

## **OPENING ADDRESS BY ACAD. PETAR HR. ILIEVSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Your excellencies, distinguished guests, friends and relatives of Professor Petruševski, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen ...

This year we celebrate a rare jubilee devoted to an important person – Professor Mihail D. Petruševski. Therefore, the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje organized this Conference dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth.

The idea for organizing this Conference was given in 2006. As one of his first students, later a collaborator and a colleague during a period of over 40 years, I was appointed President of the Organizing Committee which I accepted gladly in spite of my deeply advanced age. Then I could not imagine that after six years so many changes would happen to me so that I should need help for elementary activities, e.g. reading, writing etc.

However, I am happy to open our Conference today because Professor Petruševski deserved it. He deserved this with his numerous merits contributing to our scientific and cultural progress, as well as to the organisation of the University educational process in the Republic of Macedonia immediately after the Second World War.

He achieved significant results in several scientific fields, but he was especially active in three domains. He was 1<sup>o</sup> *a remarkable classical scholar even at the age of 30*; 2<sup>o</sup> *a perfect organizer of the Faculty departments, particularly of the Department of Classical Studies, Archaeology and Ancient History* and 3<sup>o</sup> *a prominent populariser of the Greek and Roman classical culture through translations of classical masterpieces and the periodical Živa Antika*.

Later on we shall hear about all this in more detail. I hope that the contributions presented at this Conference will cast more light on the discussed problems.

Now I would like to focus your attention to some personal peculiarities of Professor Petruševski. What he did like and what he disliked.

During our long collaboration I could see that two main principles were guiding him in his life and work:

The first can be defined with Grigor Prličev's words: *Perfection or death*. Whatever he did it was done perfectly and it was of durable value.

His other main principle was that *investigation should precede teaching and solving problems*.

He used to teach students through deeds adding examples, often from his own experience.

Thus, Petruševski with every action of his left a legacy, a model to be imitated not only by the students in classical studies, but also by many studying other subjects. Therefore, the authorities of the Faculty of Philosophy put up a bust in the faculty's entrance hall which will be unveiled today.

With these few words I announce that the Conference is open.