

doc. PhDr. Slavomil Vencel, DrSc.

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One of the main targets of this periodical has always been to build a bridge between Classical and Prehistoric Archaeology, including neighbouring disciplines, and giving voice to those who understand archaeology not as a small niche of their narrow expertise but as a broad multifaceted field of study, in which the real point is crossing the imaginary partitions between the single specialisations. One figure, who more than anyone else excelled in such linking of the single archaeologies into one, sadly left us earlier this year.

Professor Slavomil Vencel, passed away on the 23rd of June, 2019 at the age of 83 years. Besides being the leading expert on Late Palaeolithic to Early Neolithic periods in Bohemia, he throughout his life targeted also more broadly composed themes, including archaeological theory. In his very conceptual and detailed approach, he enlightened many aspects in the fields of ancient warfare, archaeology of thirst, prehistoric architecture, archaeology of the invisible, and even archaeological ethics, while clarifying also less known aspects of burnt sacrifices and invisible aspects of funeral rite. Between 1973 and 1985 he was also an excellent editor of *Archeologické rozhledy*, journal published by his home institution, the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Upon visiting the Institute, one usually found him in the reading room of the library, going in an almost painstaking way through the new accessions, making excerpts on small paper cards, back in the days before common use of the computers. The other option would be his office, situated in a secluded tower-like structure in the back-yard of the Institute, which gave him his splendid isolation and peace of mind for work.

Finally, his pedagogical activity, most notably at the then Prehistory Department of the Charles University, has to be mentioned as well. Even though his course was dryly called *Palaeolithic*, the lectures included also plentiful seemingly unrelated information, especially on taphonomic processes. He was also one of the few who requested writing essays from students and assessed them in detail.

What may not have been known to everyone in the archaeological realm, Slavomil Vencel was also a respected connoisseur and publisher of contemporary graphic art.

His clear mind, thoughtful ideas, sophrosyne, capacity of connecting knowledge from distant areas and his exemplary moral values deeply influenced his colleagues and pupils.

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