



Unfortunately, these warm early summer days have brought the academic community some rather sad news. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019, at the age of 82, Doc. PhDr. Slavomil Vencl, DrSc. passed away.

A more exhaustive review of Slavomil Vencl's work, as well his final papers, on which he worked until almost his last days, will of course be published in due course. For myself, I must note, that the last of "the bards" has left us, as we called this particular

generation of post-war palaeolithic researchers, which also included Bohuslav Klíma, Jan Fridrich and Karel Valoch. They all have made a significant contribution to many of the field's discoveries.

After graduation and a short stint at the National Museum, Slavomil Vencl anchored his professional life with the Archaeological Institute at the Academy of Sciences in Prague, where he worked until his death. At first he specialised in the Neolithic period, and later devoted himself mainly to the period of the Upper and Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic.

The range of his interests was very broad: in the field of science he was mainly associated with the so-called "archaeology of the phenomenon 'unfound'" and, above all, the methodology of archaeology. His articles were carefully argued and always created an appropriate response in his readers. He conducted field research, published extensively, was a successful researcher in many scientific projects. In addition to archaeology and teaching at universities, he was editor of *Archeologické rozhledy* for many years (1973–1985). Slavomil Vencl was precise, very careful about the correct use of the Czech language and culture in general. An example to us all, was the way he and his wife, also an archaeologist, supported each other professionally and morally even through the toughest of times.

Some little encouragement may be taken in this moment that doc. Slavomil Vencl successfully left behind a new generation of young archaeologist to continue in the work to which he dedicated his life.

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Slavomil Vencl in his office at the Archaeological Institute in Prague, 1992. Archive Archaeological Institute, Prague.