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## Pro memoria Enrique Gómez Royo

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A recently deceased Polish poet, also the priest, wrote in his poem: „Let us hurry to love people because they are leaving so quickly”. This phrase is still valid, especially in the context of the fact that on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020, one of the most outstanding Spanish Romanists and Byzantists – Enrique Gómez Royo died in Valencia. He was also a great teacher and humanists. The deceased left numerous students, significant scientific achievements and friends. His life is an example of an extremely reliable and conscientious person, completely devoted to science and to other people. In our memory will remain as a model of scientist, educator and friend. One should not forget about his contribution to the development of international contacts, including the contact with Polish universities.

Scientific career of Enrique Gómez Royo, begins in 1986, he obtained a PhD in legal sciences at University of Valencia. The subject of the doctoral dissertation was about loan agreement in the sources of Byzantine law. After obtaining the PhD, he was linked to Jaume I University since its inception; in 1987, he joined the University College of Castellón as professor of Roman Law. At this university he consolidated the first place of Full Professor as attached to the still University College in Castellón where reinforced the Roman Law studies. In 1992, it became the First Defender of the University Community, appointment that was received with enormous satisfaction by all.

During his work at Jaume I University, he brought up two contemporary Romanists – professor Carmen Lázaro Guillamón, who is currently the Vice-Rector for Culture and Interinstitutional Relations of this University and professor Amparo Montañana.

In 1997, once the area of Roman Law was consolidated at Jaume I University, Prof. Gómez Royo obtained the Chair of Roman Law at the University of

Valencia. Notwithstanding, its link with the Jaume I remained intact, continued its participation in doctorate program, in masters degrees and in specialized seminars and courses. The University of Valencia soon recognized the talents (and the spirit) out of the ordinary of Prof. Gómez Royo, being quickly chosen Defender of the University Community at this university as well, a task that he combined with the teaching and research that they encouraged him until he became Emeritus Professor of Roman Law at the University of Valencia.

Enrique Gómez Royo was primarily interested in Byzantine law and had the most publications in this area. The largest studies in this area include a study on deception in Greek and Roman law. He also linked his considerations with the analysis of the criminal system of that time.

Royo, Enrique Gómez. „Reflexiones sobre el dolo en Grecia y Roma”. *Constitución, derechos fundamentales y sistema penal:(semblanzas y estudios con motivo del setenta aniversario del profesor Tomás Salvador Vives Antón)*. Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia 2009.

Research on Byzantine law also covered the problem of loans in Byzantine law as well as he wrote an introduction to Byzantine law.

Gómez Royo, Enrique. „El mutuo en las fuentes postclásicas bizantinas”. Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia 1992.

Royo, Enrique Gómez. „Introducción al Derecho bizantino”. *Seminarios complutenses de derecho romano: revista complutense de derecho romano y tradición romanística* 8 (1996): 139–208.

Of the purely Romanist publications written by Enrique Gómez Royo, it should be mentioned those which concerned the water system and good faith.

Royo, Enrique Gómez. *El régimen de las aguas en las relaciones de vecindad en Roma*. Tirant lo Blanch, 1997.

Royo, Enrique Gómez. „Bona fides und usucapio pro herede”. *Revue internationale des droits de l'antiquité* 39 (1992): 167–184.

Devi aggiungere altre importanti pubblicazioni di Enrique.

Enrique Gómez Royo as an outstanding scientist maintained numerous contacts with foreign research institutions. Most often, he visited the Leopold-Wenger-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte of the University of Munich, where he conducted his research in cooperation, first with professor Dieter Nörr, and then with Alfons Bürge. He was also a guest at the Max Planck Institut für Europäische Rechtsgeschichte, where he conducted research in the Byzantinische Forschungsgruppe group. In Frankfurt, he collaborated with outstanding Romanists and Byzantines, including Dieter Simon and with Greek Byzantists

– Spiros Troianos. In addition, Enrique Gómez Royo collaborated with the Byzantine Law research group headed by Herman Jan Scheltema. This group operating at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands has completed a new Byzantine Law Compilation – Basilicorum Libri LX.

In his academic activity, Enrique Gómez Royo established cooperation with Polish universities. The beginning of this fruitful cooperation was the summer meetings in the Library of the University of Munich, which dates back to 1990. At that time, scientific friendship and long-term cooperation was made between professor Enrique Gómez Royo and professor Bronisław Sitek, who was then working at the Faculty of Law at the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw. Then, this cooperation was related to the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Szczecin, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn and now the University of Humanities and Social Sciences in Warsaw and the Alcide De Gasperi University of Euroregional Economy in Józefów near Warsaw. The bilateral cooperation agreements implemented under the European Erasmus program and the exchange of staff and students were the result of this cooperation. Professors such as Carmen Lázaro Guillamón, Amparo Montañana Casaní, Jaime Bonet, Jose Luis Zamora Manzano, Silvestre Bello Rodríguez and Carmen Estevan de Quesada have visited such universities many times. With the help of Enrique Gómez Royo, the lectures or the scientific inquiries were conducted, among others by Bronisław Sitek, Jakub Szczerbowski, Anna Organiściak Krzykowska, Paweł Polaczuk, Mariola Lemmonier, Magdalena Sitek and many others.

The numerous joint publications which were published in Poland or Spain are also the fruit of this cooperation. However, the series of Polish-Spanish conferences is the greatest work left after the unforgettable Enrique Gómez Royo. So far, eleven such conferences have been held, which topics covered issues related to Roman law, but also contemporary law issues. These conferences are organized alternately once in Poland and once in Spain at various universities.

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