

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This book contains the papers from two separate conferences which were held in Bergamo and were organized by the Slavic Languages Department of the University of Bergamo. These followed an earlier conference dedicated to the legacy of Ju.M. Lotman, which was held in Bergamo in November 1994¹. Two years later, with the conference *The Literary Text and Parallel Sessions*, we wished, once again, to consider the legacy left by Jury Michailovich, on cultural studies.

The two days of the 1996 Conference (*The Literary Text and Parallel Sessions*) gave the participants at the conference the opportunity to exchange opinions on two specific aspects of an artistic text: textual semiotics and semiotics in painting and music (the semiotics of a text and the analysis of an artistic, poetic and pictorial text). The aim of that conference was to analyze the common features between a literary text and artistic text belonging to other cultural areas, especially to figurative art.

In 1998 another opportunity to exchange opinions took place during the two days of the *Literature and Cultural Stratifications* Conference. The next step in the direction that had been previously planned, called for further study on the intersections of a literary text, or in a wider artistic sense, on the intersections with the territory, regarding the cultural background.

This book contains the papers of the participants in the 1998 conference, while for the 1996 conference it was necessary to select those papers that dealt with the aim of this publication. The papers of these two Conferences have thus found a common ground in highlighting the literary text and its interaction with other texts, be they artistic or territorial texts.

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¹ For the proceedings of the Conference *The inheritance of Lotman: present and future* see in: *Наследие Ю.М. Лотмана: настоящее и будущее*, Slavica Tergestina 4, Trieste 1996.