

Association Announcement

DR. VÁSLAV NĚMEC: KRUMBEIN MEDALIST

The sixteenth William Christian Krumbein Medal was presented to Dr. Váslav Němec. The Krumbein Medal is the primary award of the International Association for Mathematical Geology. It is awarded annually for original contributions to the field of mathematical geology, service to the profession, and support of the activities of the IAMG.

Dr. Němec is well known to mathematical geologists. During the first 25 years of existence of the IAMG he has served as Eastern Treasurer almost continually: first from 1968 to 1980 and later from 1984 to the present. From 1968 to 1991 he has organized 15 international geomathematical meetings as part of the Příbram Mining Symposia. Except for the first one, all of these were co-sponsored by the IAMG. The city of Příbram is a historical Bohemian mining center about 60 km southwest of Prague, then in Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic. During the politically difficult years between 1968 and 1989, Příbram provided a unique meeting ground between East and West, probably without



Váslav Němec

parallel in geology and other branches of science. The 16th Příbram Symposium was held in October 1993, immediately after the IAMG's Silver Anniversary Meeting in Prague. At present, Dr. Němec is already organizing the next two Příbram meetings to be held in 1994 and 1995, respectively.

Váslav Němec was born in 1929 and originally studied economic sciences in Prague. In 1951, for political reasons, he was not permitted to complete these studies, although a diploma in economy was eventually awarded to him in 1991. He underwent military service from 1951 to 1953, in special units for politically unreliable persons being forced to work in coal mines. From the end of 1953 until 1990 he was employed in geological exploration. After being an external student at Charles University in Prague, Váslav graduated in applied geophysics in 1959. He specialized in the appraisal of mineral resources and ore reserve estimation. His doctoral thesis published in 1967 dealt with the spatial modeling and computer-based evaluation of mineral reserves for a large cement factory. For this work he was awarded the PhD degree in mining sciences from Košice Technical University.

Although retired since 1990, Dr. Němec continues his scientific and organizational activities, mostly working for non-profit organizations. Recently, he has become engaged in dealing with problems of geoethics and environmental protection. In these efforts he is strongly supported by his wife Lidmila Němcová.

He has occasionally taught at Charles University, Prague Technical University, Prague Economic University, the Comenius University in Bratislava, as well as Košice Technical University. During 1969/1970 he was a visiting research scientist with the Kansas Geological Survey in Lawrence. He has lectured on numerous occasions in the U.S., Canada, England, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Poland, Hungary, former USSR, Mongolia, Vietnam, P.R. China, Japan, and Iceland. In addition to Czech, Váslav speaks and writes fluently in English, French, Russian, Italian, Polish, and German. He also plays the piano: readers may have heard his interpretation of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in Prague, Novosibirsk, Paris, Washington D.C., Ottawa, or elsewhere.

Mathematical geologists are especially grateful to Váslav Němec for his unceasing efforts to bring them together in Příbram. When Czechoslovakia was part of the former Eastern Bloc, contact between scientists at the two sides of the iron curtain was very difficult. Dr. Němec surmounted nearly impossible odds in organizing the first 15 Příbram meetings which were regarded with suspicion by Czechoslovakian authorities because of the regular participation by Western scientists.

Statistics for the international Příbram meetings are truly impressive: by the end of 1993, the total number of papers on geomathematical topics published in successive Příbram Proceedings volumes has exceeded 1000; total number

of different authors personally presenting one or more papers now stands at nearly 500. During the first 15 meetings, only 48% of the published contributions were orally presented. This was because many scientists, especially in the USSR, were permitted to send in their manuscripts but not allowed to attend, mainly for political reasons.

We welcome Dr. Váslav Němec from the Czech Republic as the Krumbein Medal recipient for 1991.

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