

# TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR LEONID A.GINDIN (1928 - 1994)

The ancient studies suffered a heavy loss. On the 23-rd of April 1994 Professor Leonid Gindin, doctor of philological sciences, chief researcher of the Institute of Slavic and Balkan Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences died in Moscow. He was known as a specialist of a large scale of scientific interests: ancient Balkan and Indo-European studies, classic philology, pre-Greek researches, Thracology, Hittite languages, Byzantine and Slavic Studies. His favorite creation was the so called "Antichnaya balkanistika" (ancient Balkan studies) that he defined as a branch of antique studies the competence of which embraces the investigation of the non-classic antiquities of the Balkan-Carpathian region and the adjacent areas being carried out on the basis of the complex approach and by the methods of different disciplines in the broad chronological limits (from the pre- and Indo-European times till the early period of the Slavic colonisation of the Balkans). The result of his own investigations are reflected mainly in two monographs: "Language of the Ancient Population of the South of the Balkan Peninsula. The fragment of the Indo-European Onomastics" (Moscow, 1967) and "The Ancient Onomastics of the Eastern Balkans. Thracology-Hittite-Luwian and Thracology-Micrasian Isoglosses" (Sofia, 1981).

Of great importance are the merits of L.Gindin in the field of Thracology which he considered in the context of Indo-European Studies. He has scrupulously revealed the Thracian layer in the pre-Greek onomastics of the Balkans and Western Anatolia. Principally significant contribution to the thracological investigations is basing by Gindin the genetical and areal proximity of the Pelasgian and Thracian languages. Prof. L.Gindin was the organizer of the V-th International Congress of Thracology in Moscow (October 18-22 1988). He entered the International Council of Indo-European and Thracian Studies and the editorial board of the journal "Orpheus".

During the last years Prof. L.Gindin was preoccupied with the researches of Homeric poems as a historical source and also with the problem of the original homeland and the stages of migrations of the Indo-Europeans. He has discussed those questions in the books "population of the Homeric Troy" (Moscow, 1993), "Troja, Trakien und die Volker Altanatolies" (in print), "Homer and the History of the East Mediterranean" (in cooperation with V. Tsymburski, in print).

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