

**IN MEMORIAM OF DANIEL ŠKOVIERA
(30 NOVEMBER 1946–24 FEBRUARY 2021)**

At the end of November, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the birth of the university professor Daniel Škoviera, a classical philologist, a neo-Latinist of European importance, an excellent university teacher and a translator of ancient languages, who was well known in the community of classical philologists in both Czechia and Slovakia. He devoted his whole life to the promotion of Antiquity and its reception in wider cultural contexts. He passed away unexpectedly in February of this year at the age of 74.

Daniel Škoviera was born in the village of Mikulášová near Bardejov, in Eastern Slovakia, as a son of a Greek Catholic priest. As such, from a young age, he was subjected to political persecution, which ultimately lasted until the fall of the communist regime in November 1989. He completed his secondary education at the Poprad Business Academy and then continued his studies at the Comenius University in Bratislava. He studied Latin and French at the Faculty of Arts where he was tutored by major figures in the field of Slovak classical philology, Miloslav Okál and Július Špaňár, both in his academic and personal life.

In his pedagogical practice, Škoviera focused on the normative grammar of Latin and Greek, Neo-Latin writings in Europe and Slovakia, ancient mythology, religion, metre and rhythm, the fundamentals of textual criticism. He led translation and interpretation seminars in both Greek and Latin, courses in Latin stylistics as well as specialised seminars for doctoral students. Prof. Škoviera mentored many doctoral students, who are now successful scientists and teachers, especially in the field of Latin humanism, Christian literature of Late Antiquity, and Baroque literature.

The scientific, research and published works of Daniel Škoviera focus on ancient works and writings from the Christian Antiquity as well as the literary works of Latin humanism and Baroque literature. Daniel Škoviera significantly broadened the horizons of research into Neo-Latin. He introduced both to the academic community and to the public several important, yet lesser-known figures tied to the territory of the present-day Slovakia, such as Leonard Stöckel, Johannes Antoninus Cassoviensis, Valentinus Ecchius and Johannes Kazi.

His admiration and respect towards one of his teachers is reflected in his monograph, *Miloslav Okál. Prvý slovenský profesor klasickej filológie (Miloslav Okál. The First Slovak Professor of Classical Philology, Bratislava / Trnava 2014)*. It is the first book to have been published about a professor at the Comenius University.

Daniel Škoviera translated the works of several ancient authors for both Slovak academia and the public, including Cicero (Bratislava 1982), Ammianus Marcellinus (Bratislava 1988), for whose translation he received the Ján Hollý Award, and Plutarch (Bratislava 2008). Furthermore, he was a co-author of the ecumenical translation of the Bible published in 2008.

Škoviera's bilingual editions of humanist works of Slovak origin written in Latin also reaped great praise from fellow experts. These include *Scrinium Latino-Slovacum*, within which he published a series of smaller works by Ecchius (Trnava 2006) and works by the Baroque author Ján (Johannes) Kazi, *Stoa vetus et nova* (Trnava 2009), the Latin-Slovak edition of an anonymous writer, *O írečitej spisbe Slovákov (On the Correct Orthography of Slovaks*, Bratislava 2005) and the highly praised series of translations, *Latinský humanizmus (Latin Humanism*, Bratislava 2008). His other major editorial works included the series *Bibliotheca Antiqua Christiana*, in which Daniel Škoviera published his translations of St. Basil the Great: *Povzbudenie mladým. Listy I (r. 357–374) (Address to Young Men. Letters I (357–374)*, Prešov 1999) and *Listy II (r. 375–378)*. *Hexaéméron (Letters II (375–378)*. *Hexaéméron*, Prešov 2002).

Equally invaluable was the vigorous editorial work of professor Škoviera with regard to the scientific journals, *Graecolatina et Orientalia*, published by the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University, and *Sambucus*, published by the Trnava University in Trnava. As a member of the authorial collective, he contributed to the preparative work on a modern encyclopaedia of classical philology, *Der Neue Pauly*, and as a member of the editorial board, he worked with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague on the journal *Auriga*. He was a long-standing chairman of the Slovak Union of Classical Philologists and the Slovak Society of Neo-Greek Studies and was a member of scientific boards as well as other scientific organizations.

Daniel Škoviera was well known for his expert knowledge, his outlook, his humanity, and his sincere faith in God. As a teacher he was strict and demanding, his critique was constructive and straightforward, and his evaluations were objective and just. He will forever remain the epitome of an honest and kind man in the hearts of his colleagues and students.

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