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IN MEMORIAM



Dean BOŠKOVIĆ, B.Sc.

1929–2003

Yet another dear colleague and friend, Mr. Dean Braco Bošković, a great man, has passed away. For years he was one of the leading people in the Institute of Geology Zagreb, a man whose work has, over time, left a significant impact on the status of our profession in Croatian society.

Allow us to briefly recollect the most important moments in his life.

He was born on April 11, 1929 to an old, traditional family of railwaymen in Selska street, in Trešnjevka, an old part of Zagreb where the working class used to live. He also completed his secondary school education in Zagreb.

From 1948 to 1950 he was a professional sportsman in many sport and gymnastic associations, but was equally dedicated to music, and as an amateur musician organised numerous musical events and festivals in Zagreb.

He enrolled at the School of Mining and Geology of Zagreb University, and graduated with an honours degree in 1957. As a student he worked as an undergraduate assistant in the Department of the Mineralogy and Geology Institute and was fully committed to all activities conducted by the Institute – actively participating in field and laboratory work, in writing professional and scientific papers on geology, petrology, and mineral deposits.

After completing his studies he was appointed to the position of chief engineer for mining operations in the Sisak Steel Works, and in 1958 became Manager of the iron mine in Bešlinac and Bukovica, and of the coal mine at Tremušnjak. In 1960 he was appointed to the position of General Manager of the iron mine Ljubija where he worked until 1966 on reconstruction and investments operations.

Then, he was relocated to Zagreb, to the position of Assistant Director of the Institute of Geology and remained in office until 1975, when he became Director of the Institute himself. His next important position was Director of the Geological Survey of Croatia within the body which functioned at that time under the Committee for Science, Technology and Informatics. At the same time, while performing everyday routine jobs, he also published 37 studies in the field of planning, financing and organising geological research works. Along with his professional obligations, he was active in the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, in the Funds for Development of Science of the time, in various associations of Croatian geologists and mining engineers, where he continuously emphasised the paramount importance of geological research for the development of the Croatian economy. Among other things, he was one of the authors of the draft Law on Geological Research.

He paid exceptional attention to working conditions in the Institute, to modernisation of laboratories and research equipment, and achieved significant improvement of all operations conducted by the Institute of Geology when, thanks to his endeavours, the new Institute headquarters was built on its present location in Sachsova street, Zagreb.

Dean Bošković was a member of the Croatian Geological Society, Society of Engineers and Technicians of Croatia, and Scientific Oil Council of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

He retired on April 1, 1993.

His retirement did not dampen his enthusiasm and optimism, the two most dominant features of his character; he continued working in the Geological

Survey as an adviser and associate; always full of ideas to benefit the profession, he remained a committed member of the geological community, a dear friend and colleague whose frequent visits to the Institute were always welcomed with joy and friendliness. Despite his numerous obligations he was always ready to provide help and assistance to his junior colleagues. Even in moments of personal tragedy he was able to overcome pessimism and sorrow and show great strength of character.

Devoted to his family, his children, and most of all to his grandchildren, his warmth and kindness appealed to all those who came in contact with him, in particular his younger colleagues to whom he often appeared as father and friend.

On behalf of all employees of the Institute of Geology, we would like to pay tribute to Mr. Bošković for all the achievements of his fruitful and generous career, and for everything he left as a legacy to be shared by his colleagues, friends and co-workers.

May he rest in peace!

Dubravko Matičec and Ivo Velić