

## Editorial

**Milan Drábek: Bright, productive, witty, provocative**

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Born in 1946 in Čáslav, Milan started his education in geology already at the Secondary School of Mining and Geology in Příbram. This institution provided high-level both theoretical and practical bases for his future study of geology at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague. Having specialized in experimental mineralogical research with mineral deposit applications, he carried out his master thesis, defended in 1973, in the Experimental Laboratory of the Czech Geological Survey, founded by prof. Štemprok. Milan became his assistant and follower. A prestigious Alexander von Humboldt scholarship allowed him to spend two years in the experimental laboratory of the Institute of Mineralogy and Petrography in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1979 and 1984. This research visit resulted in a PhD thesis focusing on the Fe–Mo–S–O system and its geological application. In addition, it provided him with robust experimental expertise to be used and strengthened in the Experimental Mineralogical Laboratory of the Czech Geological Survey.

During his long career, Milan significantly contributed to determining phase relations in ternary metal-bearing systems such as Pd–Hg–Te, Ag–Pd–Te, Ag–Pd–Se, Hg–Pd–Se, Pd–Pb–Te or Re–Mo–S. His experiments allowed the characterization of several new minerals, where the synthetic analogs prepared in his experimental laboratory

played an important role. His work also contributed to understanding the genesis of ore mineralizations in the Bohemian Massif, including the timing of their formation using Os–Re dating.

Not that Milan was a person hiding in his laboratory. He was keen to participate in the fieldwork and discussions on geological localities until his last days. He took part in geological conferences and meetings with colleagues. He animated his surroundings with his bright mind and a sense of humor. He liked to drag people out of their comfort zone. What he enjoyed a lot was asking provocative questions both in geology and other domains and making jokes. He was not a person, counting his impact publications, but a vivid communicative man enjoying many aspects of life. Due to his long-time unique specialization, Milan was a member of numerous scientific boards at student state exams, such as Master and PhD theses, and professor defenses at universities, namely at the Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno. He was also an active member of the Czech Humboldt Club and took part in its meetings and events at the German Embassy in Prague.

Milan died unexpectedly on December 9, 2020, still looking forward to his research plans. His colleagues and friends in geology deeply miss him.



**Fig. 1** Milan after a visit to Kamioka mine in Japan during the International Mineralogical Association General Meeting, Kobe (July 2006). Photo by M. Rieder.



**Fig. 2** Milan sealing silica glass tube in the Laboratory of Experimental Mineralogy of the Czech Geological Survey, Prague (March 2004). Photo by A. Vymazalová.



**Fig. 3** Milan enjoying the fieldwork in the Kutná Hora Crystalline Complex (May 2016). Photo by T. Sidorinová.