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## NEW PROSPECTS ON THE LIFE AND LITERARY WORK OF NEZIM FRAKULLA

Interest for scientific research on Nezim and his literary work started in the second half of the XIXth century. Initiator of this interest was the German Albanologist Han. In this way, Nezim and his literary work were raised to the international level of scientific interest, before being put under discussion in the national level.

In the '30-ies of the XXth century, Albanian researchers' interest for Nezim and his literary work yielded the first serious results, first of all, thanks to the interest and research work of Abdullah Ferhati (1889-1939) from Berati. Ferhati found an incomplete copy of Divan in Albanian of Nezim, which, after performing their transliteration, he published in parts in the "Zani i Nalte" magazine. So, the eight songs that were published earlier by Han and the copy of Divan published by Ferhati were the sole point of reference for the study and evaluation of his work to date later. Whereas some time ago, it was published the work of Abdullah Hamiti, *Nezim Frakulla and his Divan in Albanian*, which presents the full version of Divan of Nezim published up to date.

After finishing his studies, Nezim turned back to Berat, where he found a suitable environment to develop his literary work. By that time, Berat had a quite active intellectual stratum. Nonetheless, primary and irreplaceable role in the development of intellectual and literary life was played by the local nobility, which, likewise in other Albanian centers, was in the forefront of political, economic and cultural developments. In Berat, during the first half of the XVIIIth century, this role has been played successfully by the noble family Vlora, progeny of which our poet was. For some time Nezim engaged in administrative service, maybe as Secretary of Divan (Administrative Council) of the *Sanjacbey* Ismail Pashe Velabishti (b. 1722-d. 1763), a poet who created under the poetical penname "Derviş", great donor and vakef-donor, mecek and relative of

Nezim.

In 1745, Nezim leaves Berat and settles in Istanbul, where he also died, struck by the plague epidemic in 1759. He left behind six works 1) Divan in Persian, arranged in 1747, 2) Divan in Ottoman, arranged in 1747, 3) "Mynsheāt", a work in the field of stylistics (*insha*) in prose; 4) Divan in Albanian, lacking year of completion; 5) Albanian-Turkish Vocabulary compiled in verses; and 6) Divan II in Ottoman, arranged in 1753.

Highly evaluating the mission of poet in society, Nazism threw the first step towards the elevation of the Albanian poetry to the level of literary theoretical discourse.

Nezim Frakulla, with the great and pure love he showed for his fatherland, Albanian language and especially for wisdom and emancipation, paved the way to the Albanian illuminist thought.