

BASILIO BUFFONI

SKOPJE MACEDONIA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

This book about Skopje and its surroundings is not the usual guide that we often find on the shelves of bookstores but is, rather, a kind of travel diary, with impressions and descriptions of places and landscapes. For the reader who knows Macedonia, it not only offers a new look, far from the stereotypes that are often linked to this area, but it also provides ideas and reflections.

[...] ... The excerpts from novels chosen by Macedonian writers, often unknown to the majority of Italians, give further clues to the traveler or tourist who decides to visit Skopje and its surroundings. [...] ... How can one not be surprised to learn that the poet of the Beat Generation, Allen Ginsberg, has walked the streets of Struga? (Carmelita D'Alessio, cultural attaché at the Embassy of Italy in Skopje)

THE AUTHOR

BASILIO BUFFONI is an avid traveler. He is a curious observer, as well as a quirky observer. He seems to not trust his own memory, but this is only a hypothesis. The fact is that when he moves away from his adopted home-

town (he is one of those Genoese people that becomes well settled in Milan) he takes notes, maps, sketches and drawings whether it is for a picnic out of town with their children, or for a mission in the Balkans or in the Far East. Although he deals with providing advice to public administration, European projects, and training, his gaze is attracted by natural, artistic, or historical features. He therefore observes and writes down, bordering on obsessiveness. After that - it is stronger than him - likes to recount to whomever comes within range, even by email. He is sixty-two years old, and sixty years ago he might have been able to become Brazilian if his father had decided to continue teaching in Recife, where they went when he was a baby. Much later, for professional reasons, he lived in Japan and China, as well as in Kyrgyzstan and Syria. From 2010 to 2014 he was based in Skopje. The shift away from fragmented stories meant for a small circle of listeners and readers, to a more structured, real guide aimed at a wider audience, was short.

