

100th Birth Anniversary of Professor Vanda Kochansky-Devidé

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Dear colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present you a selection of palaeontological papers dedicated to the great lady, our late Professor Vanda Kochansky-Devidé (10th April 1915 – 26th February 1990), who was the first female full-member of the *Croatian (and formerly Yugoslav) Academy of Sciences and Arts*.

Vanda Kochansky-Devidé graduated with a degree in Biology from the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. After graduation she was employed at the University of Zagreb, Faculty Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, where she spent all her working career. Generations of students remember her excellent lectures and exceptional drawing skills. Her textbook in Palaeontology is still in use among students and active geologists.

Hard-working and excellent teacher, Professor Kochansky was respected in the wider community. One of Croatian magazines put her on the list of twenty most influential women in the Croatian society. Her wide research interest influenced many palaeontologists, including the authors of papers published in this issue of *Geologia Croatica*. Her first research papers were dedicated to the Neogene macrofossils. She was the first geologist to develop micropalaeontology in Croatia, and determined microfossils from different geologic periods and localities all over the world.

Vanda Kochansky-Devidé published more than one hundred scientific papers as well as numerous professional and popular issues. She was the author of numerous new fossil taxa, and many palaeontologists named their newly found fossils after her.

She was the initiator and coauthor of the first geological bibliography, the chief editor of several scientific magazines, a member of many professional associations, and she was active in geoheritage protection and geoconservation. She was awarded several times for her professional achievements, and she became

the full-member of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences in the year 1973.

Croatian palaeontologists from different geological institutions gathered together and organized an international meeting dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of Professor Vanda Kochansky-Devidé from 9th to 11th April 2015. Meeting included the opening ceremony in the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU), exhibition in the Croatian Natural History Museum, one-day excursion to the Neogene localities in the vicinity of Zagreb, and lecture/poster sessions at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb.

This issue comprises several scientific papers which were presented at the meeting in 2015 in the form of lectures and posters. We hope that all our activities related to the 100th birth anniversary of Professor Vanda Kochansky-Devidé will help keeping the memory on Vanda alive, and help younger generations of geologists and palaeontologists to uncover the personality and scientific opus of this exceptional woman.

Additionally, this issue meets traditional and new methods in geology research. Except for five paleontological papers it includes some of new research studies dealing with the application of innovative technologies for landslide detection and application of statistical analysis in economic geology. Results of geochemical analysis were processed by factor analysis for surface hydrocarbon exploration and in with the purpose of identifying the influence of parent material, mining industry and agriculture on the groundwater. Also, the discriminant model is constructed in order to assess apply the geochemistry of Lower Palaeogene bauxites as a tool for unravelling the unique signature of the tectonostratigraphic evolution.

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