Isaac P.:** Nowadays, we can see what is under the sea and we can discover new species and places.

**Reporter:** Thank you very much Isaac. Good bye!

**Isaac P.:** Good bye!

(Reporter: Keila Castellano, Isaac Peral: Jorge Javier de Luis)

## **Damián García Olmo, the Spanish investigator**

**Reporter:** Good morning, Mr Damián García. So do you investigate the stem cells?

**Damián G.:** Yes, I do. I'm one of the most important stem cells investigators in Spain.

**Reporter:** And what are exactly stem cells?

**Damián G.:** They are a special kind of cells which can change into any other cell of the body. They can convert to a blood cell, a heart cell, a brain cell or any other cell. They can be found in any tissue or organ of the body.

**Reporter:** Oh, OK. And what are they for?

**Damián G.:** At the moment, stem cells can cure about 65 diseases and the list keeps growing every day. They can regenerate any cell of the body so they are really useful in leukemia cases, for example.

**Reporter:** Interesting, but are they dangerous, doctor?

**Damián G.:** Unfortunately, the embryonic stem cells can generate tumors and rejections, just like any organ transplant. The only difference is that you are transplanting a cell, not an organ.

**Reporter:** But, is there any safe way to use stem cells?

**Damián G.:** Yes, we discovered adult stem cells. They are almost the same as the embryonic ones, but they are adult and can be found in any adult body, especially in the spinal cord zone. They do the same than embryonic stem cells but as they are taken from the same body where you are going to reinsert them, they don't generate any tumors or rejections.

**Reporter:** And did you study in Spain?

**Damián G.:** Yes, I studied in Madrid. Spain has got really good universities in the science field.

**Reporter:** OK, Have you saved many people using stem cells?

**Damián G.:** Unfortunately, there are very strict laws about stem cells in Spain, so we haven't used them to cure many people yet.

**Reporter:** Thank you very much. Good bye Damián.

**Damián G.:** Thank you very much, Yeneva.

(Reporter: Yeneva Medina, Damián García: Gabriel Rodríguez)

**COMENIUS PROJECT**  
**2009-11**



**GREAT TURKISH PEOPLE**

**TURCHIA**

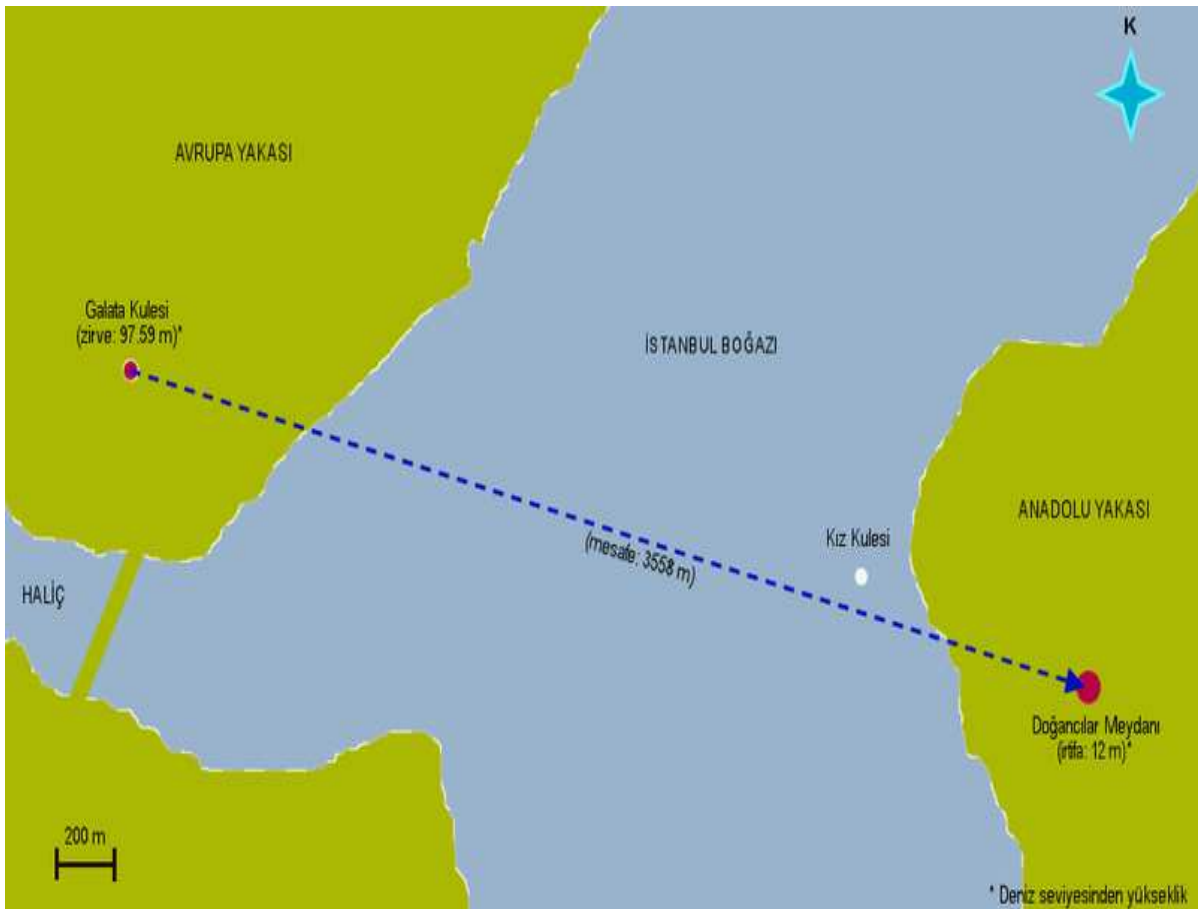
# HEZÂRFEN AHMED ÇELEBİ



**Hezârfen Ahmed Çelebi** was a legendary Ottoman of 17th-century İSTANBUL, purported to have achieved sustained unpowered flight and he was the man who tried first in the world.

First he practiced by flying over the pulpit of Okmeydani eight or nine times with eagle wings, using the force of the wind. Then, as Sultan Murad Khan was watching from the Sinan Pasha mansion at Sarayburnu, he flew from the very top of the **Galata Tower** and landed in the **Doğancılar square in Üsküdar**, with the help of the south-west wind. Then Murad Khan granted him a sack of golden coins, and said: 'This is a scary man. He is capable of doing anything he wishes.'

**He inspired with his primitive wings to the modern aircraft engineering**



## OKTAY SİNANOĞLU



Oktay Sinanoğlu is a Turkish scientist specializing in theoretical chemistry and molecular biology. In 1961 at the age of 26, he became the youngest person in the 20th century at Yale to attain the status of full professor.

Sinanoglu was born in 1935 in Bari, Italy, where his father (Nuzhet Hasim Sinanoglu) served as a consul general. In 1939 - by the commencement of World War II - the family returned to Turkey.

In 1953, he attended TED Yenişehir High School in Ankara; after graduating he won a scholarship to study chemistry in the US. In 1956, he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in chemical engineering with the highest rank.

In eight months, he graduated from MIT in 1957 with the highest degree. In two years, he finished his doctorate at the University of California at BERKELEY.

In 1960, Sinanoğlu started working as an associate professor at Yale University. He authored the "Many-Electron Theory of Atoms and Molecules. In 1961 after solving a mathematical theorem that had been unsolved for fifty years. The same year, he earned the Alfred P. Sloan prize.

Appointed professor in 1961 at the age of 26, he became the youngest person in the 20th century at Yale to attain the status of full professor. He got his second life-long chair in Yale in Molecular Biology.

Sinanoglu was the first to earn the Alexander Von Humboldt's Science Prize in 1973. In 1975, he won Japan's International Outstanding Scientist award.

In the 1980s, he constructed methods, then considered revolutionary, for predicting chemical behavior using simple pictures and periodic tables, and took his place in the Academy of Arts & Sciences.

In 1993, he moved back to Turkey to teach at the Yıldız Teknik University, officially retired at the age of 67. His scientific research efforts continue.....



Popularly known as **Mowlānā** but known to the English-speaking world simple as **Rumi** (30 September 1207 – 17 December 1273), was poet, theologian, and Sufi mystic. Rūmī is a descriptive name meaning "the Roman" since he lived most of his life in an area called Rūm (then under the control of Seljuq dynasty because it was once ruled by the Eastern Roman Empire).

### ***Legacy***

Rumi's work has been translated into many of the world's languages, including Russian, German, Urdu, Arabic, Bengali, French, Italian, and Spanish, and is being presented in a growing number of formats, including concerts, workshops, readings, dance performances, and other artistic creations.

The English interpretations of Rumi's poetry by Coleman Barks have sold more than half a million copies worldwide, and Rumi is one of the most widely read poets in the United States.

Recordings of Rumi poems have made it to the USA's Billboard's Top 20 list. A selection of American author Deepak Chopra's editing of the translations by Fereydoun Kia of Rumi's love poems has been performed by Hollywood personalities such as Madonna, Goldie Hawn, Philip Glass and Demi Moore.

### **Eight hundredth anniversary celebrations**

At the proposal of the Permanent Delegations of Turkey, and as approved by its Executive Board and General Conference in conformity with its mission of “constructing in the minds of men the defences of peace”, UNESCO was associated with the celebration, in 2007, of the eight hundredth anniversary of Rumi's birth.

The commemoration at UNESCO itself took place on 6 September 2007; UNESCO issued a medal in Rumi's name in the hope that it would prove an encouragement to those who are engaged in research on and dissemination of Rumi's ideas and ideals, which would, in turn, enhance the diffusion of the ideals of UNESCO.

**“2007 was DECLARED AS THE "INTERNATIONAL RUMI YEAR" BY UNESCO “**

***COME, COME, WHOEVER YOU ARE,  
WANDERER, IDOLATER, WORSHIPER OF FIRE,  
COME EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE BROKEN YOUR VOWS A THOUSAND TIMES,  
COME, AND COME YET AGAIN.  
OURS IS NOT A CARAVAN OF DESPAIR.      MEVLANA***

## NAZIM HIKMET RAN

Born January 17, 1902 in Thessaloniki died June 3, 1963 in Moscow. **Nâzım Hikmet** was a Turkish poet, playwright, novelist and memoirist. He was acclaimed for the "lyrical flow of his statements". Described as a "romantic communist" and "romantic revolutionary" He was repeatedly arrested for his political beliefs and spent much of his adult life in prison or in exile. His poetry has been translated into more than fifty languages.

**Many of his poems have been adapted into songs by the composer Zülfü Livaneli. A part of his work has been translated into Greek by Yiannis Ritsos, and some of these translations have been arranged by the Greek composers Manos Loizos and Thanos Mikroutsikos.**

Hikmet's imprisonment in the 1940s became a cause célèbre among intellectuals worldwide; a 1949 committee that included Pablo Picasso, Paul Robeson, and Jean Paul Sartre campaigned for Hikmet's release.

On November 22, 1950, the World Council of Peace announced that Nazim Hikmet was among the recipients of the International Peace Prize along with Pablo Picasso, Paul Robeson, Wanda Jakubowska and Pablo Neruda.

### *Letters from Prison*

**Take out the dress I first saw you in**

**look your best,**

**look like spring trees**

**Wear in your hair**

**the carnation I sent you in a letter from prison,**

**raise your kissable, lined, broad white forehead.**

**Today, not broken and sad-**

**no way!**

**Today Nazim Hikmet's woman must be beautiful**

**like a rebel flag...**



# İDİL BİRET



## İDİL BİRET

(born 21 November 1941 in Ankara, Turkey) is a Turkish concert pianist, renowned for her interpretations of the Romantic repertoire.

From the age of 16, Biret played as a soloist with the most distinguished orchestras in the world including the London Symphony, the Philharmonia, the London Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, the Leningrad Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Dresden Staatskapelle, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France and the Sydney Symphony.

She collaborated with the eminent conductors such as Hermann Scherchen, Pierre Monteux, Erich Leinsdorf, Rudolf Kempe, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Aaron Copland, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Charles Mackerras, Jean Fournet, Moshe Atzmon, Antoni Wit and Hiroyuki Iwaki. Biret also gave concerts at the festivals of Berlin, Montreal, Istanbul, Dubrovnik, Montpellier, Nohant, Persepolis, Royan and Athens.

She has been a jury member at several piano competitions: Van Cliburn (USA), Queen Elisabeth (Belgium), Montreal (Canada), Liszt (Weimar, Germany) and Busoni (Italy).

Biret has been a State Artist since 1971, an honorary title issued to artists by the government of Turkey for their contributions into the Turkish culture.

In 1995, Biret's recordings of Chopin's entire oeuvre was awarded the "Grand Prix du Disque Frédéric Chopin" in Poland. The same year, she won the "Diapason d'Or" prize in France for her recording of Boulez's sonatas, which was selected among the best recordings of the year by the newspaper 'Le Monde'.

In 2007 she was decorated with Distinguished Service Order - Cavalry Cross by the Polish President Lech Kaczynski for her contributions to Polish culture with her recordings and performances of Chopin's music.



# SERTAP ERENER



**Sertap Erener** (born 4 December 1964 in Istanbul) is a Turkish pop music singer and also a cross-over soprano with a vocal range that extends to high F. She is one of the most successful female Turkish pop singers in her homeland, and is considered one of the divas of Turkish pop music.

In Europe, she is best known for winning the Eurovision Song Contest 2003 with her hit song "Everyway That I Can", although she has had many other achievements outside Turkey.

She was internally selected in 2003 and won the Eurovision Song Contest 2003, representing Turkey with the song "Everyway That I Can", co-written by Demir Demirkan. The song went on to top charts in countries all over Europe, including Sweden and Greece.



On 22 October 2005, Erener appeared on Congratulations: 50 Years of the Eurovision Song Contest, a competition to choose the best Eurovision song of all time, performing the final verse and chorus of "Everyway That I Can".

The song finished ninth in a field of fifteen. At the same event Erener revealed she was to release another English language album.