

**VARUJAN VOSGANIAN (born in 1958), current Minister of Economy in Romania, he has been also holding various key positions within the Government;** Senior Vice-president of the Romanian Writers' Union since 2005 and President of the Romanian Armenians Unions since 1990.

He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, 1998.

#### Literary Publications:

*The Blue Shaman*, poems, edited by Ararat, Bucharest, 1994

*The Commander Statue*, prose, edited by Ararat, Bucharest, 1994, (The winner of The Writers Association in Bucharest Award for the Best Prose of the Year) *The Queen's Vacant Gaze*, poems, edited by "Cartea Românească", Bucharest, 2001 (selected for the jubilee of the "American Literary Translators Association" (ALTA) - Chicago, October, 2002)

*Jesus with one thousand arms*, poems, edited by Dacia, Cluj-Napoca, 2004

*The Book of Whispers*, novel, edited by Polirom, 2009 (nominated as Book of the Year), translated into: Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, Armenian.

#### Awards (selective):

*Ordine della Solidarieta Italiana*, from the President of the Italian Republic, 2008

*The Special Prize for poetry*, at the *Nichita Stănescu International Poetry Festival*, Chişinău, April, 2006

*The Excellency Award for contribution to the development of Capital Market in Romania*, Bucharest Stock Exchange, April, 2006

*The Romanian Academy Award for contribution to the development of Romanian science and culture*, Romanian Academy, April, 2006

*The Prize "Book of the Year 2009"* for *The Book of Whispers*, awarded by *România Literară Magazine*, *The Prize of the Observer cultural Magazine* for *The Book of Whispers (2010)*, *Mibail Sebastian Trophy* for *The Book of Whispers*, conferred by the multicultural magazine *Niram Art* in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Madrid (2010).

The Hebrew edition of *The Book of Whispers* has been published in June 2012 at the prestigious editorial group *Hakibutz Hameuchad - Sifriat Poalim*, being translated into Hebrew by Any Shilon and edited by Anita Peri Sela.

According to Herzl Hakak, Chairman of the Hebrew Writers Association in Israel, "Varujan Vosganian has molded the Armenian genocide into a live testimony, and *The Book of Whispers* that he has written will remain a live monument. In this pain memorial, the author has brought to life all the memories, all the bloody moments, all the shattered hopes. The lifeless past rises above the debris. Vosganian has joined, with his impressive literary achievement, the ranks of the classic writers who were able to give to the world great epic works such as *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina* and others."

*Romanian Publishing Houses at the Book Fair:* All, Brumar, Cartea Românească, Corint, Curtea Veche, Editura Institutului Cultural Român, Editura Universităţii Bucureşti, Hasefer, House of Guides, Humanitas, Ideea Europeană, Institutul European, Litera Internaţional, Monitorul Oficial, Nemira, Niculescu, Noi Media Print, Paralela 45, Polirom, Rao, Trei, Vinea, Vivaldi, Vreamea.



## Romanian literary events at the 26<sup>th</sup> Jerusalem International Book Fair February 10 - 15, 2013

### I. Literary Cafes (in English)

- Monday, 11.02.2013, 11.00

*Whispers of a silent past*, Prof. Yair Auron (Israel), "Denial: Israel and the Armenian Genocide", with Varujan Vosganian (Romania), about "The Book of Whispers" and the Armenian Genocide.

- Monday, 11.02.2013, 16.45

*Writers you should meet*. Poet, editor and translator Tal Nitzan (Israel) introduces: Naomi Alderman (U.K), Rocío Durán-Barba (Ecuador), Vasile Ernu (Romania) and Ursula Krechel (Germany).

### II. Book launches and presentations at the Romanian stand (in Romanian, Hebrew and English)

- Monday, 11.02.2013, 18.00

*A new book by Lucian Dan Teodorovici: "Matei the Brown"*, Polirom Publishing House, Iasi, 2012. Participants: Lucian Dan Teodorovici. Moderator: Bogdan-Alexandru Stănescu.

- Tuesday, 12.02.2013, 19.00

*New books edited by Hasefer Publishing House*. Participant: Alexandru Marinescu.

- Wednesday, 13.02.2013, 15.00

Presentation and reading: *Teach me how to live*, a new book by Madelaine Davidson, Vreamea Publishing House, Bucharest, 2012.

- Thursday, 14.02.2013, 13.00

Presentation and reading: *And then, after the battle, we stopped to catch our breath...* by Bogdan-Alexandru Stănescu, Cartea Românească Publishing House, 2012, Iaşi. Moderator: Lucian Dan Teodorovici.

- Thursday, 14.02.2013, 14.00

*Two Romanian writers talking about "Things that come between us"*, their new book, Polirom 2012, Iasi. Participants: Vasile Ernu, Bogdan-Alexandru Stănescu. Moderator: Lucian Dan Teodorovici.

**VASILE ERNU** (born in 1971) graduated the Faculty of Philosophy (Al. I. Cuza University, Iași, România, 1996) and has a master's degree in philosophy (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania, 1997). He is one of the founding editors of *Philosophy & Stuff* magazine and associated editor of *Idea arta+societate* magazine. He is an active member of the *Idea* and *Tranzit* Foundations, of *Idea* Publishing House and of *Polirom* Publishing House. Since 2006 he has been writing permanent columns for *România Liberă*, *HotNews*, *Noua literatură* and *Suplimentul de cultură*.



His first book, *Born in the USSR*, published in 2006 was translated into Russian, Bulgarian, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian and Georgian. The book will be translated soon into Polish.

The book was nominated at the following prizes: the Prize for debut of the *Cuvântul* magazine, the *Observatorul Cultural* Prize for Fiction and Memoirism, the Prize for debut of *România Literară*, the Prize for debut of the Romanian Writers Union and for Opera Prima of the Anonimul Foundation.

The volume was distinguished with the Prize for debut of *România Literară* magazine and the Prize for debut of the Romanian Writers Union.

His second book, *The Last Heretics of the Empire*, was published by Polirom Publishing House in 2009. The book will be translated into Russian (Ad Marginem Publishing House) and Italian (Hacca Edizioni).

**LUCIAN DAN TEODOROVICI** (born in 1975) is the senior editor of the *Suplimentul de cultură* weekly. He has contributed with prose, drama, and articles to various cultural magazines in Romania and abroad, including *Suplimentul de cultură*, *Timpu*, *Dilema veche*, *Dilemateca*, *Observatorul cultural*, *Familia*, *Orizont*, *Evenimentul zilei*, *Cotidianul*, *Esquire Romania*, *Au sud de l'Est* (Paris), *Transcript* (London), *Lampa* (Warsaw), *Magyar Lettre Internationale* (Budapest), *The Guardian* (London) etc.



#### Published volumes:

*Cu puțin timp înaintea coborârii extraterestrilor printre noi* (*Shortly before the Extraterrestrials Descended Among us*), novel, Iași: OuTopos, 1999 (2<sup>nd</sup> revised and expanded edition, Iași: Polirom, 2005);

*Lumea văzută printr-o gaură de mărimea unei țigări marijuana* (*The World Seen through a Hole the Width of a Spliff*), short stories, Tîrgu-Jiu: Constantin Brâncuși Foundation Press, 2000;

*Cercul nostru vă prezintă: (Our Circus Presents:)*, novel, Iași: Polirom, 2002 (2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition, Iași: Polirom, 2007);

*Atunci i-am ars două palme* (*Then I Clouted Him Twice*), short stories, Iași: Polirom, 2004;

*Celelalte povești de dragoste* (*The Other Love Stories*), novel, Iași: Polirom, 2009;

*Matei Brunul* (*Matei the Brown*), novel, Iași: Polirom, 2011 (“National Award for Prose” – *Observatorul cultural* magazine; “National Award for Prose” – *Ziarul de Iași* newspaper; “Book of the Year 2011” – *Contrafort* magazine; “The Public Prize” – *Romanian Book Market Awards*; “Novel of the Year 2011” – *Augustin Frățilă* Literary Award)

#### Translations:

The collection of short stories *Then I Clouted Him Twice* has been published in Germany (Pop Verlag, Ludwigsburg, 2009).

The novel *Our Circus Presents:* has been published in U.S.A. (Dalkey Archive Press, 2009), Hungary (L'Harmattan Kiadó, 2009), Italy (Aisara Edizioni, Cagliari), Spain (El Nadir) and is due to be published in Bulgaria (Paradox Publishing) and Egypt (Golden Pony Publishing).

The *Other Love Stories* has been published in Italy (Aisara Edizioni, 2011) and is due to be published in Bulgaria (Paradox Publishing, 2013) and in the Republic of Macedonia (Ikona, 2013).

The novel *Matei the Brown* is due to be published in France (Gaia Editions/Actes Sud), Bulgaria (Paradox Publishing) and Hungary (Libri Kiado).

**BOGDAN-ALEXANDRU STĂNESCU** (born in 1979) is the Editorial Director of Polirom Publishing House, and coordinator of Biblioteca Polirom, the largest and most important foreign fiction collection in Romania (more than 100 new titles per year). He has been a book reviewer for the last 12 years, publishing in all the major literary magazines.



#### Books

*Ceea ce ne desparte. Epistolarul de la Hanul lui Manuc* – a book of literary essays written under the epistolary disguise, together with a Russian/Romanian writer, Vasile Ernu; *Și apoi, după bătălie, ne-am tras sufletul* (poems); present in many short stories anthologies (such as the *My first...* series initiated by ART publishing house); Alberto Manguel – *All men are liars* and *A reader on reading*; (translator); Rusell Kirk - *Normative art and modern vices* (translator).

Bogdan-Alexandru Stănescu is the winner of the Young Publisher of the Year national award, project developed by the British Council. The award was followed by a two week publishing fellowship in Great Britain. He has also held fellowships at various Book Fairs organized around the world, such as in Frankfurt, Guadalajara, Amsterdam and Jerusalem.