

Laudatio on the Occasion of Leopold-von-Buch-Plakette Award to Dr. Stanislav Vrána

At the Joint conference of the Czech and German geological societies in Pilsen in September 2013, Dr. Stanislav Vrána (*1936), Prague, will be awarded the Leopold-von-Buch-Plakette. This is in recognition of his outstanding work on the field of metamorphic and igneous petrology as well as of structural geology. He is only the third Czech (after R. Kettner, 1965 and Q. Záruba, 1977) who has been so honoured.

This versatile and gifted geologist is an author of more than 140 scientific publications, of which many appeared in renown international journals. They became a standard reading especially for those of us concerned with the mineralogy, metamorphic geology and tectonic development of the Bohemian Massif and Western Carpathians. In particular, his work on Moldanubian granulites, their nature, P–T–t conditions of formation and early recognition of the role of high-pressure partial melting, became classic.

Stanislav Vrána has graduated from Charles University in Prague in 1959. Then he was employed by the Geological Survey in Bratislava, and the Western Carpathians were the first region where he has encountered the problems of metamorphic rocks. In 1965 he defended a Ph.D. thesis dealing with the Alpine paragenesis in the Vepor Unit, Slovakia. Since 1966 until now he is working in the Czech Geological Survey, Prague, where he has been, and still is, involved in a number of mapping and research projects. Most importantly, in 1991–1995 he led a large scientific campaign in western Bohemia connected with the KTB deep continental drilling programme. Even though life-long love of Stanislav remained the Bohemian Massif, and southern Bohemia in particular, he has been also active abroad; he spent five years on expeditions in Zambia and has kept returning to Africa ever since.

Very important for the geoscientific community was Stanislav's work as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Czech Geological Society* (1992–2006). Under his supervision the journal has been transformed into a modern peer-reviewed English-language periodical. It is hardly surprising that its successor, the *Journal of Geosciences*, having opened by a special volume honouring 70th birthday of the former editor (2007), managed to reach an impact factor soon thereafter (2011).

For me has Stanislav always been a model of a scientist – diligent, critical and knowledgeable but, at the same time, open-minded and humble. I cannot stop admiring the range of ideas he came with and methods he has been able to master. Remarkable is also the sheer energy he keeps well into his seventies, still working hard in field, laboratory or just collecting minerals.

Taken together, I am both pleased and honoured that I can, on behalf of both societies, wish Stanislav good health and more good ideas and significant papers, from which all of us will undoubtedly benefit.

Vojtěch Janoušek (Prague)

