

In Memoriam: Milan V. Dimić (1933-2007)

Milan V. Dimić, Founding Editor of this journal in 1974 and, from 1969-75, Founding Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature, died on March 11, 2007 in the city of his birth, Belgrade. As his successor, I cannot emphasize how much he cared about the discipline, the students and the review. As a mentor, friend and colleague, Milan showed humanity and wisdom and taught us much.

His legacy at the journal is in the archive. Here, I would like to leave a record of his career. At the University of Belgrade, Milan taught from 1956 to 1963. From 1963 to 1966, Milan had been an Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung (Foundation) Research Fellow in the Department of Romance Languages and Comparative Literature at University of Tübingen. He came to University of Alberta in 1966, when he became Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Interdepartmental Program in Comparative Literature. In 1968, Milan became Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Chair of the Interdepartmental Program in Comparative Literature. By 1973, Milan was made Professor of Comparative Literature. In 1983, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Academy of the Humanities. From 1988 to 1998, he was appointed University Professor. Milan was also the General Organizer and Chair of Program Committee of the XIVth Congress of the ICLA/AILC in Edmonton in 1994. From 1996 to 1998, as a way to teach me how to make the transition from Contributing Editor to Editor, Milan shared with me the editorship of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*. After becoming Editor Emeritus in 1998, he continued to make a great contribution to the journal. From 1998 to 2001, he served as University Professor Emeritus, with teaching assignments and graduate supervision. From 2001 to his death, Milan was University Professor Emeritus, with some graduate supervision. From February 2001, Milan was also Visiting Professor, Department of English, Shih Hsin University, Taipei, Taiwan, and in 2002-03 and 2003-04, his Visiting Professorship was sponsored by the National Science Council of Taiwan. Milan's contributions to administration and the profession were also many. In the International Comparative Literature Association, he was Vice-President

from 1991 to 1994; he was Special Advisor to the President and Executive Council (1997-2001); and was Chair of the Structures Committee from 2004 until his death. These are the bare bones of an illustrious career as a teacher and a dedicated and innovative member of our profession, university and community.

Milan's many articles and other contributions to the fields of theory, literature and folklore are well known internationally. I will only mention a few here until the early 1990s as his most recent work will likely be more readily available. His series — *Predanja klasične starine* [*Legends of Classical Antiquity*]; *Predanja starih Germana* [*Old Germanic Legends*]; *Predanja azijskih naroda* [*Legends of Asian Nations*] — was published in Belgrade by Branko Đonović in 1964. He was Co-editor of *Actes du VIIe Congrès de l'AILC / Proceedings of the 7th Congress of the ICLA (Montreal-Ottawa, 1973)*, published in Stuttgart by Kunst und Wissen Erich Bieber in 1979 and Co-editor of *Acculturation. Actes du XIe Congrès de l'AILC / Proceedings of the XIth Congress of the ICLA (Paris 1984)*, volume 9. In 1985, Milan also contributed an article, "Comparative Literature in Canada," to a topical issue of *Neohelicon*, dedicated to Jacques Voisine, *Teaching Comparative Literature*. He also wrote an article, "Polysystem Theory," a subject on which he was an international authority, for the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Literary Theory*, published by the University of Toronto Press in 1993. He was active in teaching, research, conferences and publishing up to the time of his death. Milan contributed in many ways and will be missed by many.

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