

T HE AWARDING OF DOCTOR HONORIS
CAUSA DISTINCTION TO H.E. DR. VLADIMIR
JARMOLENKO, THE AMBASSADOR OF
LITHUANIA TO BUCHAREST

Valahia University of Târgoviște, October 8, 2010



Valahia University Rector's Address

Victor Hugo, „Mankind is not a circle with a single center but an ellipse with two focal points of which facts are one and ideas the other“
(Victor Hugo)

The awarding of the highest academic distinction to His Excellency Dr. Vladimir JARMOLENKO, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania at Bucharest, is the major event marking the beginning of a new university year.

We wanted to pay our homage to such an outstanding personality of the scientific and diplomatic world in equal measure. Mr. Ambassador proved to be, besides an excellent diplomat, an undeniable friend of our university. We cannot forget the interest and support extended whenever it was needed to the "Grigore Gafencu" Research Center for the History of International Relations and Cultural Studies and to the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies whose honorary president has become in 2008.

Nurturing the hope of a successful development of this cooperation designed to deepen mutual knowledge and the proximity between the two peoples through science, culture and traditions, I sincerely wish:

Vivat, crescat, floreat!

Professor Dr. Ion Cucui

Laudatio

One of the most original Lithuanian philosophers, Arvydas Sliogeris, approached in his works the dichotomy of *humanism* versus *hominism*. While humanism means, above all, the placing of man and human values at the head of the triangle, ethics, truth, fidelity, hominism, as Sliogeris defines it, is but the unauthentic, anonymous, uniform life, and also the aggressive, devouring, destructive attitude towards world and fellow men. According to the Lithuanian thinker, the ultimate result of hominism is represented by totalitarian ideologies and socio-political systems that destroy the human values.

In such a hominist society was Vladimir Jarmolenko born, on May 15th 1948, and his entire life and intellectual, political and diplomatic activity represented nothing but a rejection of hominism and an attempt to revive humanism. In order to better understand the aggressive hominism in his future country, Lithuania, I remind you that the same month when His Excellency saw the light of day, 40,000 Lithuanians (11,000 of which were children) were taken from their homes and deported thousands kilometres away, in sordid and cold Soviet Union; only a few of them were so fortunate as to see their native homeland again. Even the few lucky ones were often forced to live unauthentic lives, stolen from the death and despair which stalked them each step. Not even those who escaped the wave of deportation and arrests that systematically stroke the Baltic nation lived authentic lives. From this perspective, Khrushchev's thaw period did not substantially change the features of hominism, it only "modelled" its aggressiveness and used persuasiveness more widely, in order to accept it as surrogate for humanism.

Vladimir Jarmolenko refused from the very beginning to accept this malformation of the ethical values. On the contrary, the passions of the young Vladimir were theatre and poetry, which, in other words, meant authenticity, memory, cultural and spiritual heritage, values which he upheld his entire life. Although gifted with exceptional intellectual

qualities, he did not choose to transform any of those passions into a carrier, on one hand because he was aware from the very beginning of the impact that the ideology had on humanist sciences and arts, in general, and on the other hand as a consequence of the exceptional results obtained in mathematics and physics and his desire to become a researcher. Therefore, in 1966 he chose to attend the Faculty of Biophysics of the Medical Institute in Kaunas, from which he graduated six years later, in broad Brezhnevian era, a period whose symbol remained in history the insipid face and medal-covered chest of the Kremlin leader. The same year, on May 14th 1972, "the young people's rebellion" set off in Kaunas, after the 19 years old Romas Kalanta set himself on fire in front of the musical theatre of that town. Those events have certainly left their mark on the young researcher who was working at the laboratory of the Lithuanian Department of the Research Institute for Butter and Cheese of the U.S.S.R.

The remarkable professional qualities of the young specialist, imposed him to the academic community of his country and, after a deferral attributed to the inadequate "political file", they culminated with the presentation of his Doctoral thesis titled "*Research of Calcium Ions Binding to Parvalbumins by the Method of Intrinsic Protein Fluorescence*" at the Institute of Biophysics of the Academy of Sciences of U.S.S.R. After obtaining the scientific title of Doctor of Science, Vladimir Jarmolenko returned to Kaunas, where he became in 1981 the head of the research laboratory where he had worked before, and since 1983 head of the Laboratory of Scientific Research in Physics and Chemistry of the Institute of Medicine from which he graduated 11 years before. Three years later, he was promoted as leading scientific researcher, in the Department of Biochemistry. His scientific activity is very prolific. During this period, Vladimir Jarmolenko signed over 60 titles of scientific papers published in renowned scientific magazines, such as *European Journal of Biochemistry*, *Biofizika*, *Studia Biophysica*, *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*, *Biophysical Chemistry*, many of which are today Thomson ISI publications with impact factor (for example, the impact factor is 3.042 in case of *European Journal of Biochemistry*). At the same time, he is the co-author of an invention in the field of dairy products technology. Dr. Jarmolenko thus became one of the prominent science figures in Lithuania and U.S.S.R. In substance, his involvement in the research activity meant nothing else but a different way to find out the authentic, the truth and to serve the mankind.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian national renaissance movement brutally repressed in the 50's and 60's resurged the following decade by creating the "Lithuanian Helsinki Group" (1976), the "Lithuanian Liberty League", two years later, as well as the protest of Lithuanian Catholics signed by 143,869 people and handed to L. Brejnev in 1979. The wind of change had begun to blow and the Lithuanians, a hard-bitten people determined to regain their national and identity rights, was already prepared to welcome it. The coming to power of Mikhail Gorbachev and his reformation and thaw politics - a failed attempt to reconcile the opposites, to humanise the hominism - created the background which allowed the constitution, in June 3rd 1988 of the national reform movement - "Sajudis", in the month of October the return to traditional symbols and in August 23rd 1989, the denunciation of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact by means of an impressive human chain, which started from the Cathedral Square in Vilnius.

Although of Russian origin, Vladimir Jarmolenko understood and identified himself with his fellow countrymen's dream to restore the independent Lithuanian State, which was abusively dissolved in 1940 as a consequence of a pact of the great totalitarian powers of the 20th century. Remarkable intellectual of his country, His Excellency became one of the most important members of *Sajudis* movement, also being a close friend of Vytautas Landsbergis, the president of the movement and the first head of state of independent Lithuania. In 1990, Vladimir Jarmolenko became member of the Supreme

Lithuanian Council. In this capacity, His Excellency was one of the signatories of the Lithuanian Independence Restoration Act on March 11th, 1990. Thus, after half a century, the Lithuanian state was reborn and it naturally joined the European Community of democratic nations, and the prominent role of Vladimir Jarmolenko in this historic process was to mark the symbiosis of ideals of the Lithuanian majority and the Russian minority. On January 13th 1991, the young state was soon forced to give a first proof of its solidity and solidarity when it faced the attack of the Soviet troops on Vilnius, an attack which resulted in 14 people dead and 700 wounded. Those attempts were accompanied by other means of pressure, such as the cutting of gas supply and the terrorist attacks. Being there, among the founding fathers of the *Restored Lithuania*, His Excellency was the right man in the right place. His outstanding moral and professional qualities entwined with those of his nation in the fight against hominism. His tragedy and that of the generation to which he belongs was to find out that hominism is polymorph, and that the uniformity, unauthentic and oblivion stalk us at every turn.

The difficult period of the 1990's found Vladimir Jarmolenko engaged in the activity of consolidation of the Lithuanian State, as politician and member of the Conservative Party. His Excellency was three times chosen member of Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament) – in 1990, 1992 and 1996 – and he was also member of the Lithuanian state delegation for the negotiations of the retreat of the Soviet army from Lithuania, Vice President of the Lithuanian State Delegation to the N.A.T.O Parliamentary Assembly (1992-1996) and member of the Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Committees (1996-1999) of the Lithuanian legislative.

For over a decade His Excellency's concerns directed mainly towards the diplomatic activity. First, His Excellency was appointed Lithuania's Chargé d'Affaires to Brussels in 1999 and from 2001 he held the position of Minister Counsellor in the same Embassy. In 2002 followed his appointment as Minister Counsellor to the Embassy of Lithuania in Athens, which in that period was also considering representing Lithuanian interests to Bucharest.

The name of Vladimir Jarmolenko shall forever remain a landmark in the history of the Romanian-Lithuanian relations, as in 2006 he established the first Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Bucharest. On January 18th 2008, His Excellency was appointed Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of his country in Romania. The establishment of the Lithuanian Embassy in Bucharest set the tone for the evolution of the Romanian-Lithuanian relations, which after a long period of silence and rupture experienced a phase of progress. Thus, Romania was member state of the Vilnius Group, a phase prior to the integration in N.A.T.O., and Lithuania, a small, but internationally respected state, supported without reservation the accession of our country to the EU. Moreover, the historic traditions dating from the period when Lithuania – at that time a regional power of 800,000 km² – was neighbour of the medieval Moldavia, as well as the external conjuncture – both states being members of the E.U and N.A.T.O. and neighbours of the former Soviet area – made that the bilateral relation between the two nations become dynamic. The merit of Vladimir Jarmolenko for encouraging these evolutions cannot be challenged and the visits at head-of-state level between the two countries are a proof of this new reality.

Vladimir Jarmolenko did not see this diplomatic mission as a simple sinecure following a life during which he pledged his energy and devotion to his country. On the contrary, faithful to the values and culture of his country, His Excellency was quickly won and came to love and deeply know the Romanian values and culture. For that matter, His Excellency believes that we are in the same civilizational space, marked by closeness, connection and even geographic, cultural and linguistic congruencies, many of them still

unknown. Thus, it is impressive to find the delight and easiness with which he deciphers the most profound meanings of the religious medieval art of Byzantine influence. Not only the connections with the past, but also the associations of the tragic moments that the two nations experienced during the 20th century are often mentioned by His Excellency, the tragic destiny of the Romanian people in Bessarabia, Northern Bucovina and Hertsa County intertwining with that of the Lithuanian people in Kazakhstan steppes or Siberian cold. It is without any doubt our common history, that of two nations hanging in the balance of history, as the great Estonian historian *Rein Taagepera* was noticing in the World Baltic Conference in Kaunas, in 2008.

For almost two decades researcher in a field that requires acuity, analytic thinking, but also patience, Dr. Vladimir Jarmolenko thoroughly acquired the scientific methodology and knows better than anyone else that in order to evolve, at some point it is necessary to take it from the beginning. It is precisely for this reason that His Excellency is the man of the great openings, of the creative and founding visions, of the long term perspectives. The Ambassador Vladimir Jarmolenko supported the awareness of the bilateral relations, the development of cultural, scientific and artistic liaison between Lithuania and Romania. For this purpose he also saw to the founding of the *Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies*, on November 27th 2008, His Excellency becoming its honorific president. The association represents a necessary network of communication and closeness between the two counties, between the two nations and cultures, as it was proven by the activities carried out until now, of which we remind the organization of the first international conference on Baltic and Nordic studies in Romania, a high level scientific event hosted by "Valahia" University in Târgoviște (May 19th-21st 2010), which benefitted from the participation of a delegation of Lithuanian historians from Vilnius University and from the National Archives of Lithuania. We also mention amongst the activities of the Association concerning the promotion of Romanian-Lithuanian cultural dialogue the publication of a special edition of the *Romanian Magazine for Baltic and Nordic Studies* dedicated to the relations and liaisons between Romania and Lithuania in the inter-war period, the first Lithuanian exhibition varnished at National Museum Complex "Curtea Domnească" in Târgoviște by the artists Artūras Antanas Skučas and Danielius Sodlika, the celebration of the National Day of Lithuania at the Romanian National History Museum, the conference "The Annexation of Lithuania by the U.S.S.R. (1939-1940)", held by the Centre of Russian and Soviet Studies of the Romanian Academy, etc.

I already reminded His Excellency's liaison with Dâmbovița County, with Târgoviște town and "Valahia" University, liaisons which are already old, solid and productive. His Excellency's first visit to "Valahia" University in Târgoviște took place on December 12th to 13th 2007, on the occasion of the international conference "Europe as Viewed from the Margins. From World War I to Present" organized by "Grigore Gafencu" Study Centre for the History of International Relations. After that followed many visits, each more prolific, a corollary of which being the one on the occasion of the conference of May 2010, an event titled *Romania and Lithuania in the Interwar International Relations: Bonds, Intersections and Encounters*. On that occasion, an institutional collaboration agreement between the Embassy of Lithuania in Bucharest and *alma mater* of Târgoviște was signed. On that basis, a collaboration agreement is to be signed between "Valahia" University in Târgoviște and Vilnius University. These are, I believe, sufficient and solid testimonies of the friendship, consistency and energy with which His Excellency promoted and - we rest assured - shall continue to promote, both personally and institutionally the town of Târgoviște, a municipality twinned with Trakai, the historic capital of Lithuania and especially "Valahia" University in Târgoviște.

Dr. Vladimir Jarmolenko already contributes, by means of his scientific acknowledgement and political and diplomatic notoriety to strengthening the prestige of the *alma mater* of Târgoviște and of the Faculty of Humanist Sciences. In its turn, the Senate of "Valahia" University in Târgoviște has the honour and joy of solemnly awarding the Honorary Degree to His Excellency, Dr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania in Bucharest, a choice which could not be more fortunate and which I salute, as I also salute and welcome among us our honoured guest.

His Excellency illustrates in today's world the creative power of man, the humanism in its fullest meaning, the courage, erudition, memory, authenticity, paradigm and synthesis of the closeness of two nations and cultures.

Adjunct Professor Dr. Silviu Miloiu,
Valahia University of Targoviste

Reports of the Commission Appointed for Awarding the Title of Doctor Honoris Causa

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First of all, I would like to refer briefly to a certain profession and to the people who dedicated to it. It is definitely a beautiful profession, even very beautiful, but at the same time a difficult profession, even very difficult. Moreover, it is filled with responsibilities. Great responsibilities, great satisfactions even, but also disillusion, risks and threats. A profession - and I do not refrain from using yet another adjective - which is noble and gravitates between science and art. I refer to the diplomat profession.

One of the servants of this profession - I refer to Jules Cambon - admitted: "I do not know a more complex activity than the diplomat profession. In any case, there is no other profession which has less precise rules and more things based on tradition, which requires so much perseverance in order to succeed and in which the success greatly depends on hazard, in which harsh discipline is so necessary and which demands from the practitioner a character so firm and a spirit so independent".

Of the qualities of those who practice such a profession, of diplomats, Harold Nicolson, he himself a great diplomat, was writing: "These are the qualities of my ideal diplomat: truth, precision, calm, patience, good disposition, modesty and loyalty. At the same time, these are the qualities of model diplomacy. The reader could object: you omitted intelligence, culture, judgement, prudence, grace, charm, industry and tact. I did not omit them. I considered them understood".

This is the profession of Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania in Romania; these are the qualities of the diplomat Vladimir Jarmolenko.

Graduate of the Faculty of Biophysics of the Medicine Institute in Kaunas, Doctor in Biophysics, with rich scientific activity, Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko is at the same time a person deeply involved in the contemporary life of Lithuania, in solving the problems of his people and his country. During the 90's, when Lithuania's destiny was being decided and his country needed people of courage, ready to make any sacrifice, people that could grab the independence flag of this country and take it further, Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko responded affirmatively. And those who in 1989-1990 knew what had happened half a century before - true acts of international brigandage -, those who were aware of the difficulties that they have to cope with, but did not surrender to the threats of an adversary

they knew very well, whose power was simply overwhelming, but on the contrary, went forward and in the end won, those people deserve our admiration.

Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko is one of those people.

Immediately after the proclamation of sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania on March 11th, 1990, Mr. Jarmolenko got involved in the democratic reconstruction of the sovereign and independent Lithuania: member of the Parliament, member of the European Council, participant in expert capacity in the commission for regulation of certain problems with the USSR and Russia, ad-interim chargé d'affaires of Lithuania in various countries and from 2005 Minister Counsellor and from January 18th 2008 Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania in Romania.

For our University, professors and students, the award of the *Doctor Honoris Causa* Title to Mr. Ambassador Vladimir Jarmolenko honours us. We welcome Mr. Ambassador and wish him success in his endeavours to strengthen the friendship bonds, with so rich a past, between Romania and Lithuania.

Professor Dr. Ion Calafeteanu
Valahia University of Targoviste

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At the age of 62, Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko is a man fully accomplished professionally, politically and diplomatically.

Professionally he was formed and outstood in a society with high scientific valences from the former Soviet Union (USSR). Specialised in biophysics and biochemistry, with an extensive activity in scientific research in his field at the Medical Institute in Kaunas, he took doctoral classes at "Pushkino" Institute of Biophysics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The knowledge acquired he materialized it in scientific studies published in specialized magazines from Moscow and Vilnius.

The scientific accuracy marked his behaviour in the world of politics. His intellectual education gave him a sense of direction in the rush of the 90's. He became member of the Conservative Party of Lithuania (1993-1999), actively participating in the process of reconstruction of the statehood of the Republic of Lithuania.

In capacity of member of the Seim (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania, he activated in the Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Committees. Even from 1990 he was co-opted as expert in the Delegation for Negotiations between Lithuania and USSR and later on the Russian Federation. He was member of the State Delegation that negotiated the retreat of the Soviet Army from Lithuania. He was also representative of the Lithuanian Seim to the European Council in Strasbourg (1995 to 1999) and to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (from 1992 to 1999).

As from 1999, he joined the new diplomatic apparatus of his country. He carried out missions at the diplomatic representations of the Republic of Lithuania to the Kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands and to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to the Hellenic Republic and, from 2005, he has been Minister Counsellor in Bucharest. He led the diplomatic mission of his country in Romania, as Chargé d'Affairs a.i., and from January 18th 2008 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania in Bucharest.

Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko's activism stood out by the positive evolution of the cooperation relations between Romania and the Republic of Lithuania. He built and strengthened the Romanian-Lithuanian dialogue both at high level and at sectoral levels in

the economic and commercial fields. Romania and the Republic of Lithuania are today member states of the European Union and partners in NATO, which represents a solid base for beneficial cooperation in the fields of mutual interest for our countries.

It should be noted his support in establishing in Târgoviște - within *Valahia University*, of the *Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies (ARSBN)*, the honorific President of which he has been since 2008.

Knowing Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko in his diplomat capacity, I noticed in His Excellency the consistency, perseverance and loyalty with which he serves the country that he honourably represents in Romania. I noticed that the slogan which guides the Romanian diplomacy - *Semper Fidelis Patriae* - fits perfectly to His Excellency, Mr. Ambassador Vladimir Jarmolenko.

Dr. Alexandru Ghișă
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania in Romania is a most unusual personality in the rigid and complaisant background of the diplomatic world.

Far from being a simple representative of his country to Bucharest - he is the first ambassador of Lithuania, residing in Romania, almost 90 years after the mutual diplomatic recognition (1924) - Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko asserts himself by the non-conventionality of his discourse and actions. Perhaps the extraordinary climate of the resistant anti-Soviet elites, the fight without compromises through writing and words, for the freedom of his country in the 80's, under the political, military and ideological guardianship of the Red Army and of the Soviet Union gave him this aura. Or, thinking it over, it may be the influence of the ideological currents originating from the heart of the intellectuality of the "Solidarity" movement in Poland, the leaders of which, today characters in history books, were personally and ideologically close to today's Lithuanian diplomatic emissary. The complexity of an era's end - the end of the totalitarian Communist regime and of the occupation of his country by the Red Army and the personal involvement in this action - have outlined not only a man who distinguishes himself in the banality of the ordinary, but also a remarkable intellectual force, fighting for observing the historic accuracy, for understanding it, for paying homage to all those who did not hesitate to leave their comfort in view of opposing the order of the moment and cooperating for an adequate justice of the memory.

The profound respect for memory dictatorship, for human values and colloquial spirit of mutual cooperation, for the prolific dispute of ideas, the extraordinary liaisons with the political, artistic and scientific world of Lithuania placed Mr. Ambassador Vladimir Jarmolenko in the centre of attention of the diplomatic life of Bucharest and helped him create in many Romanian circles an authentic empathy for the values of his country. It is also the fundamental reason for which, on the initiative of various professors and researchers from "Valahia" University in Târgoviște, led by Univ. Conf. Dr. Silviu Miloiu, he received the presidency of honour of the *Romanian Association of Baltic and Nordic Studies*, an organization that endeavours to promote, in the Romanian space, the cultural, scientific, artistic, educational and economic values of the Scandinavian world and Baltic world. Mr. Ambassador Jarmolenko took this obligation (often regarded as a simple sinecure) very seriously and got involved in bringing to Romania and in particular to Târgoviște, numerous Lithuanian personalities, in organizing exhibitions, scientific manifestations at

academic level, in editing, within "Valahia" University, the only magazine specialised in topics inspired by the abovementioned Association from South-East European space ("Romanian Magazine of Baltic and Nordic Studies", with an issue, so far, dedicated exclusively to the Romanian-Lithuanian relationship, the first approach of this kind in the historiography of the two countries).

This is an extremely subjective insight on Mr. Ambassador's activity in connection with the University of Târgoviște and its research centre and I would like you to keep in mind the fact that the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Bucharest comprises, including its holder, only three persons.

Doctor in Natural Sciences, more precisely in biophysics, from 1980, employee of the Medical Institute of Kaunas, author of over 60 books, articles and specialty studies published in Lithuania, the former Soviet space and abroad, Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko took a personal, professional and political risk at a time when the end of the Soviet Union was not foreseeable. On March 11th 1990, he responsibly signed the *Act of Restoration of the Lithuanian State*. The independent Republic of Lithuania, emerging from the geopolitical map of Europe as a consequence of the fall of the former Russian Empire in 1917-1918, was occupied by the Red Army on Stalin's order in June 1940, a few days after the occupation in the same manner of Bessarabia, Northern Bucovina and Hertsa County, as part of the same *Secrete Additional Protocol* to the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of August 23rd 1939. The signing of the *Act* on March 11th 1990 led to military reprisals ordered and led by the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, resulting in countless civilian victims.

The civic courage, the patriotism and moral verticality of Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko have been reiterated after 1990, in his capacity of member of *Seimas* (Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania), in the period from 1990 to 1999 and especially in his capacity of member of the Lithuanian Delegation for Negotiations with the U.S.S.R., then with the Russian Federation, with regard to the retreat of the Red Army from the territory of the independent state (from 1990 to 1993). It was perhaps one of the most emotional bets won by the one who today is in the attention of "Valahia" University of Târgoviște, because the Lithuanian nation could also recognize the merit of Mr. Jarmolenko in not making any compromise in the discussions with his larger neighbours from the East and in convincing them that after half a century of illegal occupation, it was time to leave, as everyone hopes, for good. In an interview given to the Romanian press at the beginning of January 2008, the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania did resort to the barren diplomatic language and affirmed, unambiguously, that: "*We wish Moscow would recognize the fact that the occupation of this state was one of its biggest mistakes, a serious crime and would be willing to solve the problem peacefully. We believe that it high time for Russia to speak to us of the recognition of the crimes and of compensations. It is absolutely necessary to agree on the manner in which Stalinism is perceived in history*" ("*Cotidianul*", nr. 4964, January 21st 2008).

In 1999 Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko began a prodigious diplomatic carrier in capacity of Chargé d'Affairs (1999 to 2001), the Minister Counsellor (2001 to 2002) of the Republic of Lithuania to Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Then, followed the diplomatic mission to Greece (2002 to 2005) and in November 2005 began His Excellency's extraordinary adventure with Romania.

He laid the actual foundations of the first Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Bucharest, which he has been leading in capacity of Chargé d'Affairs (2006 to 2008), then as Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary (as from January 18th 2008). Many times in the discussions we had with His Excellency, we noticed solemn words, which seemed charged with a religious aura, acknowledging the chance that the life gave to him to establish the first Lithuanian diplomatic residency on Romanian soil.

His profound friendship for the Romanian space was proven by countless actions of Mr. Ambassador Jarmolenko, by the intellectual curiosity with which he promotes the values of the country in which he acts as representative, by the relationships that he succeeded to establish, without false official attitudes, with many remarkable names of the academic, artistic, social and political circles. The repeated visits to Târgoviște, often in the space of "Valahia" University, and numerous projects initiated here, immediately qualifies him as a friend of these lands. A single personal remark should be made in this extremely official occasion: it should be reminded the unstoppable enthusiasm with which His Excellency supported the launching of a unique project in Romania, hosted by the University of Târgoviște, with regard to the institutionalization of the research of the relations between the Scandinavian, Baltic and South-East European spaces.

Perhaps later, persuaded by friends or collaborators, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko will write and publish his memoirs, in which, rest assured, Romania and Târgoviște have a place of their own, including as regards his personal relations.

The Senate of "Valahia" University, by considering awarding the *Doctor Honoris Causa* Title to Mr. Ambassador Vladimir Jarmolenko, makes a gesture of extraordinary academic quality, acknowledging the merits of a personality who did not spare time and personal energy to promote Romania, Târgoviște, people and known projects.

To this effect, I am honoured to recommend the high academic forum to positively analyse the award of the *Doctor Honoris Causa* Title to His Excellency, Mr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania in Romania.

Adjunct Professor Dr. Florin Anghel,
"Ovidius" University of Constanta

Discourse on the occasion of receiving the title of Doctor Honoris Causa

Honourable Professors, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and gentlemen, Dear friends,

I would like to start by thanking Rector Ion CUCUI for the warm welcome.

I express my gratitude to the Senate of "Valahia" University of Târgoviște for granting me this Doctor Honoris Causa title.

This is an exclusive honour for me.

I am a diplomat, a former politician and a scientist in the field of biophysics. I haven't done any research for the last 20 years, since the communist regime in my country fell and Lithuania opened towards democracy and modernization, after our revolution called the "Singing Revolution". Consequently I've decided to dedicate my activity to rebuild the new Lithuania, for the moment of independence reestablishment is an amazing social and political process and experience.

After 20 years, fundamental changes took place in our countries, some are good, and some are probably less good. In the present context of the EU and NATO membership we are moving towards better understanding of our own identity and of our common European history.

I am not a historian, but during these five years that I have spent in Romania, it was interesting for me to try to better know the country, its people, and especially its history.

I was lucky to meet people in love with Romania and some of that work at your university, and by this I'm referring to the group of people working with Prof. Silviu Miloiu.

During my five-year stay in Romania, I have been attracted to historical issues, especially knowing that for a very long time there were no ties between Romanian and Lithuanian historians. There are still many historical and diplomatic issues to be discovered in our common history. Therefore, I slowly turned to "history investigations", trying to figure out some details of the interwar period, or some other connections that existed during the Middle Ages.

I would like to point out several ideas from our discussions with Dr. Silviu Miloiu and his colleagues about methodology, models, questions, about not finding the right steps or about the specific role and responsibilities historians have.

Methodology: The main methodology applied in case of any research consists in the ability to ask the right question. It often happens that a "yes" or a "no" answer puts an end to the research process. That is why the answers containing "or" are much more interesting for researchers because they force one to formulate the subsequent question in order to continue the research process.

Models: Any research is based on the model chosen by the researcher. There are two rules:

- The model you choose is the best one for the time being so that one can understand the researched question;
- Forget your model; it is not right in case it does not completely describe the researched question. You have to create a new model, as if this researched question were much more interesting and complicated.

Historians: I consider that historians, as they are a special category of researchers, have to be correct, as a witness in the court of law is. The History judges the Past, and they are the ones who present evidence before the court. Once I read a saying by Leonardo da Vinci, who said that:

There are three classes of people:

- *those who see;*
- *those who see when they are shown;*
- *those who do not see.*

Therefore, I consider that the most important thing is to look and to see, to see and to be able to do.

I'm glad that here in Romania there are historians due to whose efforts we will find out more information about "the forgotten pages" of our history.

Lithuania has a long and complex history, lasting over a millennium, and in 2009 we celebrated 1000 years since its first mentioning in the chronicles. It is a country which regained independence on March 11, 1990 and this has a very special meaning for us. After fifty years of captivity behind the Iron Curtain, which held us isolated from all that the democratic world holds dear, our independence is

a solid one and it turned out to be an irreversible reality. During the twenty years since the historic Baltic Way, in which Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians joined their hands to show the world their political will to restore independence and statehood, we have built a modern state.

At the same time, we also take a deeper look into our past, in all its complexity. It is a source of wisdom and inspiration. It determines the strength of one's national identity.

After fifty years of ignorance under the Soviet regime, we have opened up to the common understanding of our roots and our common history.

The idea I want to point out here is that there are many issues in our common history I would like to focus on research projects, to discover and write about.

I highly recommend exploring the possibilities offered by the **linguistic analysis and research** of toponyms and hidronyms for the discovery of historical facts. From time to time I identify similar words, names in Romanian and Lithuanian. And that makes me curious about the historical explanation of all these facts.

I would give here only one example, that of the Romanian toponym "Pașaga de Sus", or "Pașaga de Jos". What does this mean in Romanian? It means nothing – *nimic* (Rom.)...

Translated from the Lithuanian language, "pasaga" means "horse shoe" / "potcoavă". There are many Romanian toponyms that have Slavic roots, yet it's not clear whether this is just a coincidence or an ancient artefact. Maybe there are more such words, transparent toponyms and hidronyms. But in order to find answers to these questions one should make serious linguistic researches. I hope this work will be done.

When speaking about **Middle Ages** we have more evidence of interference between the histories of our countries. First of all, the Great Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish Kingdom were on the Northern border of Walachia and Moldavia. During that period both our states were interested in consolidating their power, in self-determination and in increasing their influence in Europe.

First contacts we found are related to **Iugo Coriatici** (*Югус Каруотас*), one of the sons of Gediminas, Grand Duke of Lithuania. Iugo (Jugo) has been the ruler of the Moldavian State for about one year.

The information about him is poor and not clear enough.

Karijotas or **Koriat** (baptized Michal), Gediminas' son, deceased between 1358 and 1363, was the Duke of Navahrudak and Vaūkavysk. What does his name mean?

Кариот, Карыят, Karijotas - the word comes from- karia (Prusian.) - army, karas (Lt.) - war. Kar (warrior)- jot (joti) - to ride. Karijotas means - rider, (military) horseman.

Iuga Koriatovici (Christian name - Gheorghe), Iurg or Iurie in Romanian, Yury in Ruthenian, Jerzy in Polish; patronymic - Koriatovich in Ruthenian, Koriatowicz in Polish; by name Ologul ("the Limp").

Juga was a Ruthenian Prince of Podolia, son of Koriat (Brother of Grand Duke of Lithuania Algirdas) and grandson of the Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas. He was Voivod (Prince) of Moldavia from 1374 to 1377, and again between November 1399 and June 1400.

He ascended to the throne for a second time, after he renewed conflicts between pretenders and with the support of his cousin Švitrigaila (brother of Moldavia's overlord, Wladislaus II of Poland) and Vytautas the Great of Lithuania. His rule was ended by the military intervention of Wallachians under Prince Mircea cel Bătrân that set Iuga's son-in-law, Alexandru cel Bun, on the throne.

Iuga died in Moldavia, and was buried at a monastery in Vaslui. According to other sources, Iuga was poisoned soon after accepting the proposal of Alexandru cel Bun to become the ruler of Moldavia.

It would be interesting to find out which are the historical data available in Romania. There may be some in Hurmuzaki collection, or in the Romanian archives that were taken out to Russia.

We don't have clear answers yet. *It is a research issue.*

Starting with the 14th century, there was a strong influence of the **Great Duchy of Lithuania** and later on of the Lithuanian – Polish Union over Moldavia. In the second half of the 15th century, treaties were signed between Stefan the Great, head of Moldavia, and Cazimir the IVth , the Grand Duke of Lithuania.

Then there was **Stefan Bathory**, Prince of Transylvania, who became King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He is the one who founded **Vilnius University** in 1579.

There are a lot of proper questions for future investigations.

After World War I, our nations resumed diplomatic relations. Both countries started to be diplomatically represented, thus from Prague for Lithuania, by Dovas Zaunis since 1924 and later on and since 1935 until the Soviet occupation, by Edvardas Turauskas, and from Riga for Romania, by Constantin Valimarescu, starting with 1935.

The diplomatic relations between Romania and Lithuania were interrupted after the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed. Lithuania disappeared from the map of Europe. The Pact determined the course of events in the European history for the following years.

On August 23 and September 28, 1939, Nazi Germany and USSR signed two secret protocols that determined Lithuania's fate for the next 50 years. The names of our countries – Romania and Lithuania, were unfortunately included in the short text of the secret Protocol attached to the Treaty. As such, the 1st article of the secret protocol mentions that "in the event of a territorial and political rearrangement in the areas belonging to the Baltic States (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)", the northern boundary of Lithuania shall represent the boundary of the spheres of influence of Germany and USSR. The 3rd article mentions that "with regards to South-Eastern Europe, attention is called by the Soviet side to its interest in Bessarabia. The German side declares its complete political lack of interest in these areas".

In June 1940 the three Baltic States and a part of Romania were directly occupied and enclosed by the Soviet Union.

Stalin approached in a "creative" way the Nazi concept of *Anschluss*, a methodology used in case of Austria as well. Afterwards, the methodology of organising so-called free elections and forming democratic governments was applied with regards to the Baltic States. After World War II, this model was used for "popular democracies".

Veaceslav Molotov was trying to fool the others when saying that "Any imperialist country would simply occupy Lithuania and that would be that. Unlike us. We wouldn't be Bolsheviks if we didn't search for new ways..."¹

Bolsheviks do it other way.

Afterwards "our" History has kept quiet about this agreement for 50 years. The occupation was officially recognized as a crime and the "disappeared" Lithuania comes back on the map of Europe and of the world. Fortunately, the History cannot be forced to keep silent or to tell lies for a long period of time.

It took us 20 more years after our Revolutions to establish first contacts between the historians of our countries, and that is due to Dr. Silviu Miloiu.

Therefore, the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies was established in 2008, along with a group of hard working young Romanian historians. In May, 2010, the First International Lithuanian - Romanian Conference in your University was organized at your university.

Medals and orders: Another issue of interest for me and which I hope will be focused on by historians is that of medals. In the interwar period both Romanian high officials were offered Lithuanian medals, and Lithuanian ones received Romanian orders.

Nicolae Iorga, Prince Dimitrie Ghica, Romanian Minister F.A., George Mironesco, Prime Minister of Romania and Min. F.A., George Tasca - Romanian Ambassador in Berlin; Mr. Aurelian, Cons. of the Romanian Embassy in Berlin, Vasile Stoica, Georges TASCAS, Ambassador in Berlin, Constantin VALLIMARESCO, Ambassador to Lithuania, Georges AURELIAN, Counsellor of the Romanian Embassy in Berlin, Theodore SCORTZESCO, Counsellor of the Embassy.

My interest related to this issue is to find out as much as possible about these orders, to see which of them still exist and to at least take some photos with them.

Some documents about the 1931's awarding were preserved in the Archives. I suppose they kept the rest of the documents and orders for themselves. Yet, I hope they will be found. In the same letter it is mentioned that the above-listed people did not receive the certificates for their medals. I doubt the necessary documents were not forwarded to the Romanian citizens. More data should be found in the Romanian Archives.

¹ „Lithuania and the Soviet Union 1939-1940: the fateful year. Memoirs by Juozas Urbšys“, *Lituanus. Lithuanian Quarterly Journal of Arts and Sciences* 34, No. 2 (Summer 1989), at http://www.lituanus.org/1989/89_2_03.htm

Terminology

I would like to mention that in chemistry, biochemistry and in molecular biology there are such concepts as **catalyst** and **inhibitor**. Don't worry, these are very simple concepts and I will not go deeper. I hope to play the role of catalyst in Romania and that we will be able to move the cognition paradigm to the right direction.

I hope that in the future we will successfully pass from false cognition to the true cognition, which brings out the subsequent questions the researchers could focus on, for the sake of true facts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to say that quite many things have been accomplished and that there are plans for the publishing of the first "History of Lithuania" in Romanian language, as well as a volume of Romanian and Lithuanian diplomatic documents. In May our Embassy signed the Memorandum of Understanding with your university. A similar Memorandum between the Faculty of History within the Vilnius University and the Faculty of Humanistic Sciences within the "Valahia" University will follow.

Considering that there are many unexplored pages of our common history and diplomatic relations, I express the hope that there will be a high interest in researching those issues, in finding out means of collaboration and making them work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As human beings, we all carry the past in our genes, in our DNA. History and memories are still in us.

Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Prize winner of Romanian origin, conveys the same idea in a more beautiful way:

"There is divine beauty in learning... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps. The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you."

Ladies and gentlemen,

In my family we have this joke. When looking at a hill, a bank of a river or a city, we use to say: "There is a thick cultural layer. We need to dig there." I say the same about the history of Romania and Lithuania, namely that **we have to dig here**.

Дай-то Бог! Doamne-ajută!

Thank you for your attention and for this title of honour you awarded me today.

Dr. Vladimir Jarmolenko,
Ambassador of Lithuania