

IN MEMORIAM

LEONARDO SPALATIN (1923–1991)

Transfer students – notably those from different academic fields, not merely some other cognate department – tend to have a minor aura of mystery and adventure for the average, nonroving undergraduates. They are seen by that bland crowd as having crossed over from alien territory, on a quest of a new academic commitment and identity, of having, almost, lived dangerously.

Leonardo – Leo to friends – was such a transfer from Chemistry College, Zagreb University, appearing suddenly in late fall of 1946 in the midst of our freshman crowd. He was definitely a welcome addition – both genders felt so – to the tiny male student contingent at the English Department, Filozofski Fakultet (College of Liberal Arts) of the same university. His aura was multiple: he had taken part in Croatian guerrilla resistance (1943–45), been wounded and flown over to Italy for treatment in Allied hospitals, and he had learned English at first hand. American English at that! All this at a time when, under a self-imposed political and cultural isolation of Communist-run Yugoslavia, fresh English-language texts were not available and any interest in things American was darkly suspect.

Leonardo's experience, his hangdog charm and cynical wit made him an attractive companion and we were soon friends. Our friendship was reinforced by hometown ties. Our both families came from Rab, a tiny town on the Northern Adriatic island of the same name. We were soon pursuing parallel academic careers in the department where we had earned our degrees (Leo's was a B.A. in English and Italian, conferred in 1950).

After a one-year stint as a high school teacher of English in Zagreb, Leonardo was appointed Instructor at the English Department at his Alma Mater in 1951, earned his PhD ("Relational Verbs in Educated British Speech") from Zagreb University in 1962, was promoted to Assistant Professor in the same year, to Associate Professor in 1967, to Full Professor in 1973. He retired from this position in 1983. An entire career spent in one department – not at all unusual for academic personnel in these parts.

Professor Spalatin's academic interests and research were concentrated in two areas: Contrastive Linguistics and the English Article. His research into the latter as a system was steady throughout his career, ending in two major papers: "Generated Definite Article" (SRAZ, Zagreb, 1979, 25 pp.) and "Memorized Definite Article" (SRAZ, 1981, 52 pp.). Together with his earlier papers on this problem, L. Spalatin has definitely produced sufficient material for a (posthumous?) monograph on the English article. Knowing the difficulties encountered by the Croatian learners of English in this

area, and in view of Spalatin's clear and systematic presentation of the problem, such a monograph would be a welcome addition to domestically available grammatical works.

Contrastive Linguistics held Spalatin's interest over a full decade (1967–76), the first decade of the internationally renowned Zagreb Serbo-Croatian – English Contrastive Project. During this time, he produced a total of 11 papers (189 pp.), dealing with various areas of contrastive description of English and Croatian.

This short outline of Prof. Spalatin's academic activity would be very inadequate if it did not include the other, less academic, half of his professional personality – that of a bilingual lexicographer. Dictionary-writing is a demanding trade. In that sense, Leo was a born lexicographer: pouring his concentration, eyesight and, ultimately, health into three lexicographic projects. First, over many years, he was a major contributor to the large, still unequaled, English-Croatian Dictionary (Zagreb, ed. by R. Filipović, 17 editions and imprints since 1955). Second, his English-Croatian and Croatian-English Dictionary of Science (Zagreb, 1980, 743 pp.), the first and only work of its kind and a marvel of systematic lexicographical procedure. Third, and most important, his large Croatian-English Dictionary, the work of his life, still with the printer at the time of his death. The fact of Leo's premature death (not even the Biblical allotment of "threescore and ten"!) is particularly cruel because it robbed him of seeing and touching the completed work. Still, "Spalatinov hrvatsko-engleski", as it will be referred to by its users, is certain to join the company of leading bilingual Croatian dictionaries. As such, it will be one more civilizational statement by a small people whose lexicographical history puts it next to other European nations several times its size.

Željko Bujas

MIRA JANKOVIĆ
(1908–1991)

On October 6th, 1991, during the worst hours of the bombardment of Zadar by the Federal Forces and the Serbian militants, Professor Mira Janković died after a long illness. She was born in Zagreb in 1908 where she went to school and studied English and German at Zagreb University. In 1948 she was appointed Assistant Lecturer in the Department of English at the Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb University, and in 1952 she was awarded a doctorate on the basis of her thesis on *Ossian as Incentive to the Collection of Folk Poetry*. These were the years when English studies were rapidly expanding at Zagreb University, and the share of Mira Janković in the development of these studies was considerable, above all in the concept and organization of introductory seminars on the historical and formal approach to English Literature.

In 1957 she was invited to found the Department of English at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zadar, where she remained in the capacity of full professor and chairwoman of the Department of English until her retirement in 1972.

Of her stays abroad special mention should be made of the academic year 1951/2 which she spent in Britain at Edinbrough University and of 1961 when she visited the chairs of American literature in Frankfurt, Munich, and Mainz. In 1965 she spent some time in the United States visiting the best-known American universities.

At that time she published a number of scholarly papers on English and American literature as well as comparative studies on Anglo-Croatian literary relations. Within the last fifteen years or so Professor Janković's publications were mostly on the history and theory of narrative prose among which we must single out her book on *The Short Story in American Literature* (Zadar, 1977) and several papers published in *Umjetnost riječi*, a journal on literary theory.

Both in Zagreb and in Zadar Professor Janković was held in high esteem by her colleagues and students. They appreciated her integrity, modesty, and tact which was an invaluable asset in the years of her chairmanship in Zadar.

Miroslav Beker