

Personalia

Hollis D. Hedberg
(1903 — August 14, 1988)

The Bulgarian geologists were deeply moved by the sad news of the death of Prof. Hollis D. Hedberg, the outstanding American geologist well known in this country both for his contributions in marine geology and petroleum geology, and for his concepts in theoretical stratigraphy which have laid the foundations of modern stratigraphic thinking during the second half of the 20th century.

Hollis Hedberg was the author of the idea, conceived in the early thirties, that rock sequences can be simultaneously classified in parallel stratigraphic schemes based on different classification principles and criteria. Equally important was his contribution in propagating these ideas throughout the world after the International Geological Congress at Algiers in 1952 when the International Subcommittee on Stratigraphic Classification was created with Hollis Hedberg as its Chairman till 1976. His efforts culminated in the publication of the International Stratigraphic Guide in 1976. For more than 20 years H. D. Hedberg worked with extraordinary patience, tenacity and tactful persistence to construct and publish this most advanced international stratigraphic guide which now unites the majority of stratigraphers around the world. That is why Hollis D. Hedberg will be justly honoured as the man who contributed most for a unified approach and a common language in modern stratigraphy.

Hollis Hedberg's ideas have strongly influenced the theoretical views of most Bulgarian stratigraphers during the last 25 or 30 years. He closely followed our activities and encouraged our efforts in constructing a national stratigraphic code as recorded on page 105 of the International Stratigraphic Guide.

His decease has bereaved modern stratigraphy of an outstanding scientist. Hollis D. Hedberg's name will remain engraved in golden letters in the history of geology.

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