

International Conference  
to Mark the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the English Department,  
Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade  
*Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies*  
**BELLS90 Proceedings**  
Volume 2

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## FOREWORD

Volume 2 of the *BELLS90 Proceedings* comprises 34 selected papers on various aspects of Anglo-American literature and cultural studies that were presented at the Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies Conference on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the English Department in 2019. A long tradition of teaching Anglo-American literature will be depicted with the help of several current members of the English Department who remember their teachers and mentors fondly. Instead of a conventional introduction, we have decided to offer some memories about professors whose work firmly grounded the foundations of the English Department in Belgrade. An additional peak into the department's life is provided by Professor Ranko Bugarski in the text that follows this foreword.

Professor Radojka Vukčević, Professor of American Literature, reflects on her own literature teacher, Professor Vida Marković: “[She] spoke and wrote about English literature with love, devotion and great enthusiasm. She insisted on the power of words, an introspective and analytical approach, and pedagogical implications. English literature for her was always a field of constant research into the relations between the world and text, the text and its components, and the positions of different critical perspectives. It was to be studied in the context of the Western-European civilization space, with an accent on the comparative approach. Professor Vida Marković taught us how to read and nourish love for reading, which is a precious gift for many generations of students to remember her for.”

Dr. Nataša Šofranac, who teaches Shakespearean studies in the department, remembers the renowned Yugoslav Shakespeare scholar, Professor Veselin Kostić:

“Of all the epithets appropriate for the legends of a nation's culture, academic history and intelligentsia, the one that fits Professor Veselin Kostić best would be “sacrifice” – in his almost religious devotion to English Studies, Renaissance Literature and, above all, to his students. And to think that he did not even intend to study philology, but technical engineering! But, his miraculous pathway was paved for him through illness and struggle, war and famine, migration and constancy. Indubitably, he would have been exquisite in anything he took interest in, like a Serbian Midas effortlessly turning books into gold and learning into joy. Such days of our “founding fathers” were history in the making, because it took them years of endeavours to find what is now one click away from us (thanks to them and to technology!). [...] The books produced by Professor Kostić with the love and enthusiasm of a missionary, are by far the most popular ones still used by our students in the new millennium, because they provide us with everything about Shakespeare in a single place, in a singular manner. We will treasure the memory of this fine gentleman, generous, kind and, above all, willing to give, to share, to open unlimited worlds of humanity through the beautiful language of poetry.”

Dr. Sergej Macura's own reflections on another great scholar, Professor Tihomir Vučković, bring back fond memories of his teacher:

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