

## EDITORIAL

### *Our world needs poets ...*

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I would like to draw your attention to a small town - Kirchstetten. The town is in district of Sankt Pölten-Land in Austria. The town only has around 2,000 inhabitants and yet it's different from other towns. The 'difference' is the Anglo-American poet W.H. Auden. Auden is buried in Kirchstetten, churchyard and his home is currently a small writer's home museum that I had the opportunity to visit with my colleagues, who admire Auden and literature [1-5].

There is a forest around Auden's house and on the edge of it there are little memorials written in English and German. Something unreal, just waiting for Auden to come back home, the place he liked most of all, he spent the final years of his life here and he would tell us what he meant with all his literary-psychological-religious essays. I would definitely ask him to write something about Kierkegaard again [6, 7]. Why him? Because Auden was influenced by Kierkegaard and particularly by topics such as love, death and human beings [8, 9].

We're thinking, even now, as we're entering the New Year of 2020, we're looking back and setting new resolutions, and we realise the transience of human being more - as in Auden's poem of Funeral Blues from Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994) [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDXWclpGhcg&t=8s>] – "Stop all the clocks, cut-off the telephone..." and we're thinking of loved ones, who are no longer here, we must have a heart of stone if we don't feel the poet's pain.

Year 2020? When I was a little boy, during the Cold War, my classmates and I were convinced that we wouldn't live until 2000. The conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States must end in disaster, especially after Ronald Reagan's speech in 1983 and referring to Soviet Union as an "Evil Empire" [<https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/reagan-evil-empire-speech-text/>] or the sentence, "I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." [<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/08/11/this-day-in-politics-aug-11-1984-24> 1413] Which was explained to us behind Iron Curtain as clear evidence of the aggressor. The question of the first attack - long resonated in my teenage years and it's only thanks to my class teacher I could finish primary school because he didn't report it to State Security and didn't punished me in any way when I drew the map of 'the first USA strike and the destruction of the USSR'. Somehow it seemed to me that it must end like that (1988). Thank God no attack took place, my teacher confiscated my map and never returned it. I thought about that, when I was walking on the stadium lawn at the Estadio Nacional de Chile, which witnessed

the suffering of those who thought differently - (1973)...  
[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en8yqVxuT-U>].

Likewise, in comparison with Auden, who was experiencing real war conflicts - he worked as an ambulance driver in the Spanish civil war (1937) or as an observer in the China-Japanese War (1938) and wanted to participate in 2WW. Earlier (1935), he had a special-purpose marriage with Erika Mann, daughter of the German writer Thomas Mann. Erika then went to Great Britain. Auden had courage - he wasn't afraid to do what he thought it was right. I wonder if anyone in the academic world would find the same courage to go upstream and do things 'out of logic' and freedom of individual [10-12]. Auden's world was different - his perception of the truth was also different. Truth for him wasn't an elite knowledge, but as Kierkegaard writes in his *Concluding Unscientific Postscript to Philosophical Fragments* "subjectivity is truth" and "truth is subjectivity" [13].

Auden was a poet. And our world needs poets...

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