

## RECOLLECTIONS OF PROFESSOR RADISLAV HOŠEK FROM HIS COLLEAGUES IN TRNAVA

---

We were pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the issue, in which the anniversary of Professor Radislav Hošek is commemorated, although we faced great difficulty in deciding which of the memories relating to meetings with him we should choose. The younger generations should be reminded of the fact that Professor Hošek was among the enlightened scholars and university teachers of Classical Philology and the historians that dealt with Greek and Roman Antiquity, and his life was filled with scientific and educational activities. He managed to fully apply his maturity, critical perspective, and extensive experience to all the activities he undertook until he had exhausted his physical strength. Perhaps it was not an accident that he completed his mission at the renewed Trnava University, where in 1997 the first scientific, educational and research Department of Classical Archaeology was established. He did not hesitate to accept our offer to teach and support a field of study, for which there was no previous tradition in Slovakia before. In the 1999/2000 academic year, in addition to his ongoing activities at Charles University in Prague, he not only took up educational commitments in Trnava, but also participated in the further building and development of the newly established field of study.

Since then, we regularly met Professor Hošek in Trnava. Alongside his role as a pedagogue, he was willing and pleased to engage in other projects, which included the preparation of a textbook, the *Dejiny a kultúra antického Grécka a Ríma (History and Culture of Ancient Greece and Rome, Bratislava 2006)*. In addition to a decisive share of the introduction, he also undertook to edit the section that dealt with Ancient Greece, yet his illness unexpectedly affected its completion. Regardless of this, Professor Hošek fulfilled his commitments. He is still a model for us to follow. In spite of the obstacles he encountered in life, he fulfilled his resolute resolutions, although he did not live to see the published result of the entire work in 2006. It was not only the first, but also the best appreciated monograph of this kind in Slovakia. It is still used as a textbook, but it is also studied by both experts and laity. At the same time, it is another example of the ongoing cooperation of Czech and Moravian scientists and teachers on the development of education and science and the level of education in Slovakia.

As Professor Hošek himself would say, intentionally using a Moravian dialect: “I am a pub type,” explaining his moments of relaxation in the evenings in the small restaurants around the university. We enjoyed accompanying him, looking forward to hearing what he had to say. He typically spoke about our field of study, and it was not so rare for

him to finish with the tasks and perspectives of classical archaeology, especially at the Trnava university.

Our recollections of the Professor's work at the Department of Classical Archaeology in Trnava would be incomplete without feedback from students. One of them was Lucia Nováková, then a student, today the Head of Department for Classical Archaeology. Professor Hošek sought to popularise the message of the Antiquity, not only through translations of ancient literature, but also through the word. His incredibly broad knowledge of the Antiquity, from the theatre to everyday life, fully manifested itself during his lectures. From 2000 to 2005 Professor Hošek taught ancient religion, Latin epigraphy and the ancient history of Greece and Rome. His lecture rooms were full of students from the Department of Classical Archaeology as well as the Department of Classical Languages (it used to be a study programme combination). He would never forget to bring plenty of books for us, which were inaccessible to most of us. The religion of the ancient world, about which he lectured with a smile and enthusiasm, was among the preferred subjects. He managed to spark a keen interest in some of us for epigraphy. It was not just due to his theoretical introduction to inscriptions, but especially that their study took place on site. We seek to continue this tradition at the Department of Classical Archaeology. Unforgettable memories include the reading of a Roman inscription, incorporated into the south-western pillar of the Church of St. Vitus in Rusovce. We also learned much during exams. It was especially due to the personal approach of Professor Hošek, his openness to discussion and genuine interest in our perception of Antiquity. He used to tell us that, although it seemed to us that we had little time for writing our theses, we would never have as much time for writing scientific works. We eagerly listened when he told us stories of his travels made with another renowned expert of the ancient world, Professor Jan Bouzek.

As we have already mentioned, Professor Hošek taught ancient history, not only to the students of Classical Archaeology, but also to those of Classical Languages and History. He would often stop at the Department of Classical Languages to talk to us, at that time we were young assistants, about students or new books, mentioning his professors of Classical Philology, or conveying a message from his colleagues in Brno. We will never forget a scientific event that dealt with the condition and perspectives of Classical Philology, which we organised in Trnava. He came with his wife, Professor Jana Nechutová, a renowned Czech medievalist. They both enthusiastically encouraged young Slovak and Czech colleagues to make all possible efforts to promote the Antiquity and classical languages as the major pillars of European education and culture, especially at secondary schools. Both of them again demonstrated their helpfulness and willingness when they offered whatever help and support they could give to the next generation. This is the picture of Professor Hošek that will always remain in our memory – with a gentle smile, his typical sense of humour and his personal approach.

*Mária Novotná*  
*Trnava University*

*Lucia Nováková*  
*Trnava University*  
*lucia.novakova@truni.sk*

*Erika Juríková*  
*Trnava University*  
*erika.jurikova@truni.sk*

*doi: 10.14712/24646830.2024.3*