

DR. ANDOR HORVÁTH

(1913—1972)

On Tuesday morning, 8 February 1972, he set out as usual for the University: slowly, and deep in thought. Perhaps he was considering the material of his lecture. He can have had no intimation that the unusually mild, warm weather which had dispelled the winter mould bring death. His students awaited him, but on this occasion, for the first time in vain. The journey was so short, but it nevertheless led to the infinitely distant unknown, from where his arrival was unavailingly awaited by his students, his colleagues and his workplace, the Department of Zoology.

He was born in Szabadka in 1913, and came to his much-loved Szeged in 1931. He matriculated here in the same year, became a secondary school teacher of geography and biology in 1936, and in 1940 obtained his doctorate and became an honorary assistant lecturer. After 3 years as a secondary school teacher in Košice he resumed work in the Institute of Zoosystematic and Biology in our University until 1950, when he was again appointed an assistant lecturer. He soon became lecturer, and then in 1955 obtained the scientific degree of Candidate of the Biological Sciences. In 1963 he was appointed senior lecturer in the newly organized Department of Zoosystematic.

From his early youth he was an enthusiastic devotee of malacology, and was perfectly acquainted with the shell-fish and snails of the Szeged district. He gradually penetrated into the entire world of the *Mollusca*, and into the ecology of the recent and Pleistocene species. As a result of his exhaustive and assiduous investigations, he was able to take a single fragment of a mollusc and from this to reconstruct its proper place; and for the most part without any special aids he could establish the name of the species, regardless of whether this originated from some region of the Great Hungarian Plain or the mountains of Hungary, from its waters, from the depths of the Adriatic, or even from the unknown world of the layers of the Pleistocene. But he could also reconstruct that world in which these species lived, and bring its scenery and climatological and natural conditions within easy reach. His results were received with recognition by the scientific world; this was expressed when he was rewarded with membership of the *Unitas Malacologica Europaea*, and when he was invited to deliver lectures at international congresses in Mexico, Madrid and Warsaw.

His specialization by no means implied one-sidedness. His recognition of species, and his knowledge of ecology, systematics and zoogeography bore wit-

ness to his astonishing ability and methodicalness. In the world of the unicellular animals he was just as well informed as with any other animal group. It may be due to this that in the field of his specialization he was always able to turn to problems with assurance, and to give a completely satisfactory answer to his students and colleagues, and in a given case to the practice of agriculture.

In his research and teaching work too he avoided spectacle and all that led to easy success. This can be felt from his own words: „The pursuit of things of interest is not a task of the lecturer”. In the process of teaching he clearly recognized the importance of the interdependence of the presentation and cultivation of science, and also the need for modernization. His sage attitude based on many years' experience in this field was: „We should not fall . . . into the smallest error. We should be demanding, very demanding, but we should not wish for the impossible”. In his work he a profound optimist. He professes that „an inquiring person may be formed from an indifferent one, a diligent one from a lazy one, a conscientious one from a careless one, and a person who is overall usefull from the point of view of society from a useless one. As a result of the teaching and training work the individual's faults can be kept in the background and the favourable features brought to the surface.” He saw clearly that „for successful advanced teaching and training work it is necessary to have high-level qualifications, a good knowledge of people, pedagogical and psychological abilities, and developed senses of criticism and truth. But all this is not enough: devotion too is required.”

He readily joined in the communal work. He took an active part in Faculty, Departmental and Interdepartmental discussions, and often pointed very properly to the tasks in the everyday life, and to useful possibilities for their solution. His command of languages, his conscientious, exact work, and his wide knowledge were used to effect in our widely respected journals, *Acta Biologica Szegediensis*, of which he was editor for many years, and later associate editor, and *Tiscia*, of which he was a founder-member and associate editor.

He led the way in the research into the Tisza, and in the exploration of its fauna, especially its *Mollusca*. He inspired the creation of a Tisza Research Committee, which was founded under the leadership of Prof. GÁBOR KOLOSVÁRY, Corresponding Member of the Academy, the ex-Head of the Department of Zootaxology. He took part actively to the last as a member of the administrative staff in the work of the Committee. He was a member of the Hungarian Biological Society and the Hungarian Hydrological Society.

His individuality was characterized by a deep humanity, a limelight-avoiding modesty, and a kind, gentle humour. Thus, not only the young but also his colleagues thought of him as „Uncle Bandi”, on whose unselfish assistance they could always rely. He gave useful advice not only to the members of the Scientific Students Circle, his research and undergraduate students, but to all who turned to him in connection with their work and occupations. He at all times paid respect to serious organizational work. However, he rejected self-centredness and all that which artificially raised a barrier to the healthy development of the individual.

He devoted himself to winning the highest scientific degree attainable with plain creative work and ability, a Doctorate in the Bioblogical Sciences. Quietly he organized and put together the last pieces of his life's work. Like so many others in the field of his profession, we waited for the fulfilment. Then, in the midst of these great plans, the early and unexpected end came with frightening suddenness. The level-headed, but in fact very sensitive being hiding behind the gentle smiles, the untiring teacher of generations, the excellent malacologist, is no more. He took his knowledge with him, but left behind 36 important publications, and a very rich collection of Mollusca including foreign material. There also remains a long line of his students to whom he passed on his knowledge of zootaxology, ecology, zoogeography and malacology, and his developed research results. He lives on in the memories of those for whom he lived, and here, between the walls of the Department, in the narrow but intimate, friendly circle who guard his memory with love and will always think of him with respect.

The task which fate assigned to him he fulfilled completely. His life had meaning. This is shown by his publications which, as evidence of his productive life, we enumerate below:

- (1940): A szegedvidéki kagylók formaváltozatai és jelentőségük (Variations in the forms of shellfish in the vicinity of Szeged and their importance). Doctoral dissertation. — Szeged, 1—55.
- (1943): Adatok a Tisza folyó puhatestű faunájának ismeretéhez (Data on the *Mollusca* fauna of the river Tisza). — Acta Zool. Szeged 2, 21—32.
- (1944): Beiträge zur Kenntniss der *Mollusken*-Fauna der Umgebung von Kassa. — Fragm. Faun. Hung. Budapest 7, 39—41.
- (1950): A *Physa acuta* DRAP. és a *Physa fontinalis* L. (*Physa acuta* DRAP. and *Physa fontinalis* L.). — Hidrológiai Közl. Budapest 11—12, 449—450.
- (1950): A szegedi Fehértó *Mollusca* faunája (*Mollusca* fauna of the Fehértó Lake at Szeged). — Ann. Biol. Univ. Szeged 1, 321—326.
- (1951): Muscheln aus dem Flusse Djeszna (Soviet Union). — Acta Zool. Szeged 3, 41—47.
- (1951): Adatok Putnok környékének hidrobiológiai viszonyaihoz (Data on the hydrobiological conditions in the Putnok region). — Ann. Biol. Univ. Hung. 1, 341—350. (Co-author).
- (1952): Adatok a Bánvölgy hidrobiológiai viszonyaihoz (Data on the hydrobiological conditions at Bánvölgy). — Ann. Biol. Hung. Szeged 2, 327—344. (Co-author).
- (1953): A kiskunhalasi ösláp puhatestű faunája (The *Mollusca* fauna of the palaco-marsh at Kiskunhalas). — Hidrológiai Közl. Budapest 5—6, 177—179.
- (1954): Az alföldi lápok puhatestűiről és az Alföld változásairól (*Mollusca* of marshes on the Great Hungarian Plain and variations in the Plain). — Állattani Közl. Budapest 44, 63—70.
- (1954): Malakológiai tanulmány a Duna—Tisza-közi déli részének felső pleisztocén rétegeiről (Malacological study of the Upper Pleistocene layers in the southern area between the Danube and the Tisza). — Ann. Biol. Univ. Hung. Budapest 2, 417—428.
- (1954): A paksi pleisztocén-üledékek csigái és értékelésük (Snails in the Pleistocene deposits at Paks). (Candidate's thesis). — Állattani Közl. 44, 171—188.
- (1955): Die *Mollusken*fauna der Theiss. — Acta Biol. Szeged 1, 174—180.
- (1956): Hidrobiológiai vizsgálatok a Szilvás patak vízgyűjtő területén (Hydrobiological studies on the catchment area of the Szilvás stream). — Állattani Közl. 45, 13—24. (Co-author).
- (1956): Über die Weichtiere des Börzsönyer Gebirges. — Acta Biol. Szeged 2, 183—191.
- (1956): Hidrobiologische und faunistische Studien in südwestlichen Teile des Bükk-Gebirges. — Acta Biol. Szeged 2, 137—154. (Co-author).
- (1956): Die Nivellierung des mitteleuropäischen Pleistocens auf Grund der *Mollusken*fauna. — Congresso Geologico International XX. Session Mexico, 397—400.
- (1957): Über die *Mollusken*fauna der Strecke zwischen Tiszabecs und Tiszafüred. — Acta Biol. Szeged 1—2, 94—97.
- (1957): Die Rolle der *Mollusken* in der stratigraphischen Gliederung der eolischen Ablagerungen im Ungarischen Becken. — Inqua V. Congresso International Madrid, Barcelona.

- (1958): Die Malakologischen Ergebnisse der II. Tisza-Expedition. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **4**, 216—218.
- (1962): Kurzbericht über die molluskenfauna der zwei Tisza Expeditionen im Jahre. — *Opusc. Zool. Budapest* **4**, 77—83.
- (1962): A szegedi Múzeum recens *Mollusca* gyűjteménye (Recent *Mollusca* collection of the Szeged Museum). — Yearbook of the Móra Ferenc Museum, Szeged, 271—272.
- (1962): *Mollusca*-periods in the sediments of the Hungarian pleistocene. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **8**, 173—192.
- (1963): Ua. II. The upper arid period of the boring of Felsőszentiván. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **9**, 101—115.
- (1963): Adriatic mollusca of the Split area. — *Acta Adriatica Split* **10**, 1—12.
- (1963): A Móra Ferenc Múzeum fekete-tengeri *Mollusca* gyűjteménye (The Black Sea *Mollusca* collection of the Móra Ferenc Museum) (Die *Mollusken*-Sammlung Schwarzmeergebiet in dem Szeged Móra Ferenc Muzeum). — Yearbook of the Móra Ferenc Museum, Szeged, 233—236.
- (1964): The upper humid period of the boring of Felsőszentiván. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **10**, 131—146.
- (1965): The upper part of the middle arid period in the boring of Felsőszentiván. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **11**, 153—164.
- (1966): About the mollusca of Tisza before the river control. — *Tiscia (Szeged)* **2**, 99—102.
- (1966): The middle part of the middle arid period in the boring of Felsőszentiván. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **12**, 149—158.
- (1967): Data about the *Mollusca* of Adria. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **13**, 137—141. (Co-author with K. BÁBA.)
- (1967): The fossil Holocene *Mollusca* fauna of the lake at Kardoskút and environs. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **13**, 133—136.
- (1968): Prof. Dr. GABRIEL KOLOSVÁRY. — *Acta Biol. Szeged*, Tom. **14**, 1—4.
- (1969): Prof. Dr. GABRIEL KOLOSVÁRY. — *Tiscia (Szeged)* **5**, 3—13.
- (1970): In memoriam ADOLF LENDEL. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* **16**, 17—19.
- (1971): A biológiai tárgyak a felsőoktatásban (Biological subjects in higher education). — *Felsőoktatási Szemle* **20**, 458—463.
- (1971): *Mollusca* periods in the sediments of the Hungarian pleistocene. VI. The lower part of the middle arid period in the boring of Felsőszentiván. — *Acta Biol. Szeged* (in print).
- (1972): A Tisza árterének és holtágainak vízi *Mollusca* faunája. — *Tiscia (Szeged)* **7**, (in print).

FERENC BICZÓK