

Prof. PhDr. Jaroslav Šušol, PhD.
Dean of the Faculty of Arts
Chairman of the Scientific Council
Univerzita Komenského
Filozofická Fakulta
Gondova 2, P.O. BOX 32
84199 Bratislava
33

Prof. Dr. Michael Moser
Pázmány Péter Katolikus Tudományegyetem
michael.moser@univie.ac.at

Opinion

regarding doc. PhDr. L'ubora Matejko's application for professorship

Doc. Mgr. Lubor Matejko, PhD. has been working at Comenius University for twenty five years. For as many as 15 years, he has been head of the Department of Russian and East European Studies. Dr. Matejko took this position at a period of time when the department was being considerably reorganized. Whereas traditionally the department had been training teachers for secondary schools, Matejko, in 2005, introduced the study program "Russian and East European Studies" (at the BA and MA level), which soon proved to be very successful. As I was informed, the current number of students amounts to 150. Along with that, the department offers a program of translation studies in Russian and another advanced program for Slavic studies.

Under Matejko's guidance, the department has been particularly successful in raising national and international grants. Matejko himself has been awarded two international grants from the Visegrád Fund devoted to Ukrainian Studies and Eastern Partnership countries. Generally, the department of Russian and East European Studies has proven to be very successful regarding the attraction of students at all levels (including PhD students) and the realization of research and study projects.

In terms of his scholarly profile, Matejko was originally trained as a philologist and specialist for medieval studies, whereas at present, he is primarily focusing on the history of Russia and Eastern Europe after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. Matejko has successfully mentored several doctoral and master theses from a broad variety of different topics ranging from medieval studies to the contemporary sociological and discursive aspects of language.

Over the past years, Dr. Matejko has been collaborating with various scholars on various projects, as proven by the volumes he has been editing or co-editing (e.g., *Florilegium in honorem Alexandri Isačenko*. Bratislava, 2011 (co-editor), *BraSlav 2: Zborník z medzinárodnej slavistickej konferencie* / ed. Pavol Žigo, Lubor Matejko Bratislava 2004). Of particular importance is his contribution to the first university textbook devoted to the history of Russian literature that was edited by a team of Slovak scholars of Russian. Furthermore, Matejko has published broadly-used study materials devoted to the history of Slovak Russian and Slavic studies.

Matejko's international standing as a scholar is, inter alia, evidenced by the fact that he is a member of the Commission of the History of Slavic Studies of the International Committee of Slavists (since 2002) and a member of the editorial board of the highly

recognized journal *Slavia* (since 2007). Matejko has authored two monographs devoted to medieval studies (*Život stredovekého textu. O tzv. Metodovom kánone sv. Dimitrovi Solúnskemu. Bratislava, QM, 2004*, *Počiatky slovanskej hymnografie. Dizertačná práca. Bratislava, FiF UK 1998*). His scholarly articles, most of them being devoted to medieval hymnography and to the history of Slavic studies, have been published in leading international journals and important collective volumes (including some festschrift publications, which, again, confirms Matejko's international reputation).

Both the quantity and the quality of Dr. Matejko's publications confirm that he deserves to be nominated professor. His monograph *Život stredovekého textu* is particularly highly valued by the scholarly community.

Matejko is an international scholar in the real sense of the word. He has been presenting the result of his research at a variety of international conferences and invited lectures in various countries of Central and Eastern Europe. He is fluent in several languages, including not only Russian, but also English and German.

Concluding, I would like to remark that I myself have had the pleasure to collaborate with Dr. Matejko more than once, when he invited me to teach seminars on Ukrainian linguistics and when I took part in a fascinating Visegrád project that he had organized. Each time I visited the Department of Russian and East European Studies in Bratislava, I was deeply impressed by Dr. Matejko's capabilities as an organizer and manager of an excellent team.

Summing up, I have no doubts that Doc. Mgr. Ľubor Matejko, PhD., owing to his merits in scholarship, academic teaching, and academic administration fully deserves to be nominated professor.

Vienna, 10 December 2014

Prof. Dr. Michael Moser