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Co-author's Memento

A prolific author, former government and IMF official, respected professor, an authority on transition economics and an experienced economist, an extraordinary human being. All of this can be attributed to Oleh but it would still fall far short of the great memories that we hold of him and what he meant to those who had the honour to know him personally. I can still see him, his blue eyes gazing at the text in front of him, analysing material for our book, then immediately smiling and providing real-life anecdotes related to that particular topic. Somehow, in his special manner, he always managed to provide feedback that would galvanize your brain into action. His questions were to the point, his suggestions relevant, his approach friendly. I guess the eyeglass chains did the trick: from a serious professor, he could turn into a warm human being in no time, very attentive and especially trying to encourage junior researchers to walk that extra mile to get the best out of their papers.

I rarely meet economists like him nowadays. Although he had very broad interests and could talk about virtually any topic, he never lost sight of the forest because there were too many trees. He was not the sort of mission chief who would visit a country to produce a report and remain buried in official meetings or in his hotel room. Chatting, listening to informal views, all of this made up for the missing data points, which made his output reliable and robust. His economic wisdom was drawing on reality checks and one could always rely on his hunch on what data would best capture the observations at hand.

As soon as one book was ready to be published, he would begin to work relentlessly on the next one, always keeping track on what needed to be done and keeping an eye on deadlines. His mind could not stand still, his ideas immediately turned into action. The inspiration for our first joint book was conceived as we enjoyed a pleasant and inquisitive chat about the possible origins of Ragusa's historical power. Thousands of working and travelling hours later (oh yes, he even dived into the Archives of the Dubrovnik Institute for Historical Sciences) there it was, our own contribution to unveiling a part of Europe's economic history. Numerous joint presentations of that work allowed me to enjoy his enthusiastic approach and to appreciate evermore the ease and patience that were characteristic for his way of doing things. Our second book remains a sketch on paper, an outline of our exchange, albeit Oleh - goal oriented and determined as he was - probably already had a cover page photo in mind.

Being born in Ukraine, having lived in South America in his formative years, afterwards living in the US and then settling down in Canada, he was a true citizen of the world. One could recognise his "multi-culti" life in his linguistic skills and his ability to adapt to any situation or conversation. But his amazing personality was most obvious in the breadth of his interests, his love for mankind and the sound of his

smile. His dignified appearance was surpassed only by his vast Slavic soul - which will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him.