

In Memoriam



Vida Brodar

(15.07.1925, Maribor – 24.04. 2014, Ljubljana)

Vida Brodar was born on July 15th 1925 in Maribor into a middle class family as the eldest of four children of Andrej and Elizabeta Semenič. Her carefree childhood was cut short by World War II when she was banned from further education for being a child from a notably patriotic Slovenian family. After the war she graduated from high school and went off to study in Ljubljana. She graduated from university in 1954 at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, majored in biology in the interdisciplinary studies of anthropology. In recognition of her final thesis she was awarded the prestigious Prešeren award. She found employment at the Institute of Biology at University of Ljubljana, where she spent her entire career working as a researcher. She earned her PhD in the field of physical anthropology in 1974.

Vida Brodar belonged to the first generation of physical anthropologists in Slovenia. She was a reputable and internationally recognized scientist and an active member of professional associations in Slovenia and abroad. Most of her career she was also a court expert for anthropological determination of disputed paternities. She also carried out numerous studies on student populations and published the results in various national and international journals.

At the beginning of her career she performed analyses on human skeletal material. She also carried out digs in Jasenovac (1964). In 1957 she published an analysis of

the Neolithic skulls from Semizovec. She studied the occurrence of sutura metopica on the human forehead (1961) and analyzed the skeletal tomb of Dobova (1961). She has been involved in the publishing of the Anthropological bibliography of Yugoslavia (1963).

She used her experience of giving expert opinions about paternity for the analysis and study of hereditary fundamental principles. She published the following works: »Contribution to the morphology of hands and feet and some aspects of inheritance« (1968), »Contribution to the study of the papillary system of twins« (1969), »PTC test in twins and their parents« (1970), »Biomorphological analysis of the alleged images of France Prešeren« (1970), »Some aspects from the biomorphology of twins« (1971), »Phenotypical variations of lobulus in twins and their parents« (with M. Boegel, 1971), »Dermatoglyphical variability of palm region in twins« (1978) and »Variability of sex differences and heritability of morphological signs on head« (1982).

Her work in the field of biological development studies was extensive. She carried out a number of measurements of student populations and identified generational and gender differences. She studied the effects of World War II on the growth and development of individuals in the juvenile period and changes in body widths, the amount of subcutaneous fat and changes in body surface area.

Her knowledge of these populations is shown in a large volume of publications. »Physical development of students of the University of Ljubljana during their four-year study« (1960), »Physical development in students of the University of Ljubljana« (1960), »Examining the thickness of skin and subcutaneous tissue in humans« (1960), »Analyses of somatic development and physical changes in students during university studies« (1965–66), »Correlation relations of anthropometrical variables at the end of juvenile period« (1972), »Anthropological analyses of physical development of juvenile period in man (Dissertation, 1974), »Estimation of influence of inadequate factors of environment into adult dimensions (1976), »Reduction in body size of the adult as a permanent effect of War-time condition« (1978/79), »Adaptive growth tendencies of Width of the trunk and joints« (1979), »Somatic dimensions in the factors space« (1981), »Physique and physical development of students according to anthropometrical investigations during the

years 1954 to 1964« (1981), »Somatotypical variability in the period of growth and development« (with M. Štefančič, T. Tomazo-Ravnik, 1982), »Relative variability of some somatometric variables« (1988), »Growth changes in body surface area« (1989), »Dynamic of relative growth of somatometric parameters« (1990) and An assessment of physical growth and development in children and youths in Ljubljana (with M. Štefančič, U. Arko, F. Dovečar, M. Juričič, M. Macarol-Hiti, P. Leben-Seljak, T. Tomazo-Ravnik, 1996).

All of us that knew her will remember her by the love that was radiated, by her goodness of heart, by her compassion to all those in need, by her advice and her comforting touch. We will remember her as an expert, who through her work in the field of physical anthropology left an indelible mark.

Vesna Miletić, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tatjana Tomazo-Ravnik, Kranj, Slovenia