

## IN MEMORIAM

### Milan F. Pospíšil (1931–2006)



Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, suddenly passed away on July 24<sup>th</sup> at the age of seventy-five.

Milan F. Pospíšil was born on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1931 at the village Pačlavice near Kroměříž (Czech Republic). Educated in Kroměříž, he graduated in zoology and anthropology from the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Brno. His pedagogical and research career began at the Anthropological Institute of the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Brno and later on continued at the Military Medical Academy J. E. Purkyne in Hradec Králové.

In 1957 he moved to Bratislava where he joined the former Department of Anthropology and Genetics of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University. In 1971 he took over the function of Department's head and was in this position within full 20 years. After being retired from the employment in 2001, he did not cease his contacts with the University. He gave lectures not only for students of our faculty, but also for students of the Engineering Faculty of Slovak Technical University and of Academy of Fine Arts and Design – until his death.

His scientific interests and contributions were exceptionally wide, but his research activity was directed mainly to various aspects of dermatoglyphics. On this scientific discipline based his PhD dissertation entitled »*The Dermatoglyphics of Slovakia*«, habilitation dissertation »*Indian Remnants from the Province Oriente Cuba*«, dissertation for the scientific degree of DrSc. »*Variability of Human Chiridium and Factors Effectuated of it*«. In 1991 he was appointed Professor of Anthropology and in 2003 Emeritus Professor. The name of professor Pospíšil will always be connected with organizing international dermatoglyphic symposiums; from 1980 to 1990 entitled as the Valšíks's dermatoglyphic memorial, visited by foreigner specialists, too.

Besides the dermatoglyphics, he was interested in the fields of ethnic anthropology, human genetics, ergonomics, osteology, forensic anthropology, human ecology and ethology, and in the last years also of cultural and social anthropology. There was hardly an anthropological discipline, which was not a subject of his personal interest. Professor Pospíšil was engaged in all forms of pedagogical process. He wrote more than 120 original papers and reviews, eight textbooks, monograph and he was coauthor of publication written by Frank Spencer in two volumes under the title *History of Anthropology – An Encyclopedia*. Milan F. Pospíšil could have permanently inspired all people around him by his knowledge and experiences. His older age didn't negatively influence his activities or mental abilities. Many friends, colleagues, students and the members of the Slovak anthropological society, will sadly miss him.

*Daniela Siváková and Milan Thurzo*