



Remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of doc. PhDr. Karel Valoch, DrSc.

We are very proud that on June 11, 2020, with the participation of family, former colleagues and friends, we witnessed the ceremonial unveiling of the memorial plaque of doc. K. Valoch (April 16, 1920 Brno – February 15, 2013 Brno).

When at the beginning of 2013, at the age of 93, the passing of the nesor of Moravian archaeology,

doc. PhDr. Karel Valoch, DrSc., was an unexpected event for everyone, as Valoch influenced countless European researchers with his long and fruitful scientific life. Until the end of his days, he was full of strength with inexhaustible life and scientific enthusiasm. Thanks to his incredible diligence and personal erudition, and despite the considerable limitations of the socialist establishment in the then Czechoslovak Republic, he developed into a leading expert on the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. Not



FIGURE 1: A ceremony in the occasion of City Brno Award. K. Valoch obtained the award in 2011 in the sphere of historic sciences (archaeology). Photo J. Cága, Moravian Museum.



FIGURE 2: The design of the memorial plaque was realized by MgA. Irena Armutidis. Photo F. Fojtík, Moravian Museum.

only his archaeological work, but also his extensive knowledge and activities in the field of interdisciplinary cooperation are part of the indelible references of this unique scientist and man.

Karel Valoch's incredible life career was summarised for his foreign colleagues shortly after his

death (Nerudová, Neruda 2013). Let us just remind you that his entire professional career was connected with the Moravian Museum and the Anthropos Institute, which he joined on December 1, 1952, and to which he remained faithful until the last days. He carried out the first, fully professional and interdisciplinary research in the vicinity of Brno and in the caves of the Moravian Karst (Pod hradem Cave, Žitného Cave), most often with his colleague Rudolf Musil.

Karel Valoch's most important projects include a broadly conceived interdisciplinary research of the Kůlna Cave near Sloup in the Moravian Karst in the years 1961–1976 (Valoch 1988), to which he returned, both in his thoughts and publications, to his last days (Valoch *et al.*, 2011). Kůlna Cave was his life's passion. He managed to find a unique sequence of Pleistocene layers, depicting the development of Palaeolithic industries from the end of the Saalian to the onset of the Holocene. Rich collections of Middle, Upper and Late Palaeolithic industries and animal skeletal remains are still key material for research into the behaviour of prehistoric man in Europe. Based on them, he coined the term Taubachian for the small-scale industries of the last interglacial (Valoch 1984) or defined the term Epimagdalenian on the basis of late-Palaeolithic industries from layers 3 and 4. He probably appreciated the finding of Neanderthal remains (occipital bone, maxilla and deciduous teeth) in the Micoquien layer 7a the most.

On June 11, 2020, Karel Valoch returned to his beloved Kůlna. On the occasion of the centenary of his birth, a bronze memorial plaque with a portrait and a cast of one of his finds – a hand axe – was unveiled in the Kůlna Cave. Valoch will symbolically oversee not only the visitors to the cave, but also his beloved excavations.

The complete list of K. Valoch's publications can be freely downloaded from the web-pages of the Anthropologie Journal:

http://puvodni.mzm.cz/Anthropologie/downloads/articles/2015/Neruda_2015_p15-30.pdf

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