

DRAGO GRDENIĆ

It is good to be able to write about Drago Grdenić, to celebrate his sixtyfifth birthday. I think of him as a very particular friend, through whose eyes I can understand different worlds, a tower of strength in all times of difficulty.

I think of his stories of life as a partisan and later as a research student in Moscow in the difficult post-war years, which sometime he must write down for everybody. Slowly, through the years that followed his return, he has built up a flourishing department of Inorganic Chemistry in Zagreb, specialising in crystallography and the solution of many problems in the stereochemistry of metals, and particularly, of mercury. From an all too short early stay in Oxford we learnt to appreciate his own gifts as an experimentalist. His students learnt rapidly from him and helped to develop research in other centres in Yugoslavia.

It has been one of the great pleasures of my life to visit Zagreb every few years, finding Drago Grdenić becoming more and more distinguished in the academy and eventually rector of the University — but still himself, wonderfully hospitable, caring for us in all our troubles and particularly for Thomas', my husband, in his serious illness, taking us into his home and family. I know too I am not alone in my experiences. Zagreb has become a scientific home for crystallographers from all over the world through his presence.

We all wish him great happiness on his birthday, and may we often meet again.

Dorothy Hodgkin