

PÁL GREGUSS LIFE AND ACTIVITY
(In memoriam Professor Greguss)

PÁL GREGUSS was born on the 31 st of December, in 1889 in Tornya, Arad county. He attended grammar school in Arad, then graduated in Budapest as a secondary school teacher of biology and chemistry. During the first World War he was a soldier working at the Prague University. After coming home he taught at Teacher's Training Colleges first in Csáktornya then in Budapest. In 1919 he obtained a PH degree in Budapest. Starting from 1920 he worked as an assistant lecturer with professor HOLLENDONNER. In 1927 he was appointed honorary lecturer at Péter Pázmány University. In the same year he was entrusted with the organizing and managing of the Institute of Botany at the Debrecen University. A year later he was a professor of the Teacher's Training College in Szeged. When professor ISTVÁN GYÖRFFY left the Szeged University in 1940, he was appointed professor of the Department of Botany of Szeged University. A large scale teaching and research work was directed by him here for more than 25 years. He did not stop his researches even after his retirement (1965). He was one of the most prolific Hungarian botanists having the greatest number of publications.

His first paper was published when 20, in 1909. Summing up his fruitful and diligent research work we can find 46 books, 10 university textbooks and 254 scientific publications by his pen. His life is an excellent example of a scientist who after retirement wants to work and can produce wonderful results. During the years of his retirement he wrote 55 papers and after his 90th year, he added 6 more ones. Two days before his death, at the age of 94 he still went to the Department of Botany where in his small study he was full of plans.

He did researches almost in every field of Botany. From the 30-ies on he started to deal with tree anatomy and with the research of died out plants (fossils). His monography (Lomblevelű fák meghatározása, Közép-Európai lombos fák és cserjék meghatározása szövettani alapon) "Xylotomical determination of deciduous trees and shrubs in Middle Europe" was published in 1947 and made him a name among the botanists. Then he became interested in the Examination of gymnospermous tree trunk and in 1955 he finished his brilliant work (Xylotomische Bestimmung der heute lebenden Gymnospermen) "Xylotomical determinations of the present gymnospermous trees", containing the structure of xylem of 360 gymnospermous species and this work has become well known all over the world. In the international scientific life PROFESSOR PÁL GREGUSS has become famous first of all as a xylem anatomist on the ground of his numerous books and studies. If there were a championship in science like in sports, professor GREGUSS would be on the top of a world table as an anatomist. He spent about four decades at colleges and universities and helped to train not only teachers of biology but a number of researches as well who play a very important role in our present scientific life. The thought of evolution was the guiding principle in his lectures. He was suggestive and clear to describe the flora different geological ages. Delivering lectures he never failed to implant the love of nature, life and people in his students. He defined three

treasures in our life: love, health and knowledge. Beside his teaching and scientific work he took part in public affairs, too. After 1956 he was the Rector of our university. It would be difficult to enumerate the medals he was awarded as an appreciation of his work. After the Kossuth Prize and Orders of Labour, he was awarded with the Flag Decorated Orden of the Hungarian People's Republic. Professor GREGUSS now would be a 100, and this is the reason why we are organizing the 5th of Symposium Hungarian Plant Anatomy.

Now I wish the participants of the symposium to achieve similar results as professor GREGUSS did in plant anatomy and work as long as he did.

S. GULYÁS

See: Bibliography Publications of PROF. DR. PÁL GREGUSS 1909—1982.
Acta Biol. Szeged. 31, pp. 207—214 (1985)