

Labro Koroloff

*Labro Koroloff** was a member of a prominent Toronto family, whose origins are from Drenoveni, the Kostour (Kastoria) area. He follows in the steps of his father – Lazar Labrov Koroloff, who is described by Prof. Shklifoff as “tireless worker for the unity of the Bulgarian immigration from Macedonia in Canada, defender of the Bulgarian name, historical memory and honor.”

On a maternal side Koroloff is related to the Kostour *voivodas* Nikola Kouzinchev and Lazar Poptraikov. He vividly remembers the stories about the life in the old country told by his parents, about joys and sorrows and the constant persecutions of its population. The people of this unfortunate country, forced to flee family homes forever, leaving behind everything valuable, empty houses and villages, the tombs of the closest ancestors.

Mr Koroloff luckily started working the research on Drenoveni before the memories of the most elderly get lost, aiming at description for the future generations of this vibrant community. He is historian, President of the chapter “Switzerland of the Balkans” of MPO, member of its Central Committee, lead of the Editorial Board of “Macedonian Tribune”. Chief-editor of the collection „The Miladinov Brothers: A Miscellany” (1982), helps in the editing of the major research book “Bulgarian Dialect Texts from Aegean Macedonia” (2003) by Blagoi and Ekaterina Shklifoff. Using the pen name Radosvet Kostourski translates and publishes in English Prof. Shklifoff’s brochure “The enlargement of the Dialectal Basis of the Bulgarian Literary Language and its Renewal”. (2004). In 2007 the prestigious magazine “Slovene” of the Russian Academy of Sciences published his article on the spoken dialect of the *pomaks* (Bulgarian speaking Muslims) from Shervenii, Kostour area.

The new book is not only a chronicle of the village Drenoveni.

It encompasses in detail all aspects, related to the human existence, to the growth and boom and to the decline of Drenoveni and Dolna Koreshta. Captivating is the overview of its location and geography, the history, climate, vegetation and fauna of the village.

Depicting the peoples’ everyday life, its folklore, holidays, rites and traditions the author’s is a tribute to the preservation of the wisdom of the Bulgarians from Macedonia for the future generations. The folk songs and poetry, sayings and proverbs are part of the immaterial treasury of a people. The book bears the spirit of national struggle, keeping alive the consciousness and dignity of the people, defying its own tragic fate. It sends a message to the coming generations, connected to Aegean Macedonia through its southern blood.

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Translation Vassl Popvassilev