



Professor Eduard Kolchinsky with the Rector (far right), Vice-Rector (far left) and Professor Aleksandar Petrovic (left) in the Rector's office of the University of Kragujevac, Serbia, 2008

Zubr of the History of Biology in Russia to Eduard I. Kolchinsky on his 70th Birthday

I am deeply grateful to Eduard *Israilewitsch* with whom I have corresponded since 1997. We first met during a conference of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie (DGGTB)* in Tübingen. Some months earlier, I had finished my PhD thesis on Gerhard Heberer (1901–1973) and in Tübingen we discussed some historical problems in the development of the Synthetic Theory of Evolution (STE), one of Eduard's special topics. Later we organized an annual meeting in his office in St. Petersburg, *universitetskaja nab. 5*. Our first co-authored paper was published in 2000 on the STE (Hoßfeld et al., 2000), and the latest collaborative work with Eduard was our multi-author book *Evoluzionnyj Sintez: granizy, perspektivy, alternativy* (Levit et al., 2013). During this time I had the opportunity to publish (together with other German colleagues) different papers in his series, such as *Na perelomje: Otechestvennaya nauka v pervoi polovine XX veka, Russko-nemeckije svjazi v biologii i medicine I–IV* or *Evolucionnaja biologija*. Our last common publication dated from his famous monograph on *Создатели современного эволюционного синтеза. коллективная монография* (Kolchinsky, Hoßfeld, 2012).

Eduard has always been eager to discuss scientific problems with anybody, whether an experienced colleague or a hesitant graduate student. He also answers enquiries without delay and promptly reviews manuscripts in detail for friends, students and journal editors and supports young colleagues in Russia, Germany etc.



During a conference at the Humboldt university in Berlin (1999)



During a meeting in 2000 at Akademia nauk, Universitetskaja nab. 5

His contributions will continue to spawn discussions among biologists, historians and philosophers of biology worldwide (Kolchinsky 2006a, 2006b). I have called him, in the tradition of Nikolaj V. Timofeff-Ressovsky, the “Zubr” of the History of Biology tradition in Russia (Granin, 1988).

All the best to you Eduard on your birthday. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck, health and joy because you deserve it. May all of your dreams come true, and please stay the way you are because you are greatly appreciated.

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Celebrating the Birthday of our Editor-in-Chief

ON BEHALF OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Eduard I. Kolchinsky, Editor-in-Chief of the *Studies in the History of Biology* and director of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, will celebrate a remarkable 70 years, most of them devoted to the history of science and history of biology and our Institute. Colleagues and friends of Eduard Kolchinsky would not want to miss this event. Letters and congratulations received by the Editorial Staff will be published in the pages of our Journal, a project that has been guided and inspired by our hero of the hour.

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