

## RADO L. LENCEK: A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Rado L. Lencek, Slavist, ethnographer, and linguist, was born on 3 October 1921 in Mirna na Dolenjskem, Slovenia, and currently lives in New York, where he is Professor of Slavic Languages and Cultures in the Department of Slavic Languages of Columbia University. He attended primary school in Črnomelj (1927-32) and high school in Novo Mesto (1932-40). He studied Slavistics and ethnography at Ljubljana University (1940-44), Slavic philology under Arturo Cronia at the University of Padua (1944-46), linguistics at the University of Chicago (1958-59, MA: 1959) and Slavic linguistics under Roman Jakobson, Horace Lunt and Albert Lord at Harvard University (1959-62, PhD: 1962). He has held fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the International Research and Exchanges Board, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

From 1944 to 1955 Rado Lencek taught in the Slovene middle schools in Gorica/Gorizia and Trst/Trieste. From 1944 to 1956 he was an external associate for Program A of Italian Radio and Television (RAI) in Trieste and, from 1951 to 1954, also a reporter and editor of *Kulturne vesti* of the U.S. Information Service in that city. In 1956 he immigrated to the U.S.A., where he served from 1962 to 1965 as Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois / Champaign-Urbana; and at Columbia University as Assistant Professor (1965-69), Associate Professor (1969-74), and Full Professor (1974-date) of Slavic Languages and Cultures. In addition, he is the Director of the Program in Slavic Civilizations in the Slavic Department, and a member of Columbia's Institute on East Central Europe. He has been Visiting Professor of Slavic Languages and Cultures at both New York University (1969-72) and Yale University (1974).

Rado Lencek is a member of the Linguistic Society of America, Societas Linguistica Europea, the International Linguistic Association (New York), the International Association for the Study and Dissemination of Slavic Studies, the Society for Slovene Studies, the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and Slovenska kulturna akcija (Buenos Aires). In 1973 he was one of the founders, and for its first ten years the President, of the Society for Slovene Studies, and has edited or made major contributions to all of its publications: *Papers in Slovene Studies* (1975-78), *Slovene Studies: Journal of the Society for Slovene Studies* (1979-date), *Society for Slovene Studies Newsletter* (1973-78), *Society for Slovene Studies Letter* (1978-date), and the *Documentation Series of the Society for Slovene Studies*.

Adapted from  
*Primorski slovenski biografski leksikon*, II,  
(Gorica: Goriška Mohorjeva Družba, 1983)

