

JUBILEE OF RNDr. ING. JÁN KANTOR, CSc.



It became my lot to stop at one of the outstanding Slovak geologists — at RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc., leading scientific worker of Dionýz Štúr Geological Institute in Bratislava on the occasion of his life jubilee — the sixtieth birthday. Ján Kantor — an outstanding personality of Slovak and Czechoslovak geology, is well-known for his pioneer works in several spheres of geology in Czechoslovakia.

RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. was born on March 3, 1921 in Poprad in numerous worker's family. The family circle and rough nature below Tatras formed his modest and quiet character what is proper to him up to now. He, who knows Ján Kantor closely, finds him to be a good-nature, friendly and frank man, though he seems to be reserved at first sight. It is said that value of a man is measured according to how many duties he takes voluntarily upon him. And Ján Kantor

took upon him duties from sphere of science and acquaintance of new, undiscovered exceedingly. He has devoted his whole productive life till now liberally to systematic and intensive scientific work. It is typical of his nature to do something highly topical, new and useful for the society and for his own contentment. His range of action in the scientific work is admirable. He wasn't afraid of the fact he would solve the chosen problems himself. He looked just for such problems, solving of which would push a bar of knowledge always higher and which was "terra incognita" in geology.

RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. has been acquainted with "his" branch of mining aimed at geology as early as at real secondary school in Kežmarok. So after school-leaving examination he left for Bratislava to study mining engineering where he passed the first two basic years. He attended the upper years in Ostrava where he finished his studies at Mining University. Interest in geology lead Ján Kantor to enrol at the Natural Sciences Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava, where he extended and completed his knowledge of geology and he was awarded a degree RNDr.

RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. felt by his thinker's nature that new discoveries and realization of brave plans are possible only on the basis of new methods

and these are often more important than new theories. Therefore he devoted himself with strong ardour to building of laboratory units, particularly the specific ones at Dionýz Štúr Geological Institute in Bratislava. It may be said that this work became not only his life mission, profession, but even his internal need — hobby. He learned actively several world languages what provided him an access to professional foreign literature, as well as to contacts with foreign partners. Thus Ján Kantor could grow up on scientific level and proceed quicker in acquiring necessary experience. He verified his theoretical knowledge by field work which had to be realized quickly in order to renew mining in Slovakia destroyed by war. He was co-ordinator of research works in the southern part of Spišsko-gemerské rudohorie Mts. where he had an opportunity to make acquaintance with problems of geological situation and deposits in this region.

The first Kantor's works are of metallogenetic character: study of copper ores at Kvetnica where he was the first in Slovakia to use method of ore microscopy, along with O. Fusán and J. Bystričný discovery of new type of sedimentary iron ores in Spišsko-gemerské rudohorie Mts., wolfram (ferberite) mineralization in Spišská baňa, study of ore-bearing sulpho-bacteria in various geological formations and subsequent discovery of "ore-bearing" bacteria in pyrite-polymetallic deposit Alžbeta in Bystrý Potok at Svedlár, etc.

From the most important Ján Kantor's successes representing a direct help to national economy it is a discovery of magnesite deposit in Podrečany together with geophysicist academician T. Kolbenhayer for which he was awarded Kl. Gottwald's prize in 1954. Kantor's petrographic works to which he devoted himself too (diabases from southern Slovakian Mesozoic, serpentinites from Spišsko-gemerské rudohorie Mts.) are of basic importance.

In his further activity RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. aims himself at one of the most important problems in geology — at geochronologic dating and nuclear geology. This activity of him is really pioneer one not only in Slovakia but in whole CSSR. Dating of lepidolites by means of spectral Rb/Sr — method (along with G. Kupčo) was his first work of this kind. I shall not analyse in detail what has Ján Kantor embodied and solved further. J. Kantor published majority of solved problems or they are kept in archives in numerous reports. It is evident from numerous published works that RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. made contribution to development of geological sciences in Slovakia, particularly in the sphere of geochronologic and isotope research in a high degree. Radiometric works of RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. contributed to a great extent to solving of great numbers of basic stratigraphic, tectonic, geochemical questions and to intimate knowledge of geological processes. His intentional and precise work can give in many aspects an example to young geological generation, especially in the present, when geologist's work shifts more and more to laboratory.

RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. has devoted himself besides research activity to further activities as a member of qualification commissions for awarding scientific degrees CSc. and DrSc. He leads research students. He worked several years as extern teacher at Comenius University in Bratislava and for a short time at university in Bagdad.

I wish RNDr. Ing. Ján Kantor, CSc. in the name of wide geological public in Slovakia in his further activity as much enthusiasm as till now, further

creative successes in the science and particularly good health in the following years.

Ad multos annos!

Doc. RNDr. Ján J a r k o v s k ý, DrSc.

Translated by O. Mišániová

A list of works

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