

Farewell to Academician Vytautas Gudelis
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Full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LAS) Prof. Vytautas Gudelis, Dr. Habil. (Nature Sciences), devoted more than 60 years of his work and active scientific activities to the research of the Baltic Sea shores and depths. Academician Gudelis was a scientist famous in the world, prominent Lithuanian geographer, geologist and oceanographer, Doctor Honoris causa of Uppsala University (Sweden), a member of the European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC), a member of the Society of Lithuanian Geographers, initiator and editor of the *Baltica* international journal, a laureate of state prizes and *Via Baltica* international fund.

Vytautas Gudelis was born in 1923 in Kaunas. In 1929–1941 he attended primary school and boy gymnasium in Panevėžys. In 1941 he started his geology studies at the Vilnius University. During WWII, in 1943–1944 he worked for the Lithuanian Geological Survey and in 1944–1947 continued his studies at the Nature Sciences Faculty of Vilnius University, which he graduated from as a geographer. From 1944 to 1949 Gudelis worked as a senior laboratory technician and an assistant at the Physical Geography Department, and from August of 1949 he was a senior lecturer at the Geology Department.

In 1951 Gudelis was appointed a scientific secretary of the LAS Geology and Geography Institute, from 1954, he led the Sector of Raw Minerals of this institute and in 1959 he was elected the head of the Physical Geography Sector. In 1963 the Institute of Geology and Geography was reorganised by dividing it into two bodies: geological sectors formed the Geology Institute attributed to the USSR Ministry of Geology and the geographical ones were left in LAS and joined to the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology. In 1965 the Department of Geography was formed with Gudelis heading the Physical Geography Sector. In 1978 Prof. Gudelis was appointed the Deputy Director of the Zoology and Parasitology Institute and the Head of the Geography Department and the leader of Physical Geography Sector that was renamed in 1980 into the Laboratory of the Baltic Sea Shore Dynamics and Geology. In 1990, on the basis of the Geography Department, LAS formed the Institute of Geography with Prof. Gudelis directing it and leading the Laboratory of the Baltic Sea Shore Dynamics and Geology. On 31 October 1990, after elections, Prof. Gudelis lost the post of director, but remained the head of the Laboratory. At the start of 1991, on account of his health Prof. Gudelis retired.

The long-term research done by Vytautas Gudelis covers the fields of geomorphology and Quaternary geology, neotectonics and palaeogeography, shore dynamics and other geographical and geological ranges. His first work, published in 1954–1955, dealt with the Kuršių Marios (Curonian) Lagoon sedimentogenesis, as well as the Kuršių Nerija (Curonian) Spit structure and geological evolution. After two decades, the results of his investigations done together with co-authors were generalised in two monographs “Baltic Sea Geology” (1976) and “The Quaternary History of the Baltic” (1979, with L.K. Königson).

The scientific distance covered by Prof. Gudelis was very successive. In 1954 he defended his dissertation on “The Geological Development of the Baltic Sea in Late Glacial and Post-glacial in the area of the Lithuanian SSR and Kaliningrad Region” and got the degree of the candidate of geology and mineralogy sciences. In 1956 he becomes the senior research associate in Quaternary geology. In 1959, Gudelis together with A. Basalykas were awarded with the state prize for their monograph

"Physical Geography of the Lithuanian SSR (Pt. 1)". In 1968 Gudelis defended his dissertation on "The Relief and Quaternary Formations of the Baltic Area" and was conferred the degree of the doctor of geography sciences, and in 1969 he became a professor. Prof. Gudelis was elected the LAS corresponding member in 1980 and LAS full member in 1994.

Publications by Vytautas Gudelis deal with several scientific trends. He was a pioneer in complex investigations on the Baltic Sea geology, palaeogeography, shore dynamics and neotectonics and he linked these works with ecology. He contributed to the formation of the basics of Lithuanian geographical landscape management. Gudelis compiled the first maps on the Baltic area and Lithuanian neotectonics (1960), Kuršių Marios sediments (1951) and Baltic Sea bottom relief (1975). Beside the above-mentioned monographs, Gudelis published such books as "Baltijos jūra" (1960, The Baltic Sea), "Kuršių nerija ir marios" (1970, Curonian Spit and Lagoon), "Pabaltijo reljefas ir kvartero dariniai" (1973, Relief and Quaternary Formations of the Baltic Area) and "Baltijos jūros dugno nuosėdų lito ir biostratigrafija" (1985, Litho- and Biostratigraphy of the Baltic Sea Bottom Deposits).

In 1998, Prof. Gudelis issued a large generalising monograph "Lietuvos įjūris ir pajūris" (Lithuanian Nearshore and Coast). This book, as its author used to say, was the loveliest for him. This thoughtful book contains information about the Baltic Sea and the coast, Kuršių Nerija Spit, as well as a more realistic image of this Lithuanian part is formed and the future of the sea is prognosticated. The monograph is based on the data of investigations done by him personally and his numerous disciples and co-authors. By the way, this book contains also verse created by Gudelis about the sea: "Štormas" (The Storm), "Prie paminklo Liudvikui Rėzai" (At the Monument to Liudvikas Rėza), and "Pamario varpai" (The Bells of the Lagoon-coast). This verse reflects well his world outlook and the credo of his life.

Gudelis's deserts in Lithuanian terminology are also great. Thanks to this scholar, about 340 new scientific terms appeared and were established. This is reflected in such publications as "A Dictionary of Geological Terms" (1953; Lithuanian–Russian–German–English–French–Polish); A Dictionary of Geological and Physical Geography Terms (1956; Russian–Lithuanian), and A Glossary of Coastal Research Terms (1993; Lithuanian–Russian–German–English). Under enormous efforts Prof. Gudelis finished and published in 2006 the book "Lietuvos pajūrio žvejų marinistikos įvardai" (Heritage of Marine Toponyms Used by Lithuanian Coast Fishers) that, according to its author, could be "a specific monument to the nearly vanished speech of olden Lithuanian seacoast fishers".

From 1963 to 1982, Prof. Gudelis edited *Baltica*—the international magazine on the Baltic Sea geology and geography. In 1960, voluminous scientific transactions (in English and Lithuanian) devoted

For the 19th International Geographical Congress in Stockholm and the 21st session of the International Geological Congress in Copenhagen were published under his editing. In 1958–1990 Prof. Gudelis edited "Geografijos Metraštis" (Geographical Yearbook). He was a permanent author of Lithuanian encyclopaedic publications and a consultant as well as a member of LAS editorial board.

Prof. Gudelis visited Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, and Sweden and gave lectures on the Baltic Sea geography and geology at the universities of Lund, Turku, Helsinki, Oulu and Uppsala. Speaking several European languages Prof. Gudelis had been invited to various international scientific organisations. In 1961, visiting Warsaw, Gudelis became a corresponding member of INQUA and some of its commissions, a member of Holocene Commission of the International Union of Geophysicists and Geodesists, as well as a participant of many foreign scientific organisations.

Appreciating the contribution of Prof. Gudelis into the investigations of the Baltic Sea and its shores and development of international scientific co-operation, in 1992 Uppsala university conferred the title of Honorary Doctor to Vytautas Gudelis. In 1995 he was elected an Honorary Member of the EUCC. In 2003, Prof. Gudelis was decorated with medal of Kazys Pakštas by the Society of Lithuanian Geographers.

All his life, Prof. Gudelis did education work as well. Under his guidance, about 30 doctor (science candidate) dissertations in geology and geography have been prepared. From 1952 Gudelis headed more than 40 scientific research themes, took part in several international projects, organised international conferences, and took part in state-level scientific expeditions. Vytautas Gudelis is the pioneer of researches on seashore dynamics and the recent movements of Earth crust (neotectonics) in Lithuania.

The scientific creation of Academician Gudelis is greatly valued and his scientific standing is unrivalled. By his works Gudelis won international recognition. He was extremely productive. About 700 scientific works belong to his pen. His various scientific works appeared in Lithuanian and foreign scientific treatises and periodicals, including Mexico, Copenhagen, Paris, Stockholm, Tallinn, Moscow, Warsaw and Berlin.

Prof. Gudelis was actively propagating scientific news on geography and other sciences; he was a well-known person in scholar and public societies. Recently his rich bibliographic collections were handed over to the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, where a special personal fund of Gudelis is formed.

All those who knew Vytautas Gudelis will always remember him as an extraordinary person who laid foundations for broad investigations on the geological history of the Baltic Sea.

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