

ON THE 50th BIRTHDAY OF RNDr. ONDREJ SAMUEL, DrSc.



On February 18th, 1981 RNDr. Ondrej Samuel, DrSc. celebrates his fiftieth birthday. He was born in Palárikovo where he received his early education. In 1952 he finished his study at the Commercial Academy with maturity exam. Then he entered the Comenius University in Bratislava (Faculty of Geology and Geography) where he graduated in 1956. He was employed by Dionýz Štúr Institute of Geology where he is still working.

Ondrej Samuel started with microbiostratigraphic research of the Cretaceous and the Paleogene of the West Carpathians during his university studies as an assistant of Academician D. Andrusov. Then he widely supported microbiostratigraphical researches in connection with the compilation of geological general maps 1:200 000, mostly of the Inner-Carpathian Paleogene, the Klippen Belt and of the East-Slovakian Flysch. O. Samuel's researches resulted in new stratigraphical data significant for a new image of paleogeography and tectonics of these areas. It was actually for the first time that the Cretaceous and the Paleogene of the most part of these areas were treated biostratigraphically. The synthesis of the new data was presented by O. Samuel in his thesis for the CSc. degree in 1962.

In the following period O. Samuel paid most attention to specific microbiostratigraphic problems in respect of microbiostratigraphic zonation of the Cretaceous and the Paleogene of the West Carpathians. The results of his researches surpassed the regional extent and they served as a basis of both the intraregional and interregional correlation of zonal mountains. These problems were the theme of O. Samuel's doctoral thesis (DrSc.) in 1972.

His theoretical scientific-research activity was closely connected with practice. Applying thorough microbiostratigraphical analyses, he contributed to the solution of such a significant social task like the relation of the Nováky coal basin to the Bojnice thermal springs. With his microstratigraphical research O. Samuel participated in many practical geological problems like prospection for cement raw materials, the solutions for the foundation of the Domaša hydroelectric power plant, prospection for deep structures favourable for accumulation of oil and gas and of high-enthalpy waters.

The results of O. Samuel's researches were published in about 150 works and 4 monographs.

His publication „Microbiostratigraphy and Foraminifera of the Slovak Carpathian Paleogene“ was the first synthesis of the study of foraminifers in the Slovak West Carpathians and this is why it attracted particular attention of the public both at home and abroad. In this work the planktonic foraminifers are paid most attention because they — being widely studied throughout the world — facilitate intercontinental parallelisation and thus the work gets connected with European and world microbiostratigraphic problems.

Significant are somparison of occurrence of planktonic foraminifers with occurrences of larger foraminifers (mostly nummulites and alveolines), the division of the Slovak Carpathian Paleogene into eleven successive zones correlated with the International Geochronological Stratigraphical Scale.

In his work, the author shows his critical approach to synonymy and taxonomic value of species described parallelly in the Soviet Union and in western countries and so his publications acquire a sort of international character documented by growing interest from abroad.

In regional respect a great scientific contribution is in explanation of stratigraphical and tectonical-paleogeographical relations between the Inner Carpathian Paleogene and the Klippen Belt, stratigraphical position of the Malcov beds in relation to the Menilite-Krosno facies of the Dukla unit on the one hand and the youngest Lower Oligocene sediments of the Inner Carpathian Paleogene on the other. The results of O. Samuel's research activity affected considerably the existing stratigraphical conceptions, and consequently also geology, tectonics and paleogeography of the Cretaceous and the Paleogene of the Slovak West Carpathians.

As proved by reviews and interest from abroad, O. Samuel's works are an actual land-mark in history of our micropaleontology.

RNDr. O. Samuel, DrSc. is not only an outstanding paleontologist but also a perfect organizer. It is proved by many extremely successful scientific events organized by him — such as the 10th Jubilee CBGA Congress in Czechoslovakia in 1973, the XXIIIrd State Geological Conference of the Slovak Geological Society in Trnava in 1980, a.o. For his excellent special and organizing abilities, O. Samuel was assigned for many significant functions in Dionýz Štúr Institute of Geology and elsewhere.

In Dionýz Štúr Institute of Geology in the years 1963—1969 O. Samuel was the head of the Paleogene Department, and in 1969—1978 — the deputy director. Since 1963 he has been scientific editor of the journal *Geologické práce — Správy*, and since 1967 Chairman of the Editorial Board, and since 1975 scientific editor of a new edition *Západné Karpaty - series Paleontology*. In the years 1967—1978 he was secretary of Scientific Board of the institute and of the common Scientific Board of the Central Institute of Geology and Dionýz Štúr Institute of Geology. O. Samuel is a supervisor of postgraduate students in geology and paleontology, member of the Commission for the postgraduate CSc. and doctoral degrees from paleontology member of Commission for geology, geography and mining at the Scientific commission on Earth and Cosmos (Slovak Academy of Sciences), member of Editorial Board of *Geologický zborník* (Bulletin of Geology) of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, member of Editorial Board of *Mineralia Slovaca*, member of Slovak Geological Council, and the deputy secretary of CBGA of Czecho-

slovakia. For many years he has been the Vice- President of the Slovak Geological Society.

Scientific researches of RNDr. O. Samuel, DrSc. were internationally valued on the occasion of the Eocene Colloquy in Hungary where he was awarded a medal for solving microstratigraphic problems of the Paleogene in Europe. He also participated in the solution of some contradictory stratigraphical questions concerning prospection in South America.

For extensive international cooperation in Central Europe he was awarded the honourable plaque of the Hungarian Institute of Geology in 1969, of Polish Institute of Geology in 1970.

In our country O. Samuel's work was evaluated already in 1959 when he was awarded by the resort distinction „The best worker of the Geological Survey“, and in 1977 he got the plaque of Dionýz Štúr for the development of Slovak Geology; in 1979 the honourable plaque of the Central Institute of Geology in Prague, and the memorable medal on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of foundation of Dionýz Štúr Institute of Geology.

RNDr. Ondrej Samuel, DrSc. celebrates his 50th birthday in full creative enthusiasm and life optimism. We wish him many years of steady health, creative powers, and successful work for further development of Czechoslovak geology.

O. Fušán