

Editorial

Memorial of Professor Zdeněk Pouba (1922–2011)

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Zdeněk Pouba, professor emeritus of mineral deposits, Charles University Prague, passed away peacefully in his home on December 27, 2011 at the age of 89. He was an outstanding teacher, a leading personality of the Czechoslovak and, later, Czech geology, particularly of mineral deposits. With wide international connections, he was one of the co-founders of IAGOD (International Association on Genesis of Ore Deposits) in 1963, in an attempt to overcome the information gap and to renew personal contacts across the iron curtain. By these efforts he collaborated with many scientists on both sides, e.g., C. F. Davidson, C. F. Park, V. I. Smirnov, P. Zuffardi, W. Uytenbogaardt, J. Minceva-Stefanova and many others, and with J. Kutina and M. Štemprok in Prague, to mention only a few of them.

Zdeněk Pouba also became active in the newly formed SGA (Society for Geology Applied to Ore Deposits) when the communist pressure softened in Czechoslovakia in the sixties. Together with A. Bernard in Nancy, they organized exchange trips with teachers and students. Prof. Pouba took the first opportunity to initiate co-operation of Charles University with Gunnar Kautsky from the Geological Survey of Sweden. Zdeněk Pouba was the vice-president of the International Geological Congress in Prague in 1968, preparing the mineral deposit section and the stratiform deposit field trips together with H. Gruszczuk in Krakow. Stratiform deposits had been Pouba's topic for many years after that time. Together with a local team of colleagues, he edited eight volumes of Correlation of Proterozoic and Palaeozoic Stratiform Deposits, became involved in the IGCP and organized sessions in Czechoslovakia (e.g., Metallogeny of the Precambrian).

Being an excellent teacher and speaker with wide geological interests, Professor Pouba wrote the textbook "Geological mapping" (1959, in Czech), in which he combined and summarized the results of Kettner's Prague school, Andrusov's school in the Carpathians and his own experience. In 1963–1970 he became a member of the Commission for Geology Teaching at the University



Level of IUGS (a predecessor of today's IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer) with one of its meetings in Prague. He never hesitated to exploit the opportunity to become a student again as, for instance, in G. Kullerud's course on sulphide equilibria at the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Developing idea of Professor J. Koutek to organize underground geological mapping courses, Professor Pouba introduced them into the curriculum in 1954, and either organized or took part in more than forty of them. Zdeněk Pouba's knowledge of regional and local geology, his appreciation of local communities (most courses in the Carpathians), his friendly personality combined with his sense of humor, tales and narrations, his guitar, Slo-

vak, Czech, miners' and trappers' songs, all this has had lasting impact on the participants, often with guests from distant countries, like Prof. C. Naganna from Bangalore or T. Nakamura from Osaka.

It was Professor Pouba's policy to invite people from abroad to the Department when the possibilities to travel were limited for us, especially after 1970. His co-operation with A. Evans resulted in student exchange field trips with Leicester University. David H. Watkinson from Carleton University became a frequent guest and speaker in our Department. He and his friends, especially George B. Skippen and Ian Jonasson with students arrived in Czechoslovakia for a field trip in the difficult year of 1978. Zdeněk Pouba succeeded in getting permissions for a staff and student field trip to Canada the next year, when our Carleton friends made special efforts to raise funds and organized a two-week excursion to famous mineral deposits in Quebec and Ontario. David Watkinson and Zdeněk Pouba became friends and stayed in contact to the very end.

Looking at the list of Pouba's publications, the reader can appreciate that his scope of interests was very wide. From regional geology to base-metal, magnetite, kaolin and gold deposits, their ore-forming processes and sources, from general and structural geology to volcanism, from metallogeny to mining overviews and problems related to research policy. Exceptionally, paleontology was also a by-product of his geological interests: in his first research paper (1947) he described a new Bryozoan from the Bohemian Ordovician. In 1973, Zdeněk Pouba discovered stromatolites in the Neoproterozoic cherts of the Barrandian and published several papers on this topic. He and his team summarized their results on Neoproterozoic sediments, volcanics and ores in the Barrandian area in the *Bulletin of the Czech Geological Survey*, vol. 75 in 2000, where Pouba's last research papers appeared.

Born in Zvolen, Slovakia, to Czech parents (his father was an official in the newly formed National Railways), he was a typical representative of new Czechoslovak generation. He attended Slovak elementary school and six grades of secondary school. He became excited about the nature of the Central Slovakian volcanics, discovering it with a Woodcraft group, and was deeply influenced by E. T. Seton, whom he met briefly during his visit to Czechoslovakia. His family moved to Prague after the German occupation, where he finished his college studies. Forced to work in an airplane factory, he experienced the end of the World War II as a Boy Scout messenger and a member of the first aid unit in the Prague uprising in May 1945.

The summer semester of 1945 was the beginning of his university studies, as for many other people of his generation, immediately after the Czech universities re-opened. Zdeněk Pouba became a student and soon was promoted

to assistant to Professor R. Kettner, who was the leader of modern Czech geology. When Professor Kettner founded mineral deposit division in his Geological Institute and invited Professor Koutek to organize and chair it, Pouba became his assistant. After J. Koutek suffered a serious health problem, Pouba was appointed head of the new Department of Raw Materials (later Mineral Deposits) and continued in this position very successfully until the end of the seventies, when political pressures became too strong. He created an atmosphere in the department, which was open, liberal, friendly, and demanded intensive work. The team was well-known, unique and open for cooperation with other people and institutions.

Zdeněk Pouba served in many positions at the university, in many geological societies and organizations; he was a member of numerous commissions and of the Commission on Mineral Reserves for forty years. After he was appointed Professor Emeritus, he continued to participate in the departmental seminar as one of its most frequent and refreshing debaters. He also returned to Slovakia as a consultant for gold exploration together with his pre-war friend S. Kříž, graduate of the Princeton University. Zdeněk Pouba also maintained contact with the wider geological community, especially but not only, in the Barrande Club organized by V. Satttran, always ready to discuss geology, science and philosophy with an open mind and realistic views, never missing and enjoying amusing moments. Being a golfer, he found his physical and mental relaxation on fairways and greens until his final years. Zdeněk Pouba's seven children and their families, his friends and colleagues will all miss him and cherish the memory of his wonderful personality.

Electronic supplementary material. The complete bibliography of Prof. Zdeněk Pouba is available online at the Journal web site (<http://dx.doi.org/10.3190/jgeosci.151>).

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