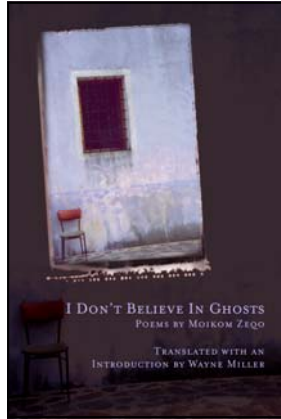




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# I Don't Believe in Ghosts

Poems by Moikom Zeqo

Translated from Albanian by Wayne Miller

The poems in *I Don't Believe in Ghosts* come from *Meduza*, a collection Zeqo wrote roughly between 1970-1974, that challenged some of the core tenets of Albanian Socialist Realism. After Zeqo had published a few cycles of poems from the book-in-progress, his work was denounced as "hermetic, with modern influences, dangerous, [and] foreign" at the Fourth Plenary Session of the Albanian Communist Party, and the book was suppressed until 1995, after the collapse of the Albanian communist system. Today, Zeqo lives with his wife, the prominent archaeologist Lida Miraj, in Tirana and works as a freelance writer and journalist. In 2001, he was awarded one of Albania's highest honors--the order "Mjeshtëri i Madh i Punës," which roughly translates, "Important Master of His Field."

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Moikom Zeqo

### About the Author

Moikom Zeqo, born in Durrës, Albania, in 1949, is the author of a number of volumes of poetry, including *Vegime të vendlindjes* (Visions of My Native Land), *Qyteti feniks* (Phoenix City), *Brenda vetes* (Inside Oneself), *Liber i hapur* (Open Book), *Njëqind zemra* (One Hundred Hearts), *Meduza* (Medusa) and *Timpulli i Henes* (Temple of the Moon). He has also published novels and short stories, children's books, monographs and scholarly articles on Albanian history, archaeology and literature. His work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Albania's former Minister of Culture, Zeqo currently lives in Tirana, where for a number of years he directed the National Historical Museum, and where he now works as a freelance writer and journalist.

### About the Translator

Wayne Miller is the author of a book of poems, *Only the Senses Sleep* (New Issues 2006), and editor, with Kevin Prufer, of the forthcoming anthology, *The New European Poets* (Graywolf 2007/8). Miller has twice received the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, as well as a Ruth Lilly Fellowship and the Bess Hokin Prize from Poetry and the Poetry Foundation. He lives in Kansas City and teaches at the University of Central Missouri. He co-edits *Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing*.

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CONTACT: Peter Connors \* conners@boaeditions.org \* 585.546.3410