In memoriam

Professor Ivan Haydoutov (1933–2019)

Ivan Haydoutov, a professor in geodynamics, died in February 2019 at the age of 86. “Haydu”, as he was known to his friends and colleagues, was born on 27 April 1933 in Sofia. He studied geology and geochemistry at University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski”, where he graduated in 1956. The next few years he spent in a geological mapping team and in 1960 he moved to the Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where he worked until his retirement as a professor and chair of the department of Geotectonics. In 1964 he read structural (Precambrian) geology at University of St. Petersburg and in 1974 he did postdoctoral study at the Imperial College in London. In 1997 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. During his research career Prof. Haydoutov published more than 110 papers and 4 monographs. He participated in variety of national and international research projects (incl. IGCP Projects 5, 276, 351) and actively collaborated with scientists around the globe. He has made major contributions in the studies of Pre-Mesozoic oceanic crust (ophiolites) and Variscan granite magmatism in SE Europe. His contributions to the completion of the geological maps of Bulgaria in scale 1:100 000 are truly unmatched and will remain the base of many geological and geophysical investigations in the Balkans and SE Europe. His most recent monograph “Late Neoproterozoic–Early Paleozoic evolution of the Balkan Terrain (SE Europe) – a probable fragment of the Iapetus Ocean” will indisputably inspire many future geological and geodynamic studies.

Professor Haydoutov was one of my early mentors and I was fortunate to be in the field with him on several occasions. We published several papers together and he was instrumental in highlighting the scientific values of our study, the issues to be addressed and the key outcrops to be interrogated. His

love of the mountains and his willingness to explore are something that cannot be overlooked. He participated in two Himalayan expeditions (1984 and 1987), climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, visited the glaciers of Alaska, and the volcanoes of Patagonia. He was also fascinated by the Mayan culture and by the richness of the vast collections of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, which he often visited while he lived in Washington DC.

All of the people that knew him and/or worked with him share the general sense of speaking to a very special person – kind, polite, with excellent sense of humour, extremely well-educated and intelligent in all aspects of life and science. Haydu is survived by his wife and two children and grandchildren, as well as numerous students, postdocs, and colleagues, who will all miss him tremendously.

Ivan Savov
(University of Leeds, UK)