

## My Dear Friend and Colleague Leon celebrates eighty

It was already 45 years ago when I first met Prof. Leon Stuchlik at the so-called Climate – Colloquium in Germany in 1966. It was one of large meetings organized by our colleagues from the former German Democratic Republic where I also met other eminent palynologists and palaeobotanists working with the Tertiary. This meeting initiated long lasting friendships and cooperation all over Europe. It was also a good occasion to revive traditional contacts between Prague and Kraków established by our former supervisors Prof. Władysław Szafer and Prof. František Němejc. Unfortunately, both have untimely gone before a new wave of scientific and personal contacts between palaeobotanists and palynologists from Poland and the former Czechoslovakia started to bloom. At that time Leon and myself launched a long- lasting project of cooperation between the Polish and the former Czechoslovak Academies of Sciences that allowed us and our colleagues to meet regularly either in our laboratories or in the field. I remember wonderful excursions through southern Poland, together with my closest friend Dr. Čestmír Bůžek, organized by Prof. Maria Łańcucka-Środoniowa and Prof. Ewa Zastawniak, while Leon participated in palynological research in Miocene and Pliocene of North Bohemia, and instructed my former co-worker Dr. Magda Konzalová. Our cooperation was honoured by a prize by both academies.



Professor L. Stuchlik is handing to Professor Z. Kvaček a jubilee volume of *Acta Palaeobotanica* dedicated to the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Zlatko (Phot. J. Kvaček, Prague 2007)



Excursion on the Andreánszky Jubilee Symposium Kiseged Hungary 1995. From the left: L. Stuchlik, H. Walther, R. Zetter, L. Hably, D. Mai, Z. Kvaček (arch. L. Hably)



Field work during the Andreánszky Jubilee Symposium, Kiseged Hungary 1995 (arch. L.Hably)



Fifth European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, Kraków 1998. From the left: V. Sitar, Z. Kvaček, H. Walther, L. Stuchlik, E. Palamarev (Phot. A.Pachoński)

At that time, our frontiers were open only on the East. This was a good occasion for the colleagues from the former Soviet Union and other “East European” countries to meet in Kraków. The Institute of Botany at Lubicz Street was an ideal place to exchange views and cooperate in palaeobotany. Thanks to Leon’s diplomatic abilities our friendship continued also after the collapse of communism.

After 1990, scientific cooperation between our countries required new strategies in funding and overcoming administrative stress. Although I have left the Academy of Sciences we have continued our cooperation through international projects, like EEDEN, or by support of local grant cooperation. A very good forum for maintaining contacts happened to become meetings at the European palaeobotanical and palynological conferences. I remember one of such conferences organized by Leon and his colleagues in Kraków, where an older generation of scientists was meeting the new fresh youth full of energy. And such meetings and contacts continue up till present.

I am thankful to Leon very much that he is still able to continue editing the journal “Acta Paleobotanica”, a very important journal that keeps many of us in close contact. We really admire this and other fields of Prof. Stuchlik’s activities. From my side, I will do my best to cooperate, hoping that he will be able to continue his valuable work for many years in good health and good mood.

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