



## Editors' dedicatory note

On 22 April 2019, Alexander Leonardovich Verlinsky celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we are glad to dedicate this volume to our dear colleague, an eminent Hellenist and one of the leading figures in the fields of Ancient Greek philosophy and philology.

A. Verlinsky was born in Leningrad and graduated from State Pedagogical Institute in 1980 where he specialized in English history. Due to circumstances beyond his control, he never was a student of Leningrad State University, and his interest in Classics emerged in a private context. Georgy Stratanovsky, a famous Classicist who has translated into Russian Thucydides and Herodotus, became his first teacher of Greek. A strong impulse to expand his knowledge was given to A. Verlinsky by his long-standing participation in the famous extra-curriculum seminar on Plato held by A. I. Zaicev on Saturdays. He also took part in the external seminars of A. K. Gavrilov where they translated and commented upon Epicurus and Marcus Aurelius. At the end of 80s, Verlinsky became a postgraduate student at St. Petersburg Institute of History (Russian Academy of Sciences).

In 1990, when the situation in this country brightened up, A. Verlinsky joined the Department of Classics at St. Petersburg State University where he has been successfully teaching ever since — currently as a Full Professor.

In 1998, A. Verlinsky obtained his Ph. D. degree in Classical philology with a thesis *The origin of language in Democritus' and Epicurus' tradition* supervised by A. Zaicev. Soon, he was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung fellowship and spent that fruitful time at Freie Universität zu Berlin (1998–2000). He continued his scholarly research of ancient language theories at the Centre for Hellenic Studies, Washington DC in 2002–2003. Three years later, A. Verlinsky published a monograph *Ancient Theories of the Origin of Language* (in Russian, with an extensive English summary). This book served as a basis for his thesis of the same name for which A. Verlinsky obtained his D. Sc. degree in Classical Philology (2008).

In addition to subjects mentioned above, A. Verlinsky's wide range of scholarly interests includes various issues of Plato and Aristotle scholarship, as well as the history of Classics in Russia. Once the topic is determined, he always works with total absorption and deep concentration in order to come to the heart of the matter proceeding in an un-rushed way and taking advantage of the time to produce a solid piece of research.

A. Verlinsky's carefulness, extensive knowledge, and great erudition make him an excellent university teacher honored and loved by his present and former students. Besides commenting upon Ancient Greek and Latin authors, he currently conducts seminars on Aristotle's *Athenian Politeia*, Ancient Greek religion and mythology in the 18<sup>th</sup> century philosophy and science, not to mention his inspiring seminar for graduate and master students. Being extremely busy with his own research and duties, A. Verlinsky never saves on time (in contrast to Seneca's advice: *tempus tantum nostrum est* (*Epist.* 1, 1)) and is always eager to share it with his younger colleagues and students to give them a piece of advice.

Since its foundation, A. Verlinsky has been a member of the *Bibliotheca Classica Petropolitana* (and its director 2007–2017) deeply involved in the activities of the society.

One of the greatest talents of A. Verlinsky is that of an editor: he has a wonderful ability to grasp the essence of someone's text and to help the author in question to polish it up in a very helpful and unobtrusive way. Among other projects, he is a member of the editorial board of *Hyperboreus* and *Philologia Classica*.

A. Verlinsky's colleagues and students are deeply attached to his amiable and responsive personality. Being very modest and unassuming, he never desires to see his name in print and thus follows, in a way, Epicurus' principle λάθε βιώσας.