

*Novel as mirror of epoch and socio-cultural field – Visions by Milan Kašanin*

*Summary*

Kašanin's narrative status in the horizon of Serbian literary historiography is determined by the fact that both before and after the Second World War Kašanin was the strongest in the field of literary and art criticism, essay writing, then the history of art and literature. That domain of his engagement over the decades discouraged his creative and literary-historical attention from the narrative and novel's work. Novel *Visions*, published a few days before Kašanin's death (1981), is indicative, both in domain of Kašanin's authorial poetics, and in the domain of his entire literary aesthetics and ideology. At the same time, although unusual, the novel is also a valuable resource for a wider understanding of the history of Serbian novels and Serbian cultural history. It's about authentic fictional testimony about the habitus of the dominant social group in the interwar period in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia – civic and intellectual elite – whose internal crisis is particularly evident on the eve of World War II. The narrator wants to clarify the psychological and spiritual reasons for the dissipation of values and suppressing the whole social class from the pages of national history from a distance of several decades, boldly questioning both his own narrative and author's position. The question of the genre as a form of Kašanin's aesthetic and cultural-historical vision, allows more interpretive paths. Our writer had built a great story, conditioned by concrete historical and philosophical circumstances and by the need for more comprehensive presentation of reality and of man.

*Keywords:* Milan Kašanin, novel, epoch, social group, field, discourse, present.