

### 70 th anniversary of the birth of RNDr. Bartolomej Leško, DrSc.

Dr. Bartolomej Leško, outstanding Slovak geologist, celebrated his 70th life jubilee on June 3rd, 1988.

The start of Dr. Leško's scientific-research activity falls within the first post-war years and is linked up with the research of the Flysh Carpathians in Eastern Slovakia. He investigated and thoroughly mapped the northeastern part of Slovakia, the area virtually unstudied ever before, and thus he managed to fill the gap in geological view of the whole area of the Flysh Carpathians. He described the geological conditions and relationships of the Dukla and Magura units from lithologic-stratigraphical and tectonic points of view. Dr. Leško also pointed to mutual penetration of the developmental features of the lithological groups and their stratigraphic equivalents in the Miková-Snina belt tectonic unit.

In cooperation with professor M. Ksiazkiewicz, he proved the occurrence of the Upper Eocene orogeny in the Pieniny nappe belt and in the Magura flysch belt which led to the deposition of the Menilitic-Krosno group in the East Carpathians of Slovakia from the Dukla unit towards the southern margin of the nappe belt on one hand, and to the polytectonic style of both belts on the other.

After the federalization of the Czechoslovak geological service in 1969 and the establishment of the supreme geological institution of Slovakia — the Slovak Geological Office — Dr. Leško became the director of the Department of Geological Prospects on the Slovak territory. Together with Ing. Ján Slávik, DrSc. he worked out and managed the project verifying Slovakia's raw material base.

The research was designed to analyze the geological conditions of the West Carpathians also from the viewpoint of possible occurrence of natural hydrocarbons. In 1972, after leaving the Slovak Geological Office for the Geological Institute of D. Štúr in Bratislava, Dr. Leško successfully started on this research

in the framework of the state project "Investigation of deep-seated structures of the West Carpathians with respect to oil and natural gas reserves". For this uneasy scientific work he managed to enlist a help of a team of experts from related institutes of the whole C. S. S. R., Geofyzika, n. e., and from the Geological exploration organizations of the oil industry.

The work at the project, conceived and carried out in a methodically complex manner, took more than 10 years. It brought a reversal view of the genesis of the West Carpathians and, accordingly, of its oil and natural gas reserves in extra-Tertiary regions.

In C. S. S. R. Dr. Leško and Dr. Varga (1980) were the first who distinguished the tectonic-lithological elements of the south continental geosynclinal provenience from those of the eugeosynclinal provenience with oceanic features of the Earth's crust, which were defined by him and by B. Beránek (1980) as a system of nappes, the upper part of the crust which during the Carpathian orogeny was thrust over the North European continent — the platform. This is Dr. Leško's merit in the field of theory.

Many papers of Dr. Leško have been presented in geological periodicals at home and particularly abroad, his lectures have always been a contribution to many geological and oil-geological sessions. To mention a few, he gave lectures at the Scientific conference on oil held in the Soviet Union (Lvov 1976), in Kraków first at the Geophysical Symposium in 1979 and three years later on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Kraków University, at the International Geological Congress in Paris (1980), during his study stays in the British Petroleum and Petro-Canada in Calgary (1982) etc. In this way Dr. Leško has popularized the results of geological research into the West Carpathians as part of the Alpine-Carpathian system on the international platform.

Dr. Leško has extended his geological knowledge at home and abroad, during the study stays. We should mention his close contacts with the Kraków Geological Institute at which the School of sedimentology of the Carpathian Flysh was found with Prof. M. Ksiazkiewicz as its director. He repeatedly visited the Institute of Mineral Raw Materials at the Ukrainian Academy and the Geological Institute of the Ministry of Geology of the U. S. S. R. (UkrNIgRI) in Lvov. The geological erudition of Dr. Leško was influenced also by long-term study stays in France, Switzerland and Italy where he had the opportunity to study the geological structure of the Western Alps in connection with the geological conditions of the Eastern Alps and the West Carpathians immediately in the field. As regards the oil problems, his stays in the Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology in Canada (Calgary), the oil companies Petro-Canada and British Petroleum (Calgary) were the most valuable.

Whatever exploration branch was, he successively associated with due to various organization measures either in the sphere of geology, mining, or building, it was the geological attitude to natural conditions aimed at their exploitation by the national economy that has always dominated.

In the years 1959—1961 he helped the nascent Slovak ceramic industry by assembling and prospecting for a palette of raw materials for manufacturing floor and wall tiles and the industrial stoneware (Michalovce, Tomášovce) and perlite. Later on, as an employee of the Geological Exploration in Žilina and Spišská Nová Ves, he gained recognition for the application of geological conditions in the construction of waterworks on the Ondava (Domáša), Cirocha (Starina), Váh (Sered — Králová). He also participated in the seismic research performed on the area with a planned construction of the waterwork Gabčíkovo.

Dr. Leško's scientific contribution to the sphere of geology of the West Carpathians was appreciated also by foreign geological societies. In 1973 he became the member of the Geological Association of Italy (SIMP), in 1979 the member of honour of Polskie Towarzystwo Geologiczne (Warszawa — Kraków), and finally also the member of honour of the Slovak Geological Society in 1985.

His friends and all the geological community highly appreciate the life-long work of RNDr. Bartolomej Leško, DrSc. and wish him good health for the years to come, many further scientific achievements and success in personal life.

### K sedemdesiatinám RNDr. Bartolomeja Leška, DrSc.

Vedeckovýskumnú činnosť dr. B. Leška sme hodnotili pri jeho 60. narodeninách v časopise *Mineralia slovaca* č. 4, 1978, 379—380, preto na tomto mieste spomieneme iba významnejšie príspevky jubilanta k rozvoju československej geológie za ostatných desaťrokov.

Do výskumu prírodných uhlívodíkov sa zapojil predovšetkým úspešným vedením a metodickým riešením štátnej úlohy „Výskum hlubokých štruktúr Západných Karpát s ohľadom na výskyt ropy a zemného plynu“. Na základe výsledkov geofyzikálneho výskumu a hlubokého vrtného výskumu a prieskumu sa komplexne riešila genéza stavby Západných Karpát, a tým aj ich surovinový potenciál, predovšetkým ropy a zemného plynu.

V teoretickej oblasti jubilant ako prvý v spolupráci s I. Vargom (1980) rozlíšil tektonicko-litológické prvky juhokontinentálnej geosynklinálnej provenienčie od prvkov eugeosynklinálnej provenienčie s oceánskymi črtami zemskej kôry. S B. Beránkom (1980) tieto tektonicko-litológické prvky definoval ako prikrovový systém vrchnej časti kôry, ktorá bola počas karpatských orogénov naložená na severoeurópsky kontinent — platiformu.

Jubilant aj nadálej pokračuje vo vedeckej činnosti riešením hlbinej stavby Západných Karpát v úzkej spolupráci predovšetkým s geológmi a geofyzikmi Geofyziky, š. p., Brno.

Slovenská geologická verejnosť mu želá mnoho zdravia a veľa ďalších osobných a pracovných úspechov.

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