

CURIERUL ROMÂNESC

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SILVIA CONSTANTINESCU

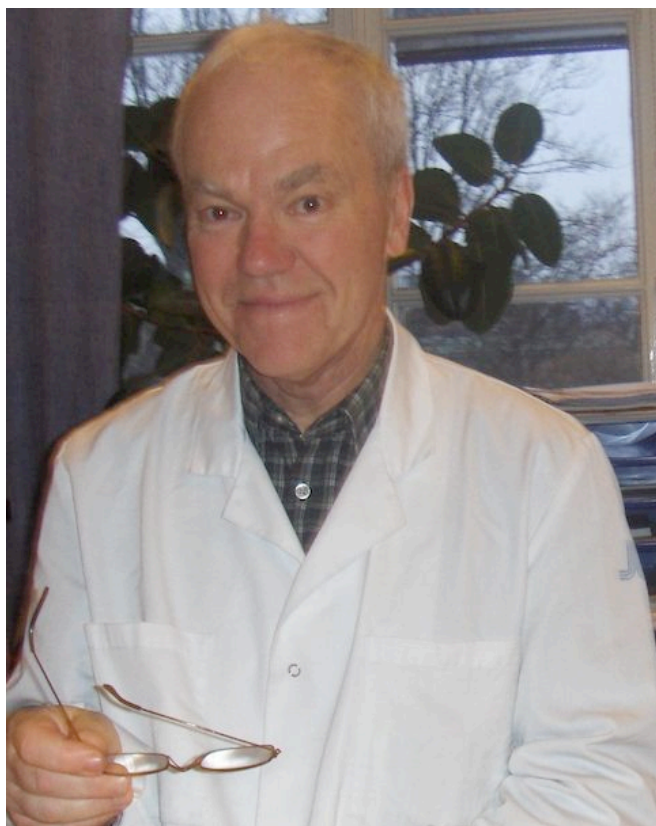
Chief Editor

THE TRUE HEROES OF OUR TIME

During the 30 years of existence of the magazine CURIERUL ROMÂNESC (THE ROMANIAN COURIER), I have been interested to meet and to have interviews with personalities, "people with power", people who through their actions have changed, or have influenced the destiny of a collectivity, or of a nation. I was not interested in first place if they had the same political or social views as I had, but what made possible that they arrived to decide over others' life. Do they have inborn qualities which raise them over the "common people", or are they just the result of some circumstances? What in the way to behave of these "people with power" – presidents of states, prime-ministers, leader of political parties, leaders of international organizations - fills with enthusiasm other people, who follow them, and who, by that, invest them with power, and consolidate their power? In a kind of journalistic blindness, I avoided to introduce to our readers "the common people" I met every day. However, the experience from the last years made me to understand that, in fact, there are not the presidents of states, the prime-ministers, the leaders of political parties, or the leaders of international organizations who influence our everyday life, that not the "people with power" are they who make our life more pleasant, or a nightmare. During the last years, since I am traveling between two worlds – Stockholm, Sweden, and Houston, Texas – I have realized, once more, that our everyday life is influenced, is marked by the officers we meet every day in different governmental or local institutions, by the people working in hospitals, or in banks, by people we meet when shopping, in stores, etc. I did understand, once more, that the intelligence, the professionalism, the self-abnegation, the honesty, the skill, the kindness, the consideration given to our fellow men, as well as the stupidity, the badness, the lack of honesty and consideration to them around us, are not the monopoly neither of one nation, nor of one particular skin color, nor of one particular religion. I have decided to introduce to you people I have met, who have impressed me by their professionalism, honesty, and self-abnegation with which they accomplish their everyday work, without magniloquence, with respect for them self, and consequently for people around them. Them I wish to bring my appreciation, and my gratitude, because they are the true heroes of our time, they are they who make our life to be happy, or a nightmare.

Silvia Constantinescu.

Dr. Dan von Zweigbergk, a professional with much humor!



Dr. Dan von Zweigbergk,
Specialist, internal and general medicine.
Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

When we have some health issues, we wish to meet the best doctor in the world, who shall be a good diagnostician, a good psychologist, and, why not, with much humor too. No very often I met doctors to have almost two of the qualities I consider essential for the medical profession, and mostly for the patient. However, when one have the chance to find a doctor having almost a grain of humor, then one have to consider one self as a lucky person! 8

The ladies from Swedbank: SONJA CARLSSON, MARINA VALÉN & KARIN KITTILSEN.



Sonja Carlsson, a personal banker.
Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

I have met "the angel ladies" from Swedbank, Sonja Carlsson, Marina Valén, and Karin Kittilsen, in 2001, when Huddinge municipality made possible for several hundreds of its inhabitants to become "millionaires". What was all about? In the beginning of 1980's Huddinge municipality had built a lot of townhouses to be sold to the public, with profit to budget of this municipality. However, this plan did not go as it was expected, so the most of the townhouses remained unsold. Because of that, Huddinge municipality had to rent these townhouses to people soliciting apartments for rent. However, in time the costs to maintain these rental townhouses became too big for the municipality. By law, the landlord has to deliver the apartment for rent clean, and with fixtures and appliances in good shape. 8