

FOREWORD

The international colloquium on the "Anthropology of Past and Present Populations" that was held in Szeged on 21-22 March 1997 under the auspices of the European Anthropological Association was an important event allowing an overview of anthropological research in its most current aspects. It was an event that honoured the output (both in quantity and in quality) of research from Hungarian anthropology, and from the head of the Department of Anthropology at József Attila University in Szeged, Professor L. GYULA FARKAS.

This colloquium was primarily organized through the efforts of his colleagues in Szeged, among them ANTÓNIA MARCSIK, GYÖRGY PÁLFI, ZSUZSANNA JUST and ERIKA MOLNÁR, but also of OLIVIER DUTOUR and CHARLES SUSANNE on behalf of the European Anthropological Association, in honour of Professor GYULA FARKAS 65 years of age on 11 April 1997.

Professor GYULA FARKAS merits all our gratitude for his contributions to anthropological sciences, especially as concerns European anthropology, and in particular for the way in which he has built up the reputation of his department in Szeged.

Born in Szabadszállás in 1932, he studied biology at József Attila University in Szeged, where he was awarded his diploma as a biology and chemistry teacher in 1954. His career in fact started with teaching in a grammar school, in Kecskemét, but from 1955, he joined József Attila University in Szeged, first as an assistant, from 1961 as an assistant professor, from 1977 as associate professor, and from 1988 as full professor. Since 1980, he has been head of the Department of Anthropology at József Attila University in Szeged.

On the way to his becoming professor, following his graduation he was awarded three different degrees:

- in 1960: a university doctorate with a thesis on "New data on the physical development of 3999 pupils between 6 and 18 years of age";
- in 1976: a candidate's degree with a thesis on "The paleoanthropology and prehistory of South Hungary";
- in 1987: an academic doctorate with a thesis on "The physical development of children between 10 and 18 years of age and the age at menarche in South Hungary".

Professor GYULA FARKAS is well known for his research activities, for his role as head of the Department of Anthropology of József Attila University in Szeged, and also for his activities on behalf of Hungarian anthropology. From 1970 to 1980 he was secretary, and from 1980 to 1985 president of the Anthropological Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Since 1985, Professor GYULA FARKAS has also been

- a member of the Anthropological Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- a member of the National Postgraduate Degree Granting Board in Biology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- editor of *Acta Biologica Szegediensis*;

and since 1991

- president of the Section of the Biological Association in Szeged.

His research topics are of interest for virtually everyone because he has published on such subjects as historical anthropology, growth, development and maturity, and the history of Hungarian anthropology. In total, Professor GYULA FARKAS has published about 230 scientific papers and 50 papers aimed at promoting science.

In honour of Professor GYULA FARKAS, the activities of his team, and the scientific niveau of the biological sciences in general at József Attila University in Szeged, it is hoped that, within the Socrates programmes of the European Union, the Department of Anthropology at József Attila University in Szeged will join the network of universities dedicating their teaching activities towards the award of the European Master degree and a European Ph.D. in Anthropology and Human Biology, through teaching and research of quality at a European level. This EU programme has been restricted so far to the EU countries: Szeged would be the first to join from outside the EU, but it is hoped that other Hungarian and Central-Eastern European departments will follow.

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