

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Dr. Georgi G. Markov

On 12.9.2020 in New York passed away Prof. Dr. Georgi G. Markov, born on 13.4.1924 in Pleven.

Prof. Dr. G. Markov is known as a cytologist and molecular biologist, one of the founders of the Institute of Molecular Biology of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. However, he has an outstanding contribution to the Bulgarian anthropology.

After the death of his uncle Acad. Methody Popov in 1954, Georgi Markov took the task to arrange and systematize the anthropological materials collected by Methody Popov during 1937-1943 that survived the bombing of Sofia. Professor Markov got responsibility to process them and on the base of the primary notes of M. Popov to write a coherent text and to publish it. This was not an easy task because these materials were very vast (data for 5759 men and 2160 women in a period when modern computer



technology did not exist) and because in this period Acad. M. Popov was an object of attacks because of political reasons for not accepting Michurin-Lysenko's biology.

The result of this work was "Anthropology of Bulgarian people" (published in 1959 by authors M. Popov and G. Markov) – a fundamental work, giving anthropological characterization of Bulgarians born around 1920s before the great migrations on national, regional and even on county level. The data included in this book are still a base for comparison with other anthropological studies and an object of analysis with modern statistical methods. There is no other study in the field of ethnic anthropology in Bulgaria like that by M. Popov and G. Markov.

In the following years G. Markov worked in the field of cytology and of molecular biology. But he never forgot anthropology and he supported publication of materials of the National Anthropologic Program in the beginning of 2000s.

Rest in peace!

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