

IN MEMORIAM MARTIN SLOBODNÍK

PROF. MGR. MARTIN SLOBODNÍK, PHD.

(* April 10th 1970, Bratislava – † April 14th 2019, Bratislava)



The editorial board of the journal *Ethnologia Slovaca et Slavica* is usually created following the arrival of new editors, or on the occasion of fundamental changes in the focus of the periodical. You will certainly have noticed that our Editorial Board has been enlarged with the arrival of new representatives of modern, social science disciplines. We have also striven to obtain help and support from our own *Alma mater*. For this reason, we asked colleagues from our own faculty to join our editorial board. For this reason, but also for other reasons, the editorial board was joined by the then pro-dean for development of the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University, the important sinologist and Tibetologist, a person with an unceasing interest in creating a favourable atmosphere in university studies, with an interest in the wider international recognition of our science and university, someone liberal in his views, collegial and helpful in his actions, professor Martin Slobodník.

We were honoured and delighted when he accepted our offer, and this makes it all the harder to write this obituary now that life has given us this sad task after such a short time.

In his conception of the development of the faculty, he clearly defined what several generations had dreamed about. The faculty as a collegiate body with its own esprit de corps, open to the inside and outside world, self-confident, strong and creative; in short, a place which it is a joy to belong to. He knew how to listen to students, teachers, researchers, artists, translators, poets, officials, revolutionaries, friends, guests and passers-by. We are grateful for this generosity and sharpness.

He strove towards the goal of raising the level of quality by transforming departmental islands into archipelagos of cooperation. He played and passed the ball on many fronts and topics, every day and at a fast pace. He was a living example of how to play and work discreetly, yet with clear priorities, a high level of expertise, without complaining and without pointless formalities, looking at the whole, not the part, patiently and modestly. When necessary he spoke out clearly, not forgetting to add modestly “Well, of course, you know that already, even without my having to tell you...”

He had qualities, which cannot be defined in syllabi, and which make a person into a Teacher. He sparked discoveries, rebuilt trust, the essence of truthfulness. In this, he remains with us. Thank you.

Helena Tužinská and Marta Botíková
on behalf of the editors of *Ethnologia Slovaca et Slavica*.