

TO THE MEMORY OF PROF. DR. GY. GRASSELLY



1920—1991

Prof. Dr. GYULA GRASSELLY's death on 13 November, 1991, was a serious loss not only for his family, friends and co-workers, but for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for the University of Szeged, as well as for both of the Hungarian and international geology, too.

He was born on 4th July, 1920, in Szeged, where he was brought up and pursued his studies. After having achieved a first-class school-leaving certificate, he matriculated at the Faculty of Chemistry and Natural History of the Univ. of Szeged and finished his studies successfully. He passed his last semester in Berlin, studied under Prof. RAMDOHR's direction and gained excellent experiences in the analysis of ores. In 1944 he became certificated teacher of chemistry and natural history.

From 1944 until 1989 he worked at the Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrography of the Univ. of Szeged (later József Attila University) as assistant, first assistant, then assistant professor and in 1964 he was appointed to professorship. Between 1968—1986 he was the head of the Department.

Between 1968—1986 he was the editor-in-chief of *Acta Mineralogica-Petrographica*, while it developed to an international periodical. In Hungary even

to-day this is the only mineralogical-geochemical and petrological scientific review issued in English language.

When retiring after 46 years from the same place where he began his career his merits were acknowledged by the honouring title of "professor emeritus" on the part of the University, and by the "Flag of the People's Republic" on the part of the President of the Hungarian People's Republic.

In his own estimation his career was modified three times. First he worked in the field of mineralogy, dealing with the methodology of mineralogical and petrographic analysis. His results were sum up in his first book entitled "Methods of Mineral and Ore Analysis" and produced him the Ph.D. degree.

The second modification of his career was the so called "ionpotential" era. In 1959 he gained the "Academic Doctor Degree". The title of his dissertation was "The role and importance of complex anion potentials in geochemistry".

At the same time industrial request aroused his interest on the Hungarian manganese ore deposit. Realizing the numerous for-reaching and unsolved problems of this subject and recognizing the necessity of an international collaboration, in 1976 he established the Commission on Manganese in the frame of the Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits. In 1974 he launched the project "Genesis of Manganese Ore Deposits" within the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP). As a consummation of his work he edited — with I. M. VARENTSOV's co-operation — a three-volume monograph titled "Geology and Geochemistry of Manganese: Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Methods" even today used and acknowledged by specialist of manganese ores throughout the world.

His third and last, but not less important research trend was the complex geochemical and mineralogical-petrographic analysis of sediments containing organic matter in order to study the role and the effect of different physical factors of their diagenese. By these investigations he defined markedly the Hungarian organic geochemistry.

In 1972 he was elected vice-president of the international Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS) at the XXIVth International Geological Congress, Montreal. In 1982 he was elected the director of IUGS Advisory Board for Research Development Programme and later a leading member of the ICL Bureau. He made good use of all these international scientific experiences and connections in the Advisory Board of the Institution of Cultural Connection, the Hungarian UNESCO Committee and in the Hungarian National Committee of PUGWASH and IUGS.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences appreciated GY. GRASSELLY's scientific achievements and even in 1956 he became a member of the Geochemical Scientific Committee where later he held the presidency, too. Since 1976 he was an associated member and since 1982 an ordinary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1990 he was elected the president of the Dept. of Earth-Sciences of the Academy.

As a real resident of Szeged his positive local patriotism appeared in a number of scientific and social activities. He was first a member, then the president and later, till his death, the vice-president of the Regional Committee of the Academy of Sciences, Szeged. His last work for his town was the organization of the reconstruction of Szeged Centre of the Academy. Unfortunately, he could not live to see the inauguration of the renewed hall which treasures his memory in every corner.

Standing up from his seat, Prof. GRASSELLY went away as if he came back in some minutes to finish his interrupted work. As a matter of fact, he did not left anything unfinished, he lead a full life till the end.

Prof. T. SZEDERKÉNYI