

## Dragutin Tadijanović

### *Bio-bibliographical note*

Dragutin Tadijanović, "one of the most important and original contemporary Croatian poets", was born 4 November 1905 in Rasušje, near Slavonski Brod in Croatia. He attended primary school in the neighbouring village of Podvinje and secondary school in Slavonski Brod. He went on to study forestry in Zagreb but later turned to the study of South Slav literatures and philosophy at the Zagreb Arts Faculty. He graduated in 1937. His first job was as subeditor in a newspaper and later he became editor in the Nakladni Zavod publishing house to move later to Zora Publishers. In 1953 he was elected associate member of the then Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts and in October of the same year became director of the Academy Literary Institute, a post which he held for twenty years. He has been a member of the Croatian PEN Club since 1962. In February 1964 he was elected president of the Croatian Literary Society and the year after became a full member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, now the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

He began writing poetry at the age of thirteen, in the autumn of 1918, but kept no copies of anything written before the end of 1920. He first published in 1928 the poem *Golubinja krila* (Dove's wing) under the pseudonym of Tadeon. From 1930 onwards, using his own name, he began to publish in newspapers and literary periodicals. He has published the following books of poetry: *Lirika* (Lyrics), 1931; *Sunce nad oranicama* (Sunshine over Ploughland), 1933; *Pepeo srca* (Ashes of the Heart), 1936; *Dani djetinjstva* (Days of Childhood), 1937; *Tuga zemlje* (Sorrow of Earth), 1942; *Pjesme* (Selected Poems), 1951; *Intimna izložba crteža s Raba* (An Intimate Exhibition of

Sketches from Rab), 1955; *Blagdan žetve* (Harvest Holiday - collected poems), 1956; *Srebrne svirale* (Silver Pipes), 1960, (seventeenth edition 1994); *Prsten* (Ring - selected poems), 1963, (fifth edition 1985); *Pjesme i proza* (Poems and Prose - poems, articles, sketches, autobiographical extracts), 1969; *Poezija* (a selection of poems with comments), 1973, (fifth edition entitled *Gozba, Feast - selected poems*), 1990; *Vežan za zemlju* (Tied to the Earth), 1974; *Sabrane pjesme* (Collected Poems), 1975; *San* (Dream - with 16 illustrations by Ivan Lovrenčić), 1976; *Prijateljstvo riječi* (Friendship of Words), 1981; *Svjetiljka ljubavi* (Lamp of Love - selection of love poetry), 1984; *Moje djetinjstvo* (My Childhood - poems and a prose autobiography), 1985; *Kruh svagdanji* (Daily Bread), 1986, (second edition 1987); *More u meni* (The Sea in Me, autograph, poets's personal selection) 1987; *Sabrana djela* (Collected works) in five volumes: Volume One: *First Book of Poems* (1920-1945); Volume Two: *Second Book of Poems* (1951-1987); Third Volume: *About Myself and My Folks*; Fourth Volume: *Book of Croatian Writers I*; Fifth Volume: *Book of Croatian Writers II*, 1989.

Tadijanović is not only important as a poet but as a translator, his main translations being: from Czech (Nezval), French (Valery Larbaud), German (Goethe, Hoelderlin, Novalis, Heine) and Slovene (Cankar, A. Vodnik, Kocbek).

For Croatian literature and cultural life his work in publishing has also been very important, especially his critical editions of collected works (Josip Draženović, Silvije Strahimir Kranjčević, Antun Gustav Matoš, Vladimir Vidrić, Janko Polić Kamov, Tin Ujević, Ivan Goran Kovačić).

Together with associates Tadijanović compiled a notable collection of modern Croatian lyrical poetry, *Hrvatska moderna lirika*, 1933; also *Novija hrvatska poezija* (Recent Croatian Poetry), 1952; *Četrdesetorica* (Forty young Croatian poets), 1955; and an *Anthology of Croatian poems in prose*, 1958. Poems by Tadijanović have been translated into some twenty

foreign languages of which we quote here only those that have come out in print: *Kanto al mia koro* (Poems of my heart), in esperanto with a preface by Josip Velebit, Zagreb, 1936; *Večer nad gradom* (Evening above the City), in Macedonian by Aco Šopov and Slovene by Ivan Minatti, Belgrade, 1966.; *Seize poèmes* (Sixteen poems) in French by Janine Matillon-Lasić, Zagreb, 1968, with enlarged edition *Choix de Poèmes* (Choice of poems) by Janine Matillon, Zagreb, 1971; *Kései arató* (Late Harvester) in Hungarian by Fehér Ferenc, with an afterword by Tomán László, Novi Sad, 1974; *La Bague* (Ring) Réalisation et gravure de Virgil Nevjestić, Traduction du croate par Jeanine Matillon-Lasić, *La Bague de la vie*, Jure Kaštelan, Paris, 1966; *Lirika* (Lyrics), translated into Slovene by Ivan Minatti with a preface by Nikola Milićević, Ljubljana, 1980; *Prikovan za zemjata* (Tied to Earth), selected and translated into Bulgarian by Ivan Kolarov, Sofija, 1982; *L'ombra della vita* (Shadows of Life), poems selected by Eros Sequi, preface by Ivo Frangeš, Rijeka, 1986; *La verdure de la terre* (Plants of the Earth), selected and translated by Jugoslav Gospodnetić, twelve poems translated by Janine Matillon, preface by Tonko Maroević, Zagreb, 1991; *Prsten* (The Ring), translated into Bulgarian by Georgi Mickov, selected and edited by Sijka Račeva, Zlatostruj, Sofia, 1996; *Stihovi na poklon / Les vers en cadeau* (A Gift of Poems), selection, foreword and adaptation by Pierre Calderon, translation by Blaženka Bubanj, Ceres, Zagreb, 1997; *Rodzinne strony* (Native Region), Selected poems, Selection, translation and afterword by Edward F. Zych, Cracow, 2000.

Tadijanović has received awards not only in Croatia but abroad, to name only some: Zmajeva nagrada (1964), City of Zagreb award (1964), Vladimir Nazor Award for his life's work (1968), Award of Société littéraire et artistique Poésie vivants for the book *Seize poèmes* translated by Janine Matillon-Lasić (Charleroi, 1968), Tin Ujević Award of Croatian Literary Society (1987), Sisak Steel Works Award (1987), Tall Golden Wheat Award of Croatian Literary Society (Vinkovci, 1990).

Tadijanović lives and works in Zagreb.