

IN MEMORIAM DR. SÁNDOR OLÁH (1960–1998)



Birth, marriage and death: these are the greatest events in human life.

Birth, marriage and death: we only have choice in the second of these, but we have no choice in birth and death.

Birth is a time of joy, death is a time of sorrow and mourning.

Events what we always remember. Events of what happiness or sorrow we want to share.

Now we want to share in our deep sorrow.

It was a great shock to hear the sad news of Sanyi's death and we are deeply grieved about it.

The Department of Anthropology of the József Attila University and the Hungarian anthropology are suffering from a heavy loss. We lost a young and well promising colleague. Dr. SÁNDOR OLÁH, retired assistant professor, died at his age of 38th.

He was born in Miskolc on 21 May, 1960. He took his primary school in Eger, than in 1978 he matured in the Dobó István Grammar School in the same town. It is possible that the spirit and historical past of this town determined his choice of profession. He continued his studies in 1979 at the Kossuth Lajos University in Debrecen where he got his degree in biology in 1984. Between 1984 and 1987 he worked for the Institute of Anatomy of the Medical University of Debrecen as an assistant researcher leading anatomical and histological laboratory practicals. He became our colleague at the Department of Anthropology of József Attila University on 1 August, 1987. He started as an assistant researcher, than between 1991 and 1992 he worked as an assistant, and in 1992 he was appointed to an assistant professor.

In 1991 he „summa cum laude” defended his doctoral thesis written on historic anthropology titled „Historic anthropological evaluation of the Conquest period (10th century) cemetery from Sárrétudvari-Hízóföld”.

After having a heavy stroke on 3 September in 1994 he could never regain his health in spite of the repeated operations and because of this he was retired. He died on 9 November, 1998.

During his tragically short life while he worked 10 years as an instructor and researcher of the higher education, he proved his exceptional talent and working capacity. He devoted his interest to historic anthropology what he could intensively and successively study by the combination of his profound anatomical knowledge and modern computer skills. In addition to this he immediately gained the affection and honour of many of us by his kind character, refined behaviour, readiness to help and versatile interest.

He had fine prospects, and the merciless illness which suddenly broke his life — especially the fact that he was not able to surmount it — has staggered and shocked all who knew Him. By his forced retirement and especially by his death it became obvious that the Department of Anthropology and the Hungarian anthropology lost a brilliant, talented teacher, researcher and promising colleague. This is proved by his publications, papers presented on national and international congresses and meetings, for which he always prepared himself with exceptional soundness. His audience could always expect an enjoyable lecture what He never read.

It is hard to believe and accept the unchangeable fact, that Sanyi will never be with us, that we cannot count on some discussion with Him, that we cannot ask Him for help, that we have to miss his particular character, his friendship and everything He gave us during the time He shared us.

Dear Sándor, dear Friend of us we will never forget You, we will never bury You in our heart. Peace to your memory!

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