

CHRONICLE

In memoriam Andrija Bognár (1937–2019)

An eminent figure of Croatian geography, active member of the Hungarian community in Croatia, Professor Andrija (András) BOGNÁR passed away on 26 April 2019. He contributed to a wide range of physico-geographical disciplines, including tectonic geomorphology, geomorphological mapping, applied geomorphology, geoecology, Quaternary and loess research but also published seminal papers in political and population geography and Hungarology, the science concerned with knowledge on ethnic Hungarians abroad.

Andrija BOGNÁR was born on 9 March 1937 in Zdenci, the Slavonian region of Croatia. He was a primary school pupil in the hard times of World War II in South Baranja region and continued his studies in the grammar school of Požega town. During his studies at the University of Zagreb it proved to be difficult for him to decide between human (urban) and physical geography (geomorphology). His curiosity equally attracted him in both directions. After graduation, in 1965, he found employment in the secondary school of Beli Manastir, a small settlement in Baranja, which reached the urban status shortly before that date. After two and a half year teaching he managed to return to the capital and became assistant professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University. He was interested in geopolitical problems such as the boundaries of Transylvania. However, he gradually got attracted to the problems of physical geography and geomorphology and defended his university doctor's thesis on Bansko (Brdo) Hill and the loess region of South Baranja.

The invitation from Academician Josip ROGLIĆ, a great figure of contemporary Croatian geography, to the Department of Physical Geography at the University of Zagreb started his academic career. Andrija BOGNÁR succeeded the retired Professor ROGLIĆ as head of the Working Group on Geomorphology. He became associate professor in 1982 on defending his dissertation on the geomorphology of Baranja, a benchmark work till now. At that time, he launched the major project of geomorphological mapping of Croatia, which provided an example for mapping the whole territory of Yugoslavia. In 1986 he was appointed extraordinary professor, in 1992 full professor and in 1998 external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Even after retirement he regularly lectured at the University of Mostar, the Military Academy of Rijeka and the College of Dubrovnik. His publications include more



than 150 papers in geomorphology, geoecology as well as political and demographic geography, written in the changed political atmosphere after 1991.

His international appreciation is reflected in membership of various organizations, among others including the International Association for Quaternary Research (INQUA), from where he received a Special Award for his work in the Loess Commission, the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), where he was national delegate for a long period, and the Croatian Society of Natural Sciences. He founded the Association of Croatian Geomorphologists and had leading positions in the Croatian Geographical Society.

His Hungarian contacts were not limited to building 'bridges' between the Hungarian Baranya county and the Croatian Baranja region. He was among the founders of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (1993) and the Croatian Society of Hungarian Science and Arts (1995). For his activities in these organizations he was awarded with the Kemény Zsigmond Prize of the Pro Renovanda Cultura Hungariae Foundation.

Professor Andrija BOGNÁR also maintained close links with Hungarian geography, primarily with the Geographical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, under the directorship of Academician Márton Pécsi, Professor Ferenc SCHWEITZER and Academician Károly Kocsis. Since 2009 he was one of the active members of the international Advisory Board of the Hungarian Geographical Bulletin. He participated in joint projects of geomorphological mapping and loess studies (for instance, on the Adriatic island of Susak). On behalf of the University of Zagreb he regularly organized Croatian-Hungarian geographical seminars for the staff of Hungarian universities and research institutes at wonderful venues (such as on the island of Hvar, in the Paklenica National Park). In 2006 he received the Teleki Sámuel Prize from the Hungarian Geographical Society.

No commemoration could be complete without making at least brief allusions to his colourful person-

ality. During our journeys into the world, organized by his favourite Hungarian colleague, Éva Kis, he proved to be a cheerful companion and enthusiastic partner in discussions. He was open to any new experience and curious about the novelties the world can offer to him. However, as he remarked, returning from a travel around the world, he regarded himself 'a man of oriental kind', by which he meant that he found the harsh turmoil of the Western society burdensome and could not identify himself with all of its values. He rather felt at home in the authority-based hierarchy of his own environment, he was more accustomed to that. Those who liked him accepted this attitude.

Andrija BOGNÁR will be missed and remembered by many: friends and colleagues in geography, both in Croatia and Hungary and, in fact, in many countries of the world he visited.

DÉNES LÓCZY

In memoriam Kazimierz Klimek (1934–2019)

Polish physical geography has lost one of his charismatic figures, Professor Kazimierz KLIMEK on 16 April 2019. He was an internationally renowned expert in the geomorphology, paleogeography, nature conservation and environmental sciences of the Tatra Mountains and Silesia and a great friend of Hungarian geography.

He was born in Biecz, a small town in Małopolska province, on 30 January 1934. Between 1952 and 1956 he studied geography at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków. His master thesis was entitled 'Geomorphological evolution of the Solinka Basin, Bieszczady'. After graduation, he worked for several years as a geography teacher in Kraków. In the years 1960–1979 he was a research worker at the Department of Geomorphology and Hydrology in the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków. From 1979 to 1991 he was the head of the Department of Nature Conservation at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

A typical representative of Polish geographers eager to explore the world, in 1968 he participated in his first major scientific expedition to southern Iceland. Then in the years 1974–1980 he headed seven expeditions organized by the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences to Mongolia. The scientific results of these expeditions were summarized in publications such as 'Contemporary fluvial processes and sculpture of the Skeiðarársandur plain (Iceland)' (1972), 'Vertical zonality in the southern Khangai Mountains (Mongolia)' (1980), 'Results of the Polish-Mongolian Physico-Geographical Expedition by Polish-Mongolian Physico-Geographical Expedition' (1980). In 1996, he

led an expedition to Svalbard. He build widespread international links during his scholarships to the University of Uppsala (1967), University of Bucharest (1973), Keele University (1978) and Bulgaria.

Kazimierz KLIMEK became extraordinary professor in 1982 and a few years full professor of the Faculty of Earth Sciences at the University of Silesia in Katowice and the head of the Palaeogeography of Stokowo-Valley Systems at the Department of Paleogeography and Quaternary Paleocology at the Faculty of Earth Sciences of the University of Silesia. At that time his main research areas were the geomorphology of and human impact on valley systems. He also published important papers on nature conservation and environmental protection (the effect of industrial emissions on ecosystems in Silesia, anthropopressure in selected morphoclimatic zones) too. In addition to membership in several committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences, between 1991 and 1993 he was president of the Scientific Council of the Tatra National Park.

As permanent participant of bilateral Polish-Hungarian seminars in the 1990s, he acquired many friends among Hungarian geographers. He will be remembered as an outstanding scientist and lecturer, educator of many generations of geographers, an optimistic man of great heart and mind, righteous and noble, with helpful disposition, devoted to the community, who enjoyed the respect of all who knew him. He is mourned by wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandson along with a great number of geographer friends.

DÉNES LÓCZY