



INTRODUCTION

I am writing this book in order to document and immortalize the more than a century tradition of photography in Lesok, Tetovo and Polog from Macedonia.

In this book I focus on the people from Lesok, who took the first photographs in Lesok and Dolni Polog in the 20th century. I also mention the new modern photographers of digital photos of the Facebook generation from Leshok, who in the second decade of the 21st century, massively photographed motifs from Leshok with their mobile phones and published them on the modern electronic media. I have the privilege to communicate with young people, because I know via the Internet and mobile phone with the programs: Skype, Facebook, Messenger, Viber, etc., to follow and communicate with the digital generation of photographers from Leshok.

For me, the modern photographer from Leshok is carried side by side with the modern European and Macedonian man and understood the magic of photography and film and their meaning and place in the modern civilized world.

Photographers are the new modern painters. Instead of the brushes and paints with which the painters painted the saints in the frescoes and the icons in the Macedonian churches, the photographer takes the cameras and mobile phones and records videos and digital photos at any moment and immediately sends them anywhere in the world or posts them on Facebook and on other electronic portals.

In this book I mention and write about them and special chapters for three generations of photographers and cameramen from Lesok and originally from Lesok, who took pictures in the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. I also wrote a special chapter in the book, about several people from Leshok, who in recent years have been posting photos on the Facebook portal.

I have prepared and published this book on the occasion of 100 Years of the first photographs (1917 - 2017) in my family Spiroski from Lesok, in which my grandmother Cveta and my grandfather Trpo Onufrievski were photographed at their wedding in July 1917 in Lesok. The occasion is of course My personal jubilee - 50 Years of photography (1916 - 2017).

In the book I insert old photos from my family Spiroski- Onufrievski - Laloshi Glavinoi-Byzantines from Leshok, Macedonia, then old photos from Leshok and the Leshok monastery, as well as old photos from several villages from Dolni Polog.

In the book I include many of my photos (personal, family and other occasions), which I took in Lesok from 1967 to 2017. Due to health reasons, the publication of this book was postponed until 2020, I included in the book photos from 1967 until today 2020.

In this book I insert many of my photos in black and white, taken with the classic analog cameras, Smena 6, Zenit, Canon, Minolta and others, as well as with the digital cameras Sony, Canon and others.

In this book I insert my photos, as well as old family photos that I have published in books, newspapers, catalogs, calendars, then on My Web portal: www.spiroski.com.mk, Web portal: www.lesok.org.mk, on Facebook portal: Mitko Spiroski and Lesok, Macedonia and others.



My love for Lesok and Shara and the beautiful natural beauties in all four seasons, I immortalized with tens of thousands of color photographs I took from 2001 to 2020. I only included a small selection of photographs in this paper book, and many more in the same title of the book, which will be released on CD in Electronic Form. Many of my photos I entered in another book entitled: The beauties of Leshok in photos-My Photo album (Spring-summer; Autumn-winter), which I plan to release this or next 2021 year.

In my 50 years of photographic activity I have taken over five thousand paper-analog photographs and tens of thousands of photographs in digital form, as well as film recordings of various events. All these photos and recordings are the property of my personal archive and I have archived them on several hard disks, CDs, USB drives, etc.

I included over a thousand photos in both books. Unfortunately, the photos that were in high resolution and with a few mega bytes, I had to use the programs Adob Photoshop, Irfan View and others. programs, to reduce the resolution to a few kilobytes, thereby reducing the quality of the photos. I still think that I managed to show the beautiful beauty of Leshok and Shar Planina, in the four seasons, as well as to provide authenticity and documentary nature, houses, events and people from Leshok, which I photographed from 1967 to 2017 or 2020, respectively.

In this book, in some chapters, the photographs will be the most common, in many of them I give enough explanations, but in some photographs I do not enter textual explanations, ie the photographs themselves will speak and explain. People say: One photo, a thousand words, and I have my thought: One photo, one life story. So, under some photos I enter the necessary textual data and information in Macedonian, and in some photos I enter text in both Macedonian and English or in Macedonian and Latin.

Many thanks to all the people from Leshok and friends of Leshok, who contributed to the affirmation of photography and the people, events, ambience and nature of Leshok, Polog and Shar Mountain and equal competition with Europe and the World.

In most of my photos I enter the date of photography (day, month and year), and in some of my photos and tables, I also enter initials from my name and surname (M.S.)

This book is partly written in English and on each page is inserted the sun and the cross which are eternal symbols of My family and family Spiroski-Laloshi from Leshok and the Macedonian people (pp.650-657-source: row no.1).

I prepared this book and planned to publish it in 2017, on the occasion of 100 Years of the first family photos of our family Spiroski-Onufrievski-Laloshi from Leshok and the second occasion was 50 Years of My Photography. Unfortunately due to heart surgery at Dr. Zan Mitrev and the team from the Cardiology Clinic in Skopje, the publication was postponed and God gave me the opportunity to complete this book and publish it this 2020.

Lesok, June 25, 2020
St.Onuphrius the Great

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