

**REZSŐ SOÓ THE PROMINENT HUNGARIAN SCIENTIST OF THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY WAS BORN 100 YEARS AGO (1903-1980)**

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As his death departing in time more and more increase the worth and importance of his botanical work which covers a period of six decades. Many appreciation which have been published since then consider almost every moment of his life sometimes with subjectivity and quite a few times with much circumstance that miss the main point. Undoubtedly that he was great in all, in affection likewise in passion, so his emotions suddenly changed in a wide scale. Actually the more important are the real values: his talent, knowledge, suggestive impression, creativeness, helpfulness, his teaching and the edited publications which like standing values are count. All these remarkable encouraged the Hungarian and European botany. His acknowledge, his research work in international level, his teacher's work, his loyalty protected over the Institute and the trade.

Also his activity in higher education, researcher and teachers's life - in promotion and in the pack of the fortunately comprehensive and valuable Hungarian botany - executed in a far distinguished level. All his life accomplished his work, definitely, the field of research of the flora and vegetation, taxonomy, phytosociology, and geobotany. Besides this he did pioneer work in incitement of ecology (begin microclimate measuring) and history of vegetation.

He accomplished long needed work in the synthesised floristics, taxonomic processing of less known vascular taxa. Greatly developed the elementary unit revelation of the native land vegetation applying to the quantitative way of phytosociology. He taught and educated generations many domain of botany (taxonomy, phytogeography etc.) but above all his gentle disciplines, the knowledge and research of the flora and plant communities.

The professional life

His main characteristics are the excellent memory, the expansive mania of collecting, his diligence and working ability. His survey of special literature was almost fully

efficient and remembered all of that trade and bibliographical data throughout decades. He had huge herbariums in Debrecen, Kolozsvár and Budapest. About 80% of these he self-collected and self-processed. His trade library was rich either in home or foreign works and in home works it was almost complete. The Ecological and Botanical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Vácrátót) and the Botanical Garden of the Eötvös Lóránd University (Budapest) inherited his valuable collection. Moreover he was a famous collector of small graphics, stamps, literature and artistic books, and he was very proud of them. He was working almost all day, far into the night, and slept just several hours. It had got the result. He was researched, read and published statements, essays, monographs, textbooks. He was naturally teaching generations for the research and scholastic. He is the well-known master of the Soó-school, hereby the students' student, directly almost every Hungarian botanists.

According to his own biographic papers (1978) he inherited his ability from his Transylvanian family (Székelyudvarhely). It is possible that from his father he inherited the Székely versatility, the respect of the beauty, the creativeness; from his mother the Armenian temper, the inventiveness, the mania of collecting, the keeping and careful construction of the data.

REZSŐ SOÓ developed the Hungarian field botanical researches to the standard European quality. His impulsive, vivid personality, imposing trade knowledge, wide - beyond the natural science - intellect attracted a host of enthusiastic students round him. The work of he and his "school" (almost 60 experts - many of them nowadays qualified teacher and researcher) widely and organically connected the Hungarian botany to the European forefront - as other personalities (e.g. ALBERT SZENTGYÖRGYI, ZOLTÁN BAY, BÉLA BARTÓK, ZOLTÁN KODÁLY) did in the rank of science and culture. The inspired and untiring young researcher was 24 years old when he made alone and published unaided his first bigger-winded work, the geobotanical monograph of Kolozsvár and its environs (1927). It was the first work in its kind from the Carpatho-Pannonian region much the same time similar to the Europeans e. g. J. BRAUN-BLANQUET, W. LÜDI, E. RÜBEL, W. SZAFER, B. PAWLOWSKI, S. KULCZYNSKI, H. GAMS, I. HORVAT, A. G. TANSLEY etc.

With his work and with extension of his international relations joined the Central European phytosociological-school which establisher and prominent character was J. Braun-Blanquet the botanist of Montpellier and Zürich.. The school covered almost every country of Europe and these excellent and young experts were postgraduated mostly in Montpellier Institute therefore they elaborate the system of plant communities of Europe in a uniformed spirit and with the so called quadrate-method.

He developed his taxonomic knowledge in the Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin (1925-1927). He was a guest professor in Königsberg. When he was 26 years old, in 1929, began his teachers' and scientific work at the University of Debrecen as an extraordinary, later standard professor of botany. Methodically continued his former researches to reveal plant communities and the more and more complet taxonomic and vegetation studies of the native land.

REZSŐ SOÓ extended regular and constant connection to the researchers and scientists of the Hungarian and European botanical Institutes. At the same time he collect-