

WITOLD ZUCHIEWICZ (13 XII 1955–27 VIII 2012)

At 27 August 2012 in Kraków died rapidly in the 57-th year of his life prof. dr Witold Zuchiewicz, one of the best researchers of Carpathian geomorphology, especially great expert on the role of neotectonic movements in shaping of relief and its relation to climatic fluctuations. In his studies used very wide palette of methods starting from geomorphological and sedimentological to various geophysical, geodetic, geochemical and others. He left a wonderful synthesis of 35 year research on the origin and evolution of the Carpathian orogenic system and its foredeep, published just one year before his unexpected death (Polish title: "Neotektonika Karpat Polskich i zapadliska przedkarpackiego").

Witold was born at 13 December 1955 and studied geography at the Jagiellonian University. In 1978 he wrote dissertation on the Quaternary terraces in part of the Dunajec valley, being one of the last students of prof. Klimaszewski. From the very beginning was showing a great interest in neotectonic problems. Therefore one year later as young assistant he shifted from the Geographical Institute of Jagiellonian University to the Institute of Geological Sciences where he spent 28 years climbing in scientific hierarchy. Very early in 1981 he got the doctor degree, in 1989 the doctor habilitus degree and in 1998 scientific title of professor. During that time he carried detail studies in various parts of Polish Carpathians and abroad as well as carried very wide organizing and dydactive activity at his Institute, in whole Poland and in international organizations. At University he conducted lectures and seminars in Quaternary geology, geomorphology and structural geology, leaded special programme for postgraduate students, and promoted many doctors in geology from various Polish universities.

In the Committee for Quaternary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences he organized and leaded Neotectonic Commission and after her annual workshops published volumes of proceedings. In the Commission of Quaternary Palaeogeography in Cracow Academy, being its deputy chairman he worked as a editor of a series *Folia Quaternaria*. In the Polish Geological Society he was active between 2002 and 2011 as head editor of *Annales Societatis Geologorum Poloniae*. As well known person in the field of Quaternary tectonics he has been elected the secretary of INQUA Neotectonic Commission for two terms. Witold Zuchiewicz was

also the active member of our Carpatho Balcan Geomorphological Commission, being on editorial board of this journal.

Witek left great number of publications based on detail field studies in various parts of flysch Carpathians, reconstructing and dating phases of tectonic activity during Neogene and Quaternary, partly in cooperation with other specialists, discussing the relation to climatic changes. Parallel with reconstructions for the past he observed and discovered the reflection of present-day tectonic activity in young Quaternary deposits like faults, involutions and crashed gravels. To better understanding of mechanism and effects of contemporary tectonic activity he made several expedition to active orogens of Northern Vietnam. These studies helped him to explain various phases in evolution of Carpathian orogen.

For his great input in the Quaternary sciences, especially neotectonics of Carpathian orogene he has been elected in the year 2004 the corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Arts in Cracow. He was also awarded by Serge von Bubno Medaille given by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften, Huthison Young Scientist Award, and W. Świdziński reward of Polish Geological Society.

Professor Zuchiewicz was a person extremely laborious, precise, open and friendly for others. He was very far from model of closed tower, so characteristic for some scientists. He confessed a maxim: "You got gratis, then give gratis to others"

Witek left our Carpathian community of earth scientists undoubtedly to early.

Leszek Starkel