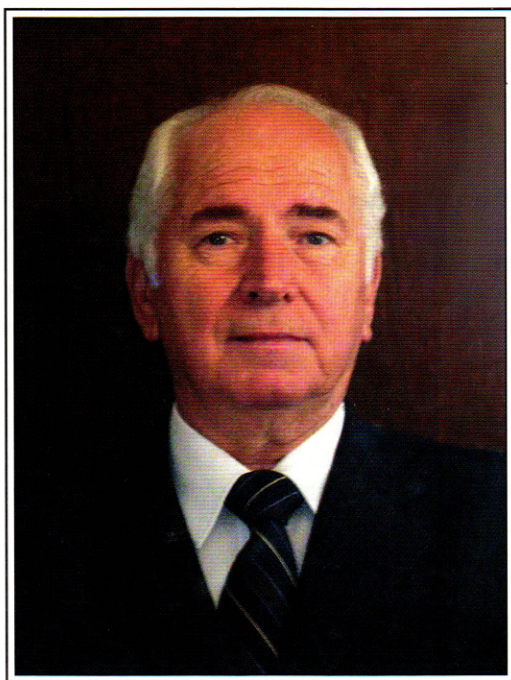


About the author

A JOURNALIST OF INTEGRITY



The author of the book *Dubrovnik in the Last Two Millennia*, journalist and writer Suad Ahmetović, was born in Trebinje in 1937. He has lived in Dubrovnik since his earliest childhood, where he attended both the elementary school and the grammar school. He began to be involved with journalism while with the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, working with the newspapers *Studentski list*, *Vjesnik*, *Svijet* and others. He became a journalist in 1964 when he was employed on the Dubrovnik daily *Dubrovački list*. From 1972 to his retirement in 1996, he was the permanent correspondent of the Zagreb daily *Vjesnik*, and from the mid 1998 to the end of 2005, the permanent part-time correspondent of the Rijeka *Novi list*. He published his articles in parallel in various dailies and weeklies (for example in the previously well-known *Danas* and the *VUS*); he initiated the publication of the Dubrovnik monthly *Laus* and was its first editor-in-chief. For several years, he was head of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival Press Office and also, while attached to the Institute for the Renovation of Dubrovnik, he was responsible for information about the renovation programme following the earthquake.

During his more than forty years as a journalist, Suad Ahmetović became known as an excellent writer and researcher, applying his skill to a broad range of themes. The wide use of objective information, allowing his readers to reach their own

conclusions, characterises his very productive writing. He therefore is known as a journalist of integrity. The style and substance of his writing stand apart from the tabloid-like sensationalism which unfortunately permeates almost all modern media. His work is an example of the dignity of his profession.

Especially well-received were his interviews with the Latin American Nobel Laureate, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the French writer of Rumanian origin Eugene Ionesco, one of the best-known modern Russian writers Ilja Erenburg, the American writer of Hungarian origin Lajos Zilahy and with the bards of Croatian literature: Ranko Marinković and Luko Paljetak. He also published interviews with the Soviet astronaut Aleksej Leonov, the French film academician René Clair, the famous theatre producers William Gaskill and Otmar Krejč, and with numerous other outstanding foreign and Croatian drama, music and film artists who visited Dubrovnik.

Since he became a journalist, Suad Ahmetović was especially interested in the history of Dubrovnik. He published a series of articles and a number of pamphlets in this regard. In his numerous talks with outstanding scientists and researchers, he publicized the epoch-making archaeological discovery of the until recently unknown Byzantine cathedral, which changed the views about the origins of Dubrovnik.

For his work in journalism, Suad Ahmetović was awarded the "Gold Pen" prize by the Croatian Journalists Association, the silver medallion by the NIŠPRO *Vjesnik*, the certificate of merit of the Community of Dubrovnik, the scroll of honour of the Institute for the Renovation of Dubrovnik, and the Testimonial of the Homeland War, as well as many other prizes and acknowledgments. As the author of the book *Dubrovnik in the Last Two Millennia*, he was awarded "The Prize of the City of Dubrovnik".

A tireless chronicler of events in Dubrovnik, which he presents with a refined sense of actualité, Suad Ahmetović continues to contribute to several periodicals and publications. With his book *Curiosities of Dubrovnik in the Last Two Millennia*, he has proved himself a writer of history with a special gift for eliciting a multitude of interesting detail about his ancient city, making this available to his co-citizens and the wider audience of the visitors of Dubrovnik.

Joško JELAVIĆ