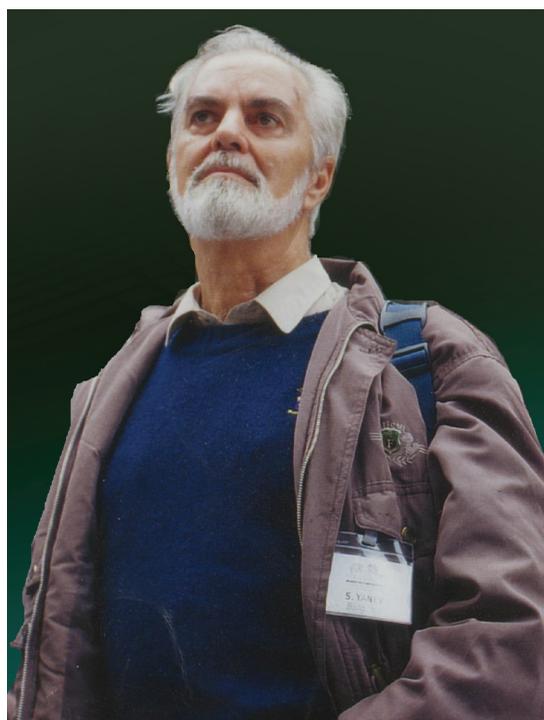


80th Anniversary of Prof. Slavcho Yanev, DSc

Slavcho Yanev was born on March 9, 1935, in the town of Dupnitsa, SW Bulgaria. In 1958, he graduated with honours from the Sofia University, as geologist-geochemist. In 1961, he was a post-graduate student at the University of Freiberg and at the Academy of Sciences in Berlin, Germany. His PhD thesis “Lithology of the upper Palaeozoic sediments in north-western Bulgaria” was defended in 1969, and a dissertation for a Doctor of Sciences on “Sedimentology of the Palaeozoic Erathem in Bulgaria” in 1995. He speaks German, Spanish, French and Russian, and uses English, Italian and a few Slavic languages.

His professional career has been connected mostly to the Geological Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). It began in the Committee of Geology (1958–1960) and later on in the Geological Institute, BAS, as a Research Associate (1960–1987). Slavcho Yanev became Associate Professor of Sedimentology in 1987, and he was Scientific Secretary of the Geological Institute between 1989 and 1992. During 1992–1993, he was appointed as Director of the Geological Institute. He voluntarily left the administrative position, and his work was highly appreciated by the management of BAS. He was a three-term member of the General Assembly of the Scientists in BAS, from 1992 to the end of 2003, and a Chairman of the Financial and Economic Commission in the third General Assembly of BAS. He has been a member of the Scientific Council of the Geological Institute since 1986 and a Member of the Specialized Council of Geological Sciences at Higher Attestation Commission and its deputy chairman since 1998. Slavcho Yanev was given the title Professor in 1996, and was Head of the Department of Sedimentology, Geological Institute (BAS), from the same year until his retirement in 2006. He has participated: in numerous expert commissions in the former Committee of Geology; two terms in expert committees of the Ministry of Education and Science (Earth Sciences and the Antarctic Commission); and in the expert committee of the Geological Map of Bulgaria in scale of 1:50 000 and 1:100 000.

Slavcho Yanev’s scientific publications include five monographs (three printed abroad and two in Bulgaria) and a total of over 240 scientific papers and communications. Of these, 62 works are in Bulgarian, 19 in Russian, and 180 in other foreign languages (English, German, Spanish and French). Articles and abstracts by S. Yanev have been printed not only in Bulgaria but also in Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Spain, Austria, Cuba, Greece, Argentina, Poland, Serbia, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Belgium, Japan, Brazil, by inter-



national publishers as Elsevier, Springer-Verlag, etc. He has written three popular scientific books and more than ten popular articles.

He has participated in a number of applied researches for “Oil and Gas” (Varna, Plevna and Montana) and “Rare Metals” (Sofia). For several decades, he was free consultant on stratigraphy and sedimentology of the Palaeozoic for exploration companies. As a result, S. Yanev has become one of the best and in-demand consultants on the Palaeozoic in the Moesian Platform.

S. Yanev’s thematic focus is mainly on the sedimentology of the Palaeozoic in Bulgaria and on the palaeogeography and tectonic events during the Palaeozoic. His main contributions are in the sedimentology of clastic and carbonate complexes in the Palaeozoic of Bulgaria and their comparison with similar and more remote areas, as well as in the study of flint and salt complexes and the environment of their formation.

Especially significant is Prof. Yanev’s contribution to the method of terrane analysis of the Balkan Peninsula. This method allowed him to recognize for the

first time the existence of three different pre-Variscan Palaeozoic terranes in Bulgaria, which were positioned in the southern polar region during the Ordovician; via consistent migration, these three terranes passed through the southern humid and southern arid zones during the Devonian, through the equatorial tropical zone during the Carboniferous and to the northern arid zone in the Permian. He interpreted the formation of the Variscan orogen as accretion between overtaking Balkan and Moesian terranes. This reconstruction was innovative for the entire Balkan Peninsula and was developed contemporaneously with the introduction of the method of terrane analysis by European and other scientists. These results have made a valuable contribution to building the entire concept of Palaeozoic development in most parts of the world (Europe, South America and North Africa). The terrane analysis was applied, using complex methods, by a team of versatile specialists. Subsequently, the results were quickly accepted, disseminated and supplemented in neighbouring countries (Serbia, Romania, Greece and Turkey).

For his contributions, Prof. Yanev has been awarded by the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

During 1972–1975, he was an expert geologist, and in 1982 and 1985 a Chief Geologist at the Bulgargeomin and Office National des Mines (Tunisia). Prof. Yanev has significantly contributed to the geological studies of a number of regions in the Republic of Tunisia. He was credited for the discovery of a unique occurrence of mercury and for the examination of several stratiform lead-zinc deposits. He has original contributions to the explanation of some ores' origin with diapir movements of the salt-bearing Triassic sedimentary complexes, which created conditions for growth of circular reefs and radial systems of cracks filled with lead-zinc mineralization.

Prof. Yanev worked for three years (1978–1981) as an expert for the Mapping Programme at the Institute of Palaeontology and Geology, Cuban Academy of

Sciences. He contributed to the compilation of the geological map of Cuba in scale 1:100 000, and is the author of numerous reports. His activities were highly appreciated by the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Yanev participated in the Project 5th for multi-lateral cooperation of the former socialist countries and in a large number of bilateral scientific projects with Germany (GDR), Italy, Spain, France, Austria, Cuba, Yugoslavia (Serbia), Tunisia and Turkey. He also participated in IGCP Projects Nos. 5, 198, 276, 351, 421, etc., and in Europrobe and Peri-Tethys programmes. He was the Bulgarian co-author of the maps of the Moscovian and Artinskian stages of the Peri-Tethyan area.

Slavcho Yanev was a member of the editorial boards of scientific journals in Serbia (*The Terrain of Serbia*), Italy (*Natura Breshiyana*), *Journal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*, etc. He is sought after as a reviewer of publications in Italy, Germany, Serbia and other countries.

He is a member of the Bulgarian Geological Society, the Cuban Geological Society, the Geological Society of Tunisia, the Italian Geological Society, the Society of Permian Geologists (now Association of Permian and Triassic geologists), the Sedimentological Association, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and others.

Slavcho Yanev is actively working on the preparation of the first volume of *Geology of Bulgaria (Palaeozoic geology)*.

He has tutored two PhD students.

Prof. S. Yanev is the mentor of all younger colleagues who work on the Palaeozoic, being always modest, highly respectable and kind-hearted. S. Yanev is a genuine intellectual, who is committed to his profession as a scientist-geologist, and whose friendliness, erudition and competence make working with him fruitful and creative.

Happy anniversary, dear Prof. Yanev! We express our deepest respect and gratefulness for all your dedication to geology and to your colleagues. You have left a deep trail in Bulgarian geology, and inspire many new ideas that are worth following!

Marlena Yaneva
Iskra Lakova