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VIKTOR LILČIĆ ADAMS
PROFESSOR, FRIEND, TIRELESS TRAVELER THROUGH TIME

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When I began my studies in archaeology, exactly 33 years ago, it was the first time I met Viktor Lilčić. At that time he was working as a librarian, smiling and always ready to meet the new generation of art history and archeology students, to share with them his encyclopedic knowledge of all books in the library, but also about hundreds of others who were not on our library shelves.

Even then, he talked with great passion, about his frequent archaeological expeditions, most often with Professor Ivan Mikulčić, for numerous - to me and to other students in that time - unknown archaeological sites, artifacts, coins and so on.

Few years later, when Viktor became an assistant at the Institute, contacts and talks became even more frequent. He told us about his experiences obtained during archaeological excavations in Switzerland, so we dreamed for one day to take the road and feel the excitement that the archeological sites offer, in order to be the first ones who will bring to the light of the day a small parts of history of humanity at least.

That sparkle in Viktor's eyes which appeared every time he spoke about archaeological sites and researches has not faded during these past 33 years. On the contrary, as he progressed in exploring the territory of Macedonia, I have the feeling that this archaeological passion in Viktor has been burning even more and the knowledge he collected for many decades has been unceasingly shared and he still shares it, from year to year, with every new generation of freshmens.

The hair color of my friend Viktor has changed during these 33 years, the joints of his knees began to squeak from the tens of thousands of kilometers waking and hiking through the Macedonian roads and sites, searching for the remains of the ancient cities and fortresses. On his palms blisters gained from the infinite battle with the hard soil and the dense vegetation that jealously hides ancient archaeological

remains has hardened, but the glare in his eyes did not faded, as well as the readiness to talk for hours about past and future expeditions.

Everyone who met Viktor, even those who spent only an hour in his company, know that he is infinitely in love with his life-style - in archeology. Viktor sets a new goal every day in front of himself - to visit new sites, to check information discovered through a thorough study of topographic maps or obtained from a shepherd, plowman, woodpecker, random passer... information obtained while filling water at the village faucet or in front of the small village shop. And immediately in his head the plan for the next expedition starts creating, for the expedition to the construction sites and the coves and in the farthest parts of the country, to places where a human foot has not long gone.

And then, when he reveals the city or the fortress lost in time, sunk into the impending vegetation, he starts with what he has been doing for ten decades. With the pantlite and the boson patiently, each meter is measured and then it is transferred to paper. The tedious researcher Viktor Lilčić Adams thus discovered and documented nearly 1,000 ancient towns and fortresses. Skeptics will say- impossible! It really seems so, but me and the rest of us who know the tireless archaeologist Viktor, know that this word does not apply to him. Viktor really was in all those places, really found and measured the positions of hundreds of ancient towns and fortresses, draw their hands and towers with his skillful hand, photographed them, and wrote for them a huge number of scientific works and books.

The amount of his work and achievements are worth the admiration, but for Viktor there is no stopping. Constantly, day after day, even with entering the seventh decade of his life, he is still narrating with youthful enthusiasm for yesterday's discovery, ends the conversation with the plan for tomorrow, for visiting and documenting another city, on another hill or tower.

Viktor Lilčić Adams, professor of archeology, a person who captivates with his immediacy and sincerity, always full of ideas for new research and projects, is on his way to fulfill his huge desire - to visit and document all the ancient towns and fortresses in Macedonia and to translate it into the Corpus of old towns and fortresses of Macedonia. The first volume of this corpus under the title "Lynkestida and Devriop" has already come to light. I had the honor to be one of his promoters.

My dear friend, Viktor, I wish you to achieve your goal as soon as possible, to put a point mark on the 4 decades field work done by publishing the results of it, although I know that the next day, you will put yourself in front of your new challenges, because you are immensely and irreversibly in love with your profession.

But Viktor is not just a connoisseur and researcher of fortresses. Professor Viktor Lilčić Adams is a great connoisseur of ancient numismatics, stone plastic, built

ding ceramics Books and dozens of scientific papers testify to this. One look of his experienced eye on a tiny, scratched and damaged coat of patina or fragment of stone plastic, is enough for him to tell you what is in question, with immediate scientific precision. But he does not boast, nor does he hide his knowledge. On the contrary, he will share with his interlocutor a thousand scientific facts to the smallest detail, as if it was the most common thing in the world. For hours he will relentlessly talk and explain about some archeological problem, in front of students, colleagues, friends, lectures in faculty classrooms, meetings in the street or while driving his Lada Niva along the curved paths of Macedonian hills. There is no specific time and place for him to speak of archeology. It's always and everywhere. As he is ready, he always gets to himself everywhere, with the recognizable quick step which means for a casual person to run. For a moment and effortlessly, whenever there is even a few hours of free time, he climbs the steep hills on whose peaks lie the forgotten remains of the ancient and medieval towns and fortresses. Moving and asking for thoughts and conclusions about the ancient roads that armies and merchant caravans were traveling through in ancient times.

To me, Viktor Lilčić Adams is the greatest connoisseur of the ancient road network throughout Macedonia. It is because every single meter of those thousands of kilometers of roads Viktor carried out, with his own eyes and feet he assured himself and checked the data read in historical sources and ancient and modern maps. With unprecedented precision, he will tell you how and where to get to every point of Macedonia, on which hill that is located, from which fortress one can see the nearest other fortress, which tower has visual communication to other tower(s), which fortresses and towers protect the road as well as countless other information.

The tedious researcher Viktor, the tireless traveler through time, over the course of four decades, endless dedication to this noble profession has turned into an inexhaustible treasure of information. Hundreds of scientific papers, field journals, photographs, videos, drawings are just the tip of the iceberg that Viktor Lilčić Adams gave to archaeological science. Those of us who have the honor to know him, to socialize and to work with Viktor, we know that he will tirelessly continue on the road on which he has stepped forward more than 4 decades ago and will present countless scientific truths to Macedonian and to world archeology.