

NOTES AND VARIA

NECROLOGICA

In memoriam

Prof. Dr. Sven-Tage Teodorsson
born 21 January 1934, died 7
April 2024

On Sunday, 7 April 2024, we received the grievous news that our colleague and friend, Associate Professor, Hellenist, and distinguished Plutarch scholar Sven-Tage Teodorsson, passed away at the age of 90. He is survived by his life partner and wife, Birgitta.

For many years, Sven-Tage served as a teacher and researcher in Greek at the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Gothenburg. It was there, on 11 May 1974, that he defended his doctoral dissertation on the phonology of Ancient Greek. His research in this field ultimately resulted in three scholarly volumes published in the series *Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis* between 1974 and 1978: *The*



Professor Sven-Tage Teodorsson during his participation in the
7th International Congress of the IPS at Rethymno, Crete), May 5, 2005.
(Photo by Aurelio Pérez Jiménez)

Phonemic System of the Attic Dialect 400–340 B.C. (dissertation); *The Phonology of Ptolemaic Koine*; *The Phonology of Attic in the Hellenistic Period*. These works—central to our understanding of the historical sound development of Greek—continue to be cited by specialists in Ancient Greek phonology. The ability to trace the phonological evolution of a language across nearly four centuries is of immense scholarly value.

Sven-Tage's second major scholarly undertaking focused on the Greek polymath and philosopher Plutarch of Chaeronea. Between 1989 and 1996, he published his three extensive monographs on Plutarch's *Table Talks*: *A Commentary on Plutarch's Table Talks* (vols. 1–3). These commentaries, together with a substantial number of articles addressing various aspects of Plutarch's wide-ranging oeuvre, established him as an authority in the field of Plutarch studies. He was invited to, and took part in, numerous international conferences devoted to Plutarch.

Sven-Tage's profound engagement with Plutarch also led him to serve as a translator of Plutarch's works into Swedish—a significant contribution to Swedish letters. For one of these translations, he was awarded the prestigious Letterstedt Translation Prize in 2015 by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Between 2016 and 2019 the following translations were published

by the renowned Swedish publishing house Atlantis: *Pedagogik och politik* (*On Teaching and Politics*: Moralia III); *Kärlek och vänskap* (*On Love and Friendship*: Moralia I); *Levnadsråd* (*The Art of Living*: Moralia II); *Om religion* (*On Religion*: Moralia IV); *Bordssamtal* (*Table Talks*: Moralia V). In 2007, Paul Åström publishing house issued four translations by Sven-Tage on themes related to animal ethics: *Djurens rätt och veganism* (*Animal Rights and Veganism*). Ten translations of Plutarch's *Vitae parallelae* were also published in 2013 by Daidalos publishing house: *Plutarchos: Tio parallella biografier—Tema Syrakusa* (*Plutarch: Ten Parallel Lives—Focus Syracuse*). Among these *The Life of Dion* and *The Life of Brutus* were translated.

The ancient texts that Sven-Tage studied and translated reflect his enduring interest in ancient ethics and moral philosophy. Plutarch stands as a central figure in the long tradition of philosophers from Socrates onward who devoted themselves to such questions, and Sven-Tage was deeply versed in this intellectual heritage. If his research established him as an international authority on Plutarch, his translations made him an esteemed conveyer of ancient wisdom to a broad Swedish readership. His translations were consistently well received in the press and enjoyed strong sales.

As a teacher of Greek at the University of Gothenburg, Sven-Tage taught

both the Greek language and courses in his areas of expertise: Greek phonology and ancient philosophy. Among us students, it was said—half in jest—that in any of his brief survey courses in ancient philosophy one learned more than in the entire basic and intermediate curriculum in philosophy. Whether or not this was literally the case may be left unsaid; what is beyond doubt, however, is that his teaching provided us students of Greek with both depth and breadth across the many branches of Greek scholarship.

As I bring these reflections to a close, I wish to express my deep appreciation as someone who had the honour of being both a student and, in later years, a colleague of Sven-Tage. His life's work, conducted with unwavering distinction within the field of Hellenic studies, stands as a testament to his scholarly integrity and dedication. In offering these words, we honour the memory of a distinguished scholar whose unfailing kindness and encouragement touched all who had the privilege of learning from or working alongside him.

πηγή γὰρ καὶ ρίζα καλοκαγα-
θίας τὸ νομίμου τυχεῖν παιδείας
(Plutarch, *Deliberise educandis* 7)

MIKAEL JOHANSSON
Associate Professor of Greek
and Senior Lecturer at the
University of Gothenburg
mikael.johansson@sprak.gu.se

In memoriam

**Prof. em. dr. Luc Van der Stockt,
born 9 Marz 1952, died 13 May
2025**

On May 13, 2025, after a long illness, Prof. Luc Van der Stockt passed away. With him, the Greek Studies research group at KU Leuven has lost a brilliant, refined, and highly valued colleague.

Luc Van der Stockt began his career as a researcher at KU Leuven with a

