

Foreword

North Bohemian volcanics as lifelong love – In memory of Lubomír Kopecký



Lubomír Kopecký demonstrating marlstone xenolith from the Hnojnice diatreme in 1971 (photo reproduced from Váně 1999).

The small North Bohemian village of Oleško in the Labe-river lowland offers a ravishing view on the majestic volcanic hills of the České středohoří Mountains. Here, the outstanding geologist, petrologist and volcanologist Lubomír Kopecký was born on December 19th, 1924 and also here, on January 8th, 2010 his rich and fruitful life came to an end.

Graduating from geology at Charles University in 1949, he got employed at the State Geological Survey, to which he remained faithful till his retirement in 1991. Already as a university student he started to be professionally interested in Cenozoic alkaline volcanics, having elaborated the first complex volcanological model for the Doupovské hory Volcanic Complex and defended it successfully as his dissertation thesis. He continued the research on the Cenozoic volcanic rocks as a member of the State Geological Survey as the exclusive specialist in the country at the time. In 1964, geological maps 1 : 200 000 and explanatory booklets for the whole state territory as well as the concise monograph “Geology of Czechoslovakia” were presented to the participants of the 22nd International Geological Congress in India. All the work concerned with the Cenozoic volcanics of the Bohemian Massif was done by Kopecký on his own. Maars, diatremes, phreatic explosions, kimberlite-related pipes, volcanic role of rifting, phase development of volcanism and many other features, until then unknown in Czech geology, were discovered and introduced for North Bohemia by him. Many detailed modern geological maps of Czech volcanic areas bear the signature of his authorship and the number of his archival expert reports is enormous. Problems of the genesis of alkaline volca-

nic led him to the study of carbonatites about which he organized a successful international conference in Prague. He devoted much energy to establish the concept of cryptovolcanic origin of some craters both in Europe and overseas against the impact model. One of his achievements must be especially mentioned: he was the founder of a new Czech industrial branch – the petrugy, applying melting of basaltic rocks for cast products. Uncompromising in his ideas, he always remained steady even at the cost of being a little isolated.

Admirable dynamism and untiring scientific activity characterized him till his last days and his whole life work represents the fundamental pillar of the knowledge of Bohemian Cenozoic volcanism. Kopecký’s masterpiece, summarizing his almost two hundred original papers in the extensive “České středohoří Mts. and Ambient Young Alkaline Volcanic Complexes of the Ohře Rift, Czech Republic: Volcanology, Petrology and Rift Evolution” (Czech Geological Survey, 2010) unfortunately appeared in print only after his death. It is quite natural that the personality and work of Kopecký is commemorated in this thematic issue of the *Journal of Geosciences* focused on Ohře Rift (Eger Graben), in which Lubomír Kopecký spent all his scientific life.

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References

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