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IN MEMORIAM
Farewell to Academician Anto Raukas
(17 02 1935 – 19 04 2021)

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that prof. habil. dr. Anto Raukas, a long-term member of the Scientific Programme Committee of the BALTICA journal and author of articles, one of the most prominent Estonian geologists of all time, member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, has passed away this year. Although the scope of his scientific interests was extremely wide, first of all, he was a researcher of Quaternary geology and devoted much attention on Baltic Sea related issues: its geological development, paleogeography, coastal dynamics. As an active member and leader of the Baltic Quaternary research community, A. Raukas was for a long time engaged in initiating and organizing annual international field symposiums, which are held to this day. A. Raukas was an extremely productive researcher: besides leading various national and international research projects and programs, he has authored 34 and edited more than 120 books, has published more than 500 scientific articles and 200 conference theses, has written more than 800 journalistic and popular science articles, some of which were published in the journal BALTICA (list attached). The scientific activity of A. Raukas was closely related to his pedagogical work at Estonian universities; 15 dissertations of candidate of science (equivalent to the current doctoral dissertation) and 5 doctoral dissertations (equivalent to the current habilitated doctoral dissertation) were defended under his supervision.

Anto Raukas was born into a teacher's family on February 17, 1935 in Tartu. In 1953 he completed his secondary education with a gold medal and, in the same year, entered the University of Tartu, from which he graduated in 1958 with honors earning a diploma of engineer-geologist in the field of geological mapping and mineral exploration. Both at school and at university, he distinguished himself as an active athlete: he was an Estonian champion and record holder in running, showed high achievements in orienteering sport. After graduating from the university, A. Raukas started working at the Institute of Geology of the Estonian Academy of Sciences where in 1962 he defended the dissertation of the candidate of geology and mineralogy (equivalent to the doctoral



dissertation) "Lithology and mineralogy of basal moraines of Estonian SSR". In 1965–2005 he headed the Sector of Quaternary Geology of this institute. In 1972 he defended his doctoral dissertation in geology and mineralogy (equivalent to the current habilitated doctoral dissertation) "Formation of Estonian Pleistocene deposits and glacial relief". In 1980s he was conferred the title of Professor. In 1977 A. Raukas was elected a corresponding member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and gained the membership of its Presidium, which lasted until 1989; in 1982–1989 he served as an academician-secretary of the Section of Chemical, Geological and Biological Sciences; in 1987 he was elected a full member of the Academy. In 1995–2001, A. Raukas was the Head of the Department of Environmental Engineering at Tallinn Technical University, in 2009 he was awarded a professorship, and in 2017, was conferred the title of

emeritus professor. In 1999–2001 he was the director of the Institute of Geology, and from 2008 to 2014 – a senior researcher. In 1993–2009 A. Raukas was a professor of the Estonian Maritime Academy, and since 2010 he was a senior researcher at the School of Natural Sciences and Health, Institute of Ecology at Tallinn University.

Activities of A. Raukas were not limited to scientific and pedagogical work: he was also an active public figure. He was invited to serve on various committees and boards, was an active member of numerous scientific and public organizations. He was a Chairman of the Republican Association of Science, Scientific Adviser to the Government of the Republic of Estonia and Chairman of the Baltic Assembly Culture Awards Committee, member of the Royal Geographical Society of London, member of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), an honorary member of the World Innovation Council, and an honorary doctor of the University of Latvia. A. Raukas was the first president of the Estonian Geological Society (1989–1994).

Scientific achievements and social activity of A. Raukas were acknowledged with many different awards. It was even four times, i.e., in 1991, 1996, 2003 and in 2015, that he was awarded the Science Prize of the Republic of Estonia, the third-class Order of the White Star of the Republic of Estonia being bestowed on him in 1998. He was also awarded over a dozen prizes and medals of several prestigious international scientific and public organizations. In 1999 Anto Raukas was elected one of the hundred most prominent Estonian personalities of the 20th century, and in 2007 he was bestowed an honorary citizenship of the city of Tallinn.

The bright memory of Antas Raukas will be long preserved and cherished in the hearts of those who happened to know him, and his scientific achievements and contribution to society will serve as an example to all who have chosen a very interesting, yet not always easy, career path of a researcher.

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