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EDITORS' DEDICATORY NOTE

Ἀλεξάνδρωι Κωνσταντίνου
ἑβδομηκονταπεντέτει

Δῶρον ὄρας ἀρεταῖς τε φιλῶν σπουδαῖς τε μαθητῶν
γραμματικῶν πεμφθὲν γραμματικῶν βασιλεῖ,
ὄς τὰ γενέθλι' ἀγῶν τάχα καὶ χαριέστερον ἄξει
ἡμῶν συλλεκτοῖς ἄνθεσι τερπόμενος.

We are happy to dedicate this volume to Alexander Konstantinovich Gavrilov on his 75th birthday. Professor Gavrilov is chief researcher at St. Petersburg Institute of History (Russian Academy of Sciences) and has behind him nearly half a century of teaching at the Department of Classics of St. Petersburg State University. The renewed *Philologia Classica* embodies a collection of articles written by his pupils, friends, and colleagues as a *munusculum* to this many-sided scholar and a highly charismatic person. This issue is largely inspired by his works and represents various segments of the broad spectrum of his scientific interests.

It happened that A. Gavrilov who was initially interested in Indology has started out on his academic career as a student of mathematical linguistics, but has later decided in favor of Classics. Having graduated from Leningrad State University in 1964, A. Gavrilov joined the Department of Classics where he did his best to uphold the glorious traditions of his teachers who were educated in pre-revolutionary Russia. Among these were a brilliant pedagogue and Hellenist Aristid I. Dovatur, a sophisticated Latinist Jakov M. Borovskii, and Andrej N. Jegunov (the latter, a connoisseur of Ancient Greek and Latin, as well as of Russian, became Gavrilov's inspiring tutor outside the classroom). At the Department of Classics, A. Gavrilov is deeply indebted to his senior colleague Alexander I. Zaicev for their long-term scholarly dialogue and personal relations. Among his teachers it is important to mention a renowned folklorist and theologian Isidor G. Levin. Characteristic of A. Gavrilov is his reverent and affectionate attitude towards his tutors, to which a number of articles in their honor or memory testify.

In 1975, A. Gavrilov obtained his Ph. D. degree in Classical philology („Aristophanes' Ploutos: A Version of 388 B.C."). Since 1984, he has combined work at St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences with teaching at the university where he delivered courses in the Ancient Greek and Latin languages. For many years, he lectured on the „History of Classical Philology“, the „Informational Search in Classical

Philology“, and on the „Classical Civilization.“ His teaching activities were not confined to these courses, since he also gave *privatissima* to everybody interested in Ancient Greek. In 1995, he obtained his D. Sc. degree in history (“The Theatre of Euripides and the Athenian Enlightenment”).

These titles suggest the diversity of A. Gavrilov’s scholarly interests and are in keeping with his motto: „Philology is the method, while history is the goal.“ A. Gavrilov can thus with all justice be called a true *Altertumswissenschaftler*, a Classicist in a wider sense who pays equal attention to textual criticism, epigraphy (especially, that of the North Black Sea region), semantics, history of Classical scholarship. A. Gavrilov is very sensitive to the word as such, which quite often becomes the starting point of a profound study and then helps to get to the core of the problem. A. Gavrilov’s distinct feeling for the language was nurtured at the literary translation seminars conducted by Ivan A. Likhachev and due to personal contact with Alexej M. Shadrin. This language sensitivity becomes apparent in A. Gavrilov’s later sophisticated and polyphonic translations from Theognis, Marcus Aurelius, Petronius, and Epictetus (the latter is forthcoming).

A. Gavrilov combines a bright research talent with unique organizational abilities. In 1993–1994, having received a New Europe Prize established by several American and European Institutes for Advanced Study, he together with his younger colleagues founded the *Bibliotheca Classica Petropolitana* — an independent institution, which holds a reference library on Classics and publishes a biannual journal *Hyperboreus*, as well as an almanac *The Ancient World and Us*. By a remarkable coincidence, in Russian the letters AK can stand for both Antichnyj Kabinet (that is, *Bibliotheca Classica*) and its founding director Alexandr Konstantinovich’s initials.

A. Gavrilov is by no means an armchair scholar. On the contrary, his high sense of duty and civic stand always makes his heart bleed for his city and for his country.

Today A. Gavrilov is as active as ever and busy working on several projects. One of them is a dictionary dedicated to the history of St. Petersburg Classical scholarship, the other touches upon Ancient Greek loanwords and their semantics in Russian.

We wish our teacher and friend inspiration, creativeness, and lightness of being. As George Herbert, one of A. Gavrilov’s favorite seventeenth century English poets, said:

„Onely a sweet and vertuous soul,
Like season’d timber, never gives.“