



*R. Finjoni*

## Rudolf Filipović — Sixty

*It is not often that a young sexagenarian («young» in the best sense of the term) can look back at the past thirty years of his active life with such well founded, justified and legitimate pride and satisfaction as Rudi Filipović can. I am convinced that he himself has hardly time to indulge in flattering retrospections for, working hard on new projects and undertakings, he is likely to consider this anniversary only as a brief pause, just enough to take a breath before passing on to fresh efforts which, in his case, are bound to be rewarded with success. All we can do on this occasion is to give a cursory glance at his main activities and scholarly achievements accomplished to the present day.*

*Having graduated in English language and literature from Zagreb University (1940), soon after the war (December 1945) Filipović went to England where he spent a year in post-graduate studies, working under such distinguished scholars as Harold Orton and Daniel Jones. This sojourn in England gave direction to his future study of the English Language, phonetics and linguistics in general. In 1948 he received a Ph. D. degree from Zagreb University, his thesis being *English Literary Echoes in Croatia in the 19th century*. Problems of Anglo-American and Croatian literary, cultural and linguistic relations have continued to occupy his interests to this day; witness his book on *Anglo-Croatian Literary Links* published in 1972.*

*In 1950 Filipović was appointed assistant professor of English language at the Zagreb Faculty of Philosophy, and his intensive study of English syntax dates from that time. The results of this work were two shorter English grammars (*A Grammar of English*, 1951, and *An Outline of English Grammar*, 1954) as well as a *Descriptive Grammar of English* in four volumes (Zagreb, 1960). At the same time Filipović's deep and thorough work on English*

phonetics results in the first textbook of English phonetics for Serbo-Croatian speaking students of English (*English Pronunciation*, Zagreb 1954). It was during these years that Filipović distinguished himself also as a lexicographer by compiling, as editor and chief contributor, the large *English-Croatian Dictionary*, published in 1955, which has since gone through eight editions. Besides, he has participated in the compilation of a large American dictionary as a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee for questions of English pronunciation, structural problems of English, etymology and syllabication. Working actively in the Zagreb Linguistic Circle of The Croatian Philological Society, he initiated and edited four volumes of the periodical *Contemporary Linguistics*, remaining as one of three editors for subsequent volumes (5—14).

In 1961 Filipović was elected professor of the Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb University, and chairman of the English Department, when he began working on a large project called *The English Element in Croatian and Other European Languages* financed by the Croatian Fund for Scientific Research. In the meantime, as chairman of a post-graduate course in linguistics, he directed a large number of students working on M. A. theses in the field of languages in contact. Directly or indirectly these studies were connected with the project *The English Element in European Languages*. As an admirable organizer of linguistic research, Filipović secured international co-operation for this project from Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Romania, USSR and Sweden (where, incidently, he delivered a course of lectures on the principles of linguistic borrowing at the University of Uppsala).

In 1965 and in 1971 Filipović was elected vice-president of the International Federation of Teachers of Foreign Languages (FIPLV), while at the Congress held in Zagreb in 1968 the members voted him president of the Federation. In his capacity as director of the Institute of linguistics, Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb, he organizes scientific research work on several projects. Since 1968 he has been director of the international project *The Yugoslav Serbo-Croatian — English Contrastive Project*. Besides representatives of all Yugoslav departments of English, American linguists are also working on this project through the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington. Thus far Filipović has edited twenty volumes of this project's publications. In 1970 he organized and directed the first international conference of English contrastive projects, held in Zagreb.

In addition to the large contrastive project mentioned above, Filipović is currently directing several other projects within the Institute of Linguistics:

1. *The English Element in European Languages*. A phonological, morphological and semantic analysis of English loans in twenty European languages his project will result in a two-volume work: one, a monograph discussing the project's findings and results, the other, an etymological dictionary of English loan-words in the European languages.
2. *The Zagreb English — Serbo-Croatian Contrastive Project*, the aim of which is to improve the teaching of Serbo-Croatian to native speakers of English. So far one volume of studies has appeared, edited by Rudolf Filipović.
3. *Croatian Toponyms in English Travel Literature to the Nineteenth Century*. An examination of the adaptation and use of Croatian place-names through several centuries of English travel literature.
4. *Investigation of Yugoslav (in particular Serbo-Croatian) Dialects in the United States and research on the English element in the syntax of these dialects*.
5. *Co-ordination of the Five Language Contrastive Project (Croatian-French, Croatian-German, Croatian-Russian, Croatian-Italian, Croatian-Spanish)*.

Filipović was Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb University, for two academic years, 1972—73 and 1973—74. In 1973 he was elected a corresponding member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts. As a man of merit he has been given a Republic of Croatia award for scientific research and has been decorated for his work. He is a member of numerous international associations such as the International Phonetic Association, London, the Shakespeare Association of America, the Linguistic Society of America, the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, the Linguistic Society of Paris, the International Association of University Professors of English, and the Linguistic Society of Europe. He has also held offices in several of these organizations: as member of the Executive Committee of the International Phonetic Association (IPA) since 1956, as vice-president of the International Federation of Professors of Foreign Languages (1965—68 and 1971—74) and also as its president (1968—71), and as vice-president (1976—77) and president (1975—76) of the Linguistic Society of Europe.

Filipović's abiding interest in improving foreign-language teaching is reflected in several ways: in the text-books he has written, in lectures delivered to teachers of foreign languages

and, since 1971, in editing the journal *Foreign Languages* which he initiated in that year. He is also co-editor of *Filološki pregled* (Beograd) and of *Suvremena lingvistika*. Having been for years one of the seven editors of *Studia romanica et anglica zagabiensia*, he is now their »*rédacteur en chef*«. As a former chief editor of this periodical I should like to conclude this short anniversary tribute to Rudolf Filipović by saying that I could not have desired to have a better successor.

Josip Torbarina