



To unlived 75. birthday of

DOC. RNDR. ANTON JURKO, DRSC.

DOC. RNDR. ANTON JURKO, DRSC. would live 75 years in August (28. 8.) of this year, but the destiny did not allow him to live it. We bowed out with him in Bratislava crematorium two years ago in March 26, 1997. He was almost 73 years old at that time. Not only botanical, but also the widest scientific community bowed to the time with the Slovak scientist of the great spirit, geobotanist, ecologist and an enthusiastic nature protector.

He was born in the farmer family in Ličartovce near Prešov in the central part of the eastern Slovakia. After school-leaving examination he entered the Faculty of Sciences, Slovak University in Bratislava and obtained the first degree (RNDr.) in 1949. His first eight works were dealing with flora and vegetation in the vicinity of his birth place to which he was glad to turn back to the end of his life.

After finishing university studies he started to work as a botanist on the previous Slovak Academy of Sciences and Arts. Since 1952 he turned to the Botanical Institute of Slovak University as a teacher and postgraduate student. Except some teacher's duties as sub-dean he prepared to obtain the second degree PhD (CSc.) and he finished this study as the first PhD (CSc.) in botany in Slovakia (1956). It is necessary to mention, that his supervisor was Prof. Dr. JAROMÍR KLIKA. His PhD work ("Soil-ecological conditions and forest communities of the Danubian lowland") was published as a monograph in 1958 and it was and still is a base of numerous synecological studies at present, especially in relation to the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros barrage system.



Although Doc. JURKO was an internal teacher of the Faculty of Sciences only for seven years, his influence had there an extraordinary significance, which was reflected by the establishment of the Department of geobotany with the help of Dr. JOZEF MAJOVSKÝ. At the same time this effort opened the door to the new trends in the Slovak geobotany. He introduced new lectures and exercises from phytocoenology, soil sciences, bioclimatology, aut- and synecology of plants and he made an effective research focused on knowledge of plant communities in Slovakia. He obtained for such research in the beginning several, later a number of diploma workers and led them such a way, that on the Faculty of Sciences a new working place arose - Department of Geobotany in 1964. This one existed until 1991, it means 27 years. Teachers of that department in co-operation with departed Doc. Jurko educated more than 300 diploma workers during that period, all of which obtained the first degree (RNDr.) and majority of them also the second degree - CSc., some of them were habilitated or obtained a degree DrSc. DOC. JURKO was at the development of everyone as the direct supervisor, consultant, opponent and finally also a long-dated member of various commissions on the Faculty or as a chairman of the state commissions for obtaining CSc. (PhD) and DrSc. degrees.

He started to work at the Slovak Institute for Nature Conservation (in 1959) and also this his activity was again reflected on the development of the Slovak biological science. Together with Dr. DAROLA, Ing. PACANOVSKÝ and Dr. BOSÁČKOVÁ he elaborated a conception of the nature conservation prevention. Such studies were elaborated for every region of Slovakia at that time. Such a conception serves for judging of the natural values of single regions also at present. Even though he gave all his experiences as a phytocoenologist in this Institute, he left it in 1963.

After habilitation in 1963 (Doc.) he started to work at the Botanical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and as an external teacher in the Department of Geobotany, the Faculty of Sciences in Bratislava. He continued in his effort for implementation of the Slovak science, for which he utilized his numerous contacts with the European botanical institutions and brought also the first impulses about plant ecology to our scientific working places. His activity resulted into the arise of the Department of Ecology, of which he was a long-dated chairman. It meant a certain ecologization of botany and biology as a whole, but also an enforcement of geobotanical results at the solution of such tasks as the UNESCO programmes IBP (International Biological Programme) at Báb and MAB (Man and Biosphere) at the Malé Karpaty Mountains. A study of theoretical ecological questions was the main task of Doc. Jurko from 1974. He obtained the highest degree (DrSc.) in 1979 and published more than 50 scientific contributions to problems dealing with the wider ecological qualities of biocoenoses (ecosystems) until he retired in 1995. As the most important publication among them it is possible to consider a book from 1990, devoted to social-economical qualities of vegetation, which is still actual at present and represents a base for further study for almost all our ecologists. Together with geobotanical studies DOC. JURKO published more than 180 scientific

contributions, studies, papers and monographs, which were cited in numerous world scientific journals and books.

DOC. JURKO was an example of scientist, which knew how to join love to botany with respect to Slovakia and the birth region. Except for his starting publications from 1948-1951 devoted to a wider vicinity of his birth place, he turned several times to the vegetation of the eastern Slovakia. He is a co-author of the monograph dealing with the nature conservation in the eastern Slovakia (1960), soils and syntaxonomy of the Zemplínske vrchy hills (1971), an author of the book about forest communities of the eastern Slovakia central part and other 10 contributions about his birth region.

Doc. JURKO belonged to generation of patriots, which not only by the proclamation, but first of all by a very diligent scientific and pedagogical work proved, that Slovakia lies them on the heart. He has numerous successors, which are very obliged to him for shown way. It is manifested by a memorial in his birth village Ličartovce, which was made by his co-natives with the help of the Slovak Matica.

We propose that at the remembrance on his unlived 75. birthday we respect the best memory with determination to be successors of his new ideas and enthusiasm for the Slovak botany and ecology.

L. ŠOMŠÁK & F. KUBÍČEK