

AN OBITUARY TO DR. GYŐZŐ CSONGOR (1915-1997)

Dr. GYŐZŐ CSONGOR was born in Szeged on 27 February. He received the first impressions about interest in nature from KÁLMÁN CZÓGLER, his teacher at the BAROSS GÁBOR Secondary School. He went to university in Szeged and Kolozsvár. Even as a student, he carried out investigations in Greece, Turkey, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. His botany teachers at the university were Professor GYÖRGY GYÖRFFY and forest engineer FERENC KISS. After graduation, he was an assistant lecturer with REZSŐ SOÓ in Debrecen and PÁL GREGUSS in Szeged, both of them became full professors later on. He was teaching at the KLAUZÁL Secondary School in Szeged, and worked as the deputy director of the MÓRA FERENC Museum in Szeged from 1952 until 1975. During this period he was in charge of the natural history and local history collections.

He started to collect plants in 1930, and started to investigate Szeged as a town and the Szeged countryside in 1947. His main collection areas were: Csongrád County, Trans-Tisza Region, Hajdú Region, Érmellék, the region between the Danube and the Tisza, the Visedrád Mountains, the Bakony Mountains, Sopron, Kőszeg and their surroundings, the Őrség and Baranya County. He also joined in the Tisza Research Project. He was interested in studying microscopical fungi.

He was interested in making science popular. He organized more than 50 permanent or temporary exhibitions, both scientific and for popular science. Of these the „Fehértó Exhibition” and the „Tisza Exhibition” were outstanding. He took part in making the films „Tiszavirág” and „Vadvízország”.

In addition, he was also interested in zoology, and in local history and literature, as well.

He carried on his research even after retiring, and planned to write a book entitled „Countryside and plant geography of the city of Szeged and its surroundings”. In it he wanted to include the names and medicinal effects of plants. However, his death in 1997 did not allow him to finish it.

He received the university reader honoris causa title in 1987. In 1975 he received the silver medal of the Labour Order and in 1996 he received the „JÁVORKA SÁNDOR Prize” from the Hungarian Biological Society.