

JIŘI KONTA

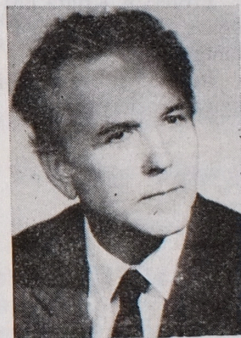
Professor Jiří Konta was born on 15 February 1922 in Žleby, Czechoslovakia. He studied geological sciences, mineralogy and petrography at the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague. He received a RNDr degree in geological sciences and chemistry from Charles University in 1948. In 1954 he obtained a Ph. D. degree in mineralogy and petrology, and in 1961 a D. Sc. on the basis of his thesis on "Imbibimetry — a new method of investigation of clays". In 1948 he began working as assistant in the Department of Petrology, Charles University. In 1952 he was appointed Assistant Professor, and in 1961 Professor of sedimentary petrology at Charles University. At present he is Head of the Department of Petrology, Faculty of Sciences, Charles University.

In the years 1965—66 he was invited as Visiting Professor to Pennsylvania State University, Department of Geochemistry and Mineralogy. He also received a research appointment at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts, Department of Chemistry and Geology. He participated in the UNESCO research project on the "World River System" in cooperation with the University of Hamburg (1982—1984).

The major fields of research interests of Professor Konta are sedimentology, mineralogy and petrology of clays, petrology and mineralogy of ceramic and glass raw materials and products, geochemistry, methods of laboratory investigation of rocks and minerals. He is the author of more than 170 papers and six books in these fields.

His book "Jílove Minerály Československa" (Clay Minerals of Czechoslovakia), published in 1957, was one of the pioneer publications on clay minerals in the world and received wide appreciation. Together with B. Hejtman he wrote "Hornitvorné Minerály" (Rock-Forming Minerals), published in 1953 and 1959. In his book "Kvantitativní Systém Reziduálních Hornin, Sedimentou a Vulkanoklastických Usazenin" (1973) he presented an outline of general, uniform classification of sedimentary rocks and clastic igneous rocks, based on the grain-size distribution and mineralogical composition of these rocks.

In his recent book (1982) "Keramické a Sklařské Suroviny" (Ceramic and Glass Raw Materials) he presented the theoretical foundations of the science of ceramic raw materials. He showed the influence of genesis, mineralogical and chemical



composition on the technological properties and utility of raw materials. He gave valuable information on the major Czechoslovakian and world deposits.

With his works Professor Konta made a lasting contribution to the development of the science of clay minerals. He is the originator of *argillology* — an interdisciplinary science of clay minerals. His studies of kaolin deposits, especially those in the area of Karlovy Vary, have greatly extended our understanding of the process of kaolinization of rocks and the formation of kaolins in various regions in Europe. He devised an original, simple method of distinguishing major clay minerals, utilizing the differences in imbibing liquids (imbibimetry). He always linked his studies with the needs of industry, and was able to transfer natural phenomena to technological processes.

Professor Konta's activities towards the furtherance of studies of clay minerals are widely known. With this end in view, he organizes conferences on the Mineralogy and Petrography of Clays. The nine conferences which have been held up till now were attended by the leading specialists in this field. In 1981 he was elected President of the European Clay Groups. He organized the 5th Meeting of the European Clay Groups, which was held in Prague in 1983. He is also actively engaged in the works of the AIPEA (Association International pour l'Étude des Argiles), and since 1978 he has been member of the board of this organization.

Professor Konta has for long kept up scientific cooperation with Polish mineralogists. He introduced many young scientists to the international circle of clay mineralogists.

In 1983 Professor Jiří Konta became Honorary Member of the Polish Mineralogical Society.

Leszek STOCH