

## PREFACE

The Department of the Classics of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Advisory Editorial Committee of *Illinois Classical Studies* are pleased to devote this issue and the next to the publication of Studies in Honor of Miroslav Marcovich. There are few scholars in the world today who are as deserving of such a tribute as is Professor Marcovich. This is neither the time nor the place for a detailed disquisition intended to substantiate so sweeping an assertion, an assertion, in any event, the validity of which needs no substantiation in this place and at this time. For the readers of this journal, no less than the distinguished contributors to this and the following volume, are well aware of the enormous contribution to scholarship that Professor Marcovich has made. The extent of that contribution is apparent from the pages that follow. In the first place, the very journal in which these pages appear owes its existence to the vision and the tireless energy of Professor Marcovich, who, having founded *Illinois Classical Studies* nearly twenty years ago, has been its editor for all but five years of its distinguished existence and has made it one of the foremost classics journals in the world. In the second place, there is published below (1-17) a bibliography of Professor Marcovich's works, which supplies in abundance the evidence for this scholar's astonishing range and versatility. (It should be pointed out that compiling a list of Professor Marcovich's publications is rather like taking a census on a chinchilla farm, so rapidly do they multiply, and this list should be regarded as comprehensive only for the time of its compilation, November 1993.) Few scholars indeed have had so decisive an impact in such a variety of fields, from the study of archaic Greek poetry to Byzantine epigraphy, from the interpretation of Greek philosophy to the elucidation of the Church Fathers, from palaeography and textual criticism to the investigation of religious practices in the Graeco-Roman world. Finally, the contents of this volume bear ample witness to the influence, both personal and scholarly, that Professor Marcovich has exerted, and continues to exert. Three generations of scholars, who come from four continents and whose contributions represent many (but not all) of the fields in which Professor Marcovich has demonstrated his expertise, gratefully and affectionately pay honor to a scholar and educator who has himself taught on four continents and whose publications have enlightened and inspired all who are concerned with the classics in the broadest sense of that word.

The tribute that this and the following volume represent is only one—and not the last—of the many honors that Professor Marcovich will have

received in the course of his remarkable career. And it will be appropriate to mention at least some of those honors here, as they too attest the worldwide recognition that Professor Marcovich's teaching and scholarship have so deservedly received. In Venezuela, Professor Marcovich was twice awarded the Premio Sesquicentenario Gold Medal (1962 and 1964). In Greece, he was the recipient of the Silver Cross at Mount Athos (1963). More recently, in Israel, he was named Sackler Scholar at Tel Aviv University (1991). Finally, the awards that Professor Marcovich has received here in North America are too numerous to recount, but they include fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and from the National Endowment for the Humanities and appointments as Associate Member of the Center for Advanced Study and as Senior Scholar at the University of Illinois. And, most recently, the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois have voted to confer upon Professor Marcovich the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to be awarded in May 1994.