



## Classical Antiquity in Russia: Editors' Note on the Special Issue

Founded in 1977, *Philologia Classica* was originally a quinquennial almanac publishing scholarly contributions along with neo-Latin poetry and translations from Greek and Latin. In 2016, the editors got down to evolving it into a biannual edition that should meet the international academic standards. Since then, the journal, with its impressive Editorial board and submissions accepted in six languages, has been open to collaboration with scientific and educational institutions from all over the world.

The 2020 volume is a milestone for *Philologia Classica* in two ways: it is the 20<sup>th</sup> issue of the original periodical and the 10th volume part of an updated one. While renewing the journal, the editors decided to further spark the readers' interest by allowing more room for submissions in the subjects of reception, long cherished by both readers and contributors. Presently, neo-Latin studies, the history of Classical scholarship, and the representation of the ancient world in European culture occupy three out of six sections of each issue. The topics remain in the spotlight of philological research and prove attractive for both experienced and budding scholars.

With all this in mind, we came up with an idea of a special issue on the reflections of antiquity in Russian literature and art. The fascicle now before us contains ten contributions in this field, with a particular focus on the Petrine Classicism in half of them. A bunch of the articles concerned with Classics *stricto sensu* allows the reader to still enjoy a regular variety of topics *Philologia Classica* would suggest.

The editors' congratulations on the journal's milestone issue go to all Editorial board members, as well as to all our contributors and readers.

We are immensely pleased to share the big day with Prof. Valery Semionovich Durov, who in this very year celebrates his seventy-fifth birthday. Let this volume be dedicated to him.

Born in Leningrad on 13 July 1945, Valery Durov joined the University in 1963 as a student of the Russian language and literature, but after a year, he changed to the Classics and for the better part of his life remained a researcher, a lecturer, and, eventually, a full professor and Head of the Classical Department (1992 to 2013). His thesis "The Tenth Satire of Juvenal" (1975) became a first step in the long and fruitful engagement with the

original Roman genre. It was followed by three monographs — “The Genre of Satire in Roman literature,” “Julius Caesar — a Man and a Writer,” and “Literary Historiography of Ancient Rome” summed up in a Doctoral “The Rise and Development of Narrative Literature in Rome: Historiography and Satire” (1993). A Latinist, he designed several courses in Roman historiography, Latin stylistics, History of Latin Christian literature, not to mention conducting classes in reading and commenting on a vast variety of Latin authors. These courses encouraged an array of articles, monographs, and manuals, many of them enjoying a second or a third print.<sup>1</sup>

Valery Durov took over the leadership of St. Petersburg University Classics at a difficult time and did his best to preserve its academic and pedagogical potential. For him, the maintaining of the classical scholarship traditions established, among others, by his teachers Aristide I. Dovatur, Jacob M. Borovsky, and Alexander I. Zaitsev has always been a matter of immediate concern.

This reverence for teachers and colleagues manifested itself in a number of academic events *in memoriam* he inspired and *memoires* he brought out, including his recollections “Sorting through the memories of the past” (2012), and several articles in *Philologia Classica*. Until recently, Valery Durov was actively involved in this journal’s life. The anniversary of our dear teacher and colleague whose affection for both Russian and Ancient literature we share is a welcome occasion for the majority of the contributors to this fascicle, who are Valery Durov’s colleagues and students, to express their appreciation for his creative and tenacious attitude, his vigour and endurance, which are in his very name.

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<sup>1</sup> The chronological index of Prof. V.S.Durov’s works is published in *Philologia Classica* 2015, 10, 315–323.