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IN MEMORIAM

Katica Benc Bošković (1927.-2006.)

Dr Katica Benc Bošković died on June 29, 2006 in Zagreb after a courageous battle with a long and serious disease. She was born in the town of Čilipi in Konavle on March 9, 1927. She spent all her working life as a scientific associate at the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb.

She obtained her doctorate degree in 1980 in Belgrade and the title of her thesis was '*Ethnological characteristics of textile handicrafts from the region of Konavle*'. Dear colleague to all and my friend of many years, she can also be considered as the pioneer in the research of traditional culture of Konavle.

Our friendship begun when we were still students, when she would come every day to visit me in Opatička Street, where I rented a small room without water or heating. These harsh circumstances did not prevent her to visit me regularly, and we used to study together for our exams.

In the middle of 1950-ies, Dr Jelka Radauš-Ribarić, a scientific advisor from the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb, visited Čilipe during her field research and met there Katica Bošković, who, by that time, had a B.A in ethnology. After returning to Zagreb, Dr Radauš Ribarić warmly recommended the young ethnologist to Professor Mirjana Gušić, who was then the principal of the Ethnographic Museum, and who was happy to welcome her in Zagreb.

Our beloved Katica started her scientific career as an assistant curator. Unlike other curators, Dr. Jelka Radauš and Katica Bošković shared the office with the principal Dr Marijana Gušić. That, apparently significant, fact did not change the attitude of the two colleagues in any way, because we were all very close and the atmosphere at the museum was always friendly and democratic. Our beloved Katica was not only a great expert in the field, but also a dear colleague and we all loved her and appreciated her work.

I can remember my visit to Čilipi where my dear Katica lived with her parents and her brother Vlah and sisters Marija and Lina. As the youngest child, Katica was her father's pet.

The house in Čilipi was extremely beautiful and cozy and in accordance with the respectable position of the Bošković family. That was the first time in my life I saw two bathrooms in the same house. During the Homeland War the house was completely demolished.

Last years of her life she spent in Zagreb with her husband Dr Milan Benc.

This sad memoriam, filled with memories of my dear friend, seems inadequate, even though we were together till her last days.

We offer her our eternal gratitude and glory!

Translated by Tanja Bukovčan