

IN MEMORIAM

Memory of Academician Ivo Frangeš (Trieste 1920 - Zagreb 2003)

A MAN OF MAGNIFICENT SPIRIT

The last book of Academician Ivo Frangeš, who died on December 29th, 2003 in Zagreb - the book "covers of which are closing forever: rich, bright, most of all human and scientific book of his life" - was presented by Frangeš's friends, former students and associates: Academician Miroslav Šicel, professor Vinko Brešić, PhD, Academician Tonko Maroević, president of "Matica hrvatska" Igor Zidić and Academician Josip Bratulić. In moving speeches they gave at commemorative gatherings held at the Croatian Writers' Association and at Matica hrvatska in Zagreb, they reflected on the scientific and life path of this eminent literary historian, university professor, essayist, critic, translator, editor - man who has enriched the Croatian literary area.

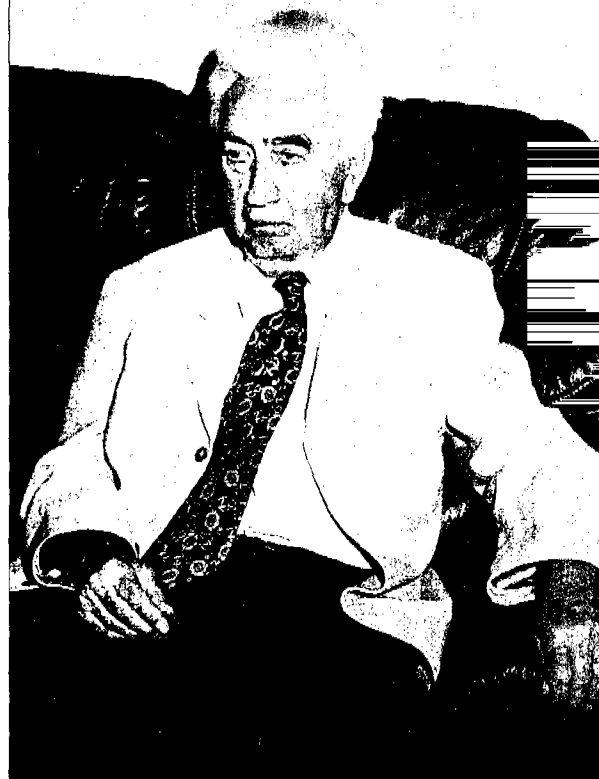
Ivo Frangeš - as Brešić reminded us - first was an assistant at the Department of Italian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, then the assistant professor, and since 1953 he worked as the Croatian language instructor in Florence, Italy. Death of Antun Barac found him there, and so in 1956 he filled the vacant position of the Head of Department of Modern Croatian Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. In 1960 he became the associate professor and three years later the full professor. Due to the signing of the Declaration on Language and actions during the Croatian Spring, he resigned from the position of the Head of Department, and as its "true Head" - as Frangeš's colleague and continuer at the Department, professor Miroslav Šicel used to say in every occasion - he retired in 1984.

Ivo Frangeš also lectured at numerous European universities, he led a seminar for foreign Slavists, and as an internationally renowned Slavist himself, he was the vice president of the International Committee of Slavists. He was also president of the Croatian Writers' Association at the politically most delicate moment, from 1970 until 1972.

Frangeš was also one of founders and editors of several journals (*Umjetnost riječi*, *Forum* and *Croatica*), editor of Krleža's and Jagić's anthologies, initiator and editor of numerous editions of Croatian writers and of publishing pro-

jects, including "Pet stoljeća hrvatske književnosti" ("Five Centuries of Croatian Literature"), "Povijest hrvatske književnosti" ("History of Croatian Literature"), "Enciklopedija hrvatskih pisaca" ("Encyclopaedia of Croatian Writers") etc. He was the co-founder of the Zagreb School of Stylistics and author of noteworthy studies and essays, including the ones on Mažuranić, Šenoa, Kovačić, Lesković, Kranjčević, Matoš, Barac, Krleža and Andrić. Furthermore, he compiled the first and until recently the only Anthology of Croatian Essay ("Antologija hrvatskog eseja"), and his capital work is "Povijest hrvatske književnosti" ("History of Croatian Literature"). He received numerous awards for his work, both in Croatia and abroad, including the Herder Award for the literary science and the State Award Vladimir Nazor for his overall contribution.

Vinko Brešić repeated the words of Academician Ante Stamač saying that the recognisable Frangeš style is a combination of exactness of observation and elegance of writing, adding that as a man he was courteous and rather reserved, elegant and somewhat superior, but never indifferent or unapproachable; man of high culture and magnificent spirit, benevolent and tolerant. And as Academician Tonko Maroević, vice president of Matica hrvatska said, it seems that Frangeš's life and work were fortunately interwoven. He loved the work he devoted himself to, and the incontestable lecturing and literary vocation gave him a lot of pleasure. As few of his colleagues, he achieved the uppermost results, and never even causing envy or malice, because it was clear to everyone that he deserves the highest acknowledgements for his exceptional talent and work. As a professor and pedagogue, he raised entire generations of students and future experts, and with his knowledge and charm he enchanted the wider audience in Croatia and interested foreign public, spreading the voice of our cultural and literary heritage, continued Maroević. Frangeš was renowned as a literary historian who wrote most beautifully about the languages - he was the artist of Croatian word. His ability to see everything in detail is the treasure he left us. Frangeš was born to be the



guardian of Croatian language and literary heritage. He was a nice and kind man of European spirit and European manners, and by everything else he was Croatian, said Igor Zidić. Academician Josip Bratulić concluded that Frangeš's work as a professor influenced a great number of his studies and essays and that his students remember his lectures as festivals of Croatian word. He was and remained our favourite professor, whom we endearingly called John the Golden-Mouth - said Bratulić.

Professor Frangeš was exceptionally appreciative towards the work of others on promotion of Croatian literary word, and one of many projects he participated in was the major project of Matica hrvatska - edition "Pet stoljeća hrvatske književnosti" ("Five Centuries of Croatian Literature"), for which he compiled and edited seventeen books. Miroslav Šicel, who for thirty-five years worked with Ivo Frangeš at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, parted with his dear professor with verses of Dobriša Cesarić:

"My friend, I am here no more..."

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