

In memoriam

Academician Vytautas GUDELIS (13 07 1923–17 07 2007)



Prof. dr. habil. Vytautas Gudelis, a full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LAS), devoted more than 60 years of his work and active scientific activity to the research of the shores and depths of the Baltic Sea. Academician Gudelis was a scientist famous in the world, a prominent Lithuanian geographer, geologist and oceanographer, Doctor Honoris Causa of Uppsala University (Sweden), a member of the European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC), a member of the Society of the Lithuanian Geographers, initiator and editor of an international journal "Baltica", a laureate of state prizes and "Via Baltica" international fund.

Vytautas Gudelis was born in 1923 in Kaunas. In 1929–1941 he attended a primary school and a boy gymnasium in Panevėžys. In 1941 he started his studies of geology at Vilnius University. In 1943–1944, during World War II, he worked for the Lithuanian Geological Survey and in 1944–1947 continued his studies at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Vilnius University, which he graduated from as a geographer. From 1944 to 1949 Gudelis worked as a senior laboratory technician and as an assistant at the Department of Physical Geography, and from the August of 1949 he was a senior lecturer at the Department of Geology.

In 1951 Gudelis was appointed a scientific secretary of the LAS Institute of Geology and Geography, from 1954 he led the Department of Raw Minerals of this institute and in 1959 he was elected the head of the Department of Physical Geography. In 1963 the Institute of Geology and Geography was reorganised by dividing it into two bodies: geological departments formed the Institute of Geology attributed to the Ministry of Geology of USSR and geographical departments were left in LAS and joined to the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology. In 1965 the Department of Geography was formed, and Gudelis was the head of the Department of Physical Geography. In 1978 Prof. Gudelis was appointed the Deputy Director of the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology and the head of the Department of Geography and the leader of the Department of Physical Geography that in 1980 was renamed into the Laboratory of the Baltic Sea Shore Dynamics and Geology. In 1990, on the basis of the Department of Geography, LAS established the Institute of Geography; its director was Prof. Gudelis who also was the head of the Laboratory of the Baltic Sea Shore Dynamics and Geology. On 31 October 1990, after the elections, Prof. Gudelis lost the position of director, but remained the head of the Laboratory. In the beginning of 1991, Prof. Gudelis retired because of a decay of his health.

The long-term research done by Vytautas Gudelis involves the fields of geomorphology and Quaternary geology, neotectonics and palaeogeography, shore dynamics and other geographical and geological ranges. His first work published in 1954–1955 dealt with the sedimentogenesis of the Curonian Lagoon, as well as the structures and geological evolution of the Curonian Spit. After two decades, the results of his investigations done together with co-authors were generalised in two monographs "Baltic Sea Geology" (1976) and "The Quaternary History of the Baltic" (1979, with L. K. Königson).

The scientific activity of Prof. Gudelis was very successful. In 1954 he defended his dissertation "The Geological Development of the Baltic Sea in the Late Glacial and Post-Glacial in the Area of the Lithuanian SSR and Kaliningrad Region" and got the degree of the Candidate of the sciences of geology and mineralogy. In 1956 he became a senior research associate in the Quaternary geology. In 1959, Gudelis together with A. Basalykas were awarded the state prize for their monograph "Physical Geography of the Lithuanian SSR (Pt. 1)". In 1968 Gudelis defended his dissertation "The Relief and Quaternary Formations of the Baltic Area" and was conferred the Doctor's Degree in geography sciences, and in 1969 he became a professor. Prof. Gudelis was elected LAS Corresponding Member in 1980 and LAS Full Member in 1994.

The publications of Vytautas Gudelis deal with several scientific trends. He was a pioneer in complex investigations of the Baltic Sea geology, palaeogeography, shore dynamics and neotectonics and he linked these works with ecology. He contributed to the formation of the basics of the Lithuanian geographical landscape management. Gudelis compiled the first maps of the Baltic area and Lithuanian neotectonics (1960), the sediments of the Curonian Lagoon (1951) and the Baltic Sea bottom relief (1975). Beside the above-mentioned monographs, Gudelis published such books as “Baltijos jūra” (1960, The Baltic Sea), “Kuršių nerija ir marios” (1970, Curonian Spit and Lagoon), “Pabaltijo reljefas ir kvartero dariniai” (1973, Relief and Quaternary Formations of the Baltic Area) and “Baltijos jūros dugno nuosėdų lito- ir biostratigrafija” (1985, Litho- and Biostratigraphy of the Baltic Sea Bottom Deposits).

In 1998 Prof. Gudelis issued a large generalising monograph “Lietuvos įjūris ir pajūris” (Lithuanian Nearshore and Coast). This book, as its author used to say, was the dearest for him. This thoughtful book contains information about the Baltic Sea and its coast, the Curonian Lagoon Spit, forms a more realistic image of this part of Lithuania and forecasts the future of the sea. The monograph is based on the data of the investigations done by him personally and his numerous students and co-authors. Additionally, this book contains some verse created by Gudelis about the sea: “Štormas” (The Storm), “Prie paminklo Liudvikui Rėzai” (At the Monument to Liudvikas Rėza) and “Pamario varpai” (The Bells of the Lagoon-coast). This verse well reflects his world outlook and the credo of his life.

Gudelis' merits for the Lithuanian terminology are also great. Thanks to this scholar, about 340 new scientific terms appeared and were established. This is reflected in such publications as “A Dictionary of Geological Terms” (1953; Lithuanian–Russian–German–English–French–Polish), “A Dictionary of Geological and Physical Geography Terms” (1956; Russian–Lithuanian) and “A Glossary of Coastal Research Terms” (1993; Lithuanian–Russian–German–English). In 2006 under enormous efforts, Prof. Gudelis finished and published a book “Lietuvos pajūrio žvejų marinistikos įvardai” (Heritage of Marine Toponyms Used by the Lithuanian Coast Fishers) that, according to its author, could be “a specific monument to a nearly vanished speech of olden Lithuanian seacoast fishers”.

From 1963 to 1982, Prof. Gudelis edited “Baltica” – an international magazine on the Baltic Sea geology and geography. In 1960, voluminous scientific transactions (in English and Lithuanian) devoted to the 19th International Geographical Congress in Stockholm and the 21st session of the International Geological Congress in Copenhagen were published under his editing. In 1958–1990 Prof. Gudelis edited a chronicle “Geografijos Metraštis” (Geographical Yearbook). He was a permanent author of the Lithuanian encyclopaedic publications and a consultant and a member of LAS Editorial Board.

Prof. Gudelis visited Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, and Sweden and gave lectures on the Baltic Sea geography and geology at the universities of Lund, Turku, Helsinki, Oulu and Uppsala. Able to speak several languages of Europe, Prof. Gudelis had been invited to various international scientific organisations. In 1961, while visiting Warsaw, Gudelis became a Corresponding Member of INQUA and some of its commis-

sions, a member of Holocene Commission of the International Union of Geophysicists and Geodesists, as well as a participant of many foreign scientific organisations.

In appreciation of the contribution of Prof. Gudelis towards the investigations of the Baltic Sea and its shores and the development of international scientific co-operation, in 1992 Uppsala university conferred him the title on Honorary Doctor. In 1995 he was elected an honorary member of the EUCC. In 2003 Prof. Gudelis was decorated with the medal of Kazys Pakštas by the Society of the Lithuanian Geographers.

All his life, Prof. Gudelis did educative work as well. Under his guidance, about 30 doctor (science candidate) dissertations in geology and geography were written. From 1952 Gudelis supervised more than 40 scientific research themes, took part in several international projects, organised international conferences, and participated in state-level scientific expeditions. Vytautas Gudelis was the pioneer of the researches on the sea-shore dynamics and the recent movements of the Earth's crust (neotectonics) in Lithuania.

The scientific activity of Academician Gudelis is greatly valued and his scientific standing is unrivalled. With his works he won international recognition. He was extremely productive. About 700 scientific works belong to him. His various scientific works appeared in Lithuanian and foreign scientific treatises and periodicals, including Mexico, Copenhagen, Paris, Stockholm, Tallinn, Moscow, Warsaw and Berlin.

Prof. Gudelis actively propagated scientific news on geography and other sciences; he was a well-known person in scholarly and public societies. Recently his rich bibliographic collections have been handed over to the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, where a special personal fund of Gudelis has been established.

Everyone who knew Vytautas Gudelis will always remember him as an extraordinary person who laid foundations for broad investigations of the geological history of the Baltic Sea.

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THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KEY WORKS BY ACADEMICIAN VYTAUTAS GUDELIS

Books

- Baltijos jūra: Fizinė geografinė apybraiža [Baltic Sea: Physical Geographic Outlines]. V.: Valstybinė politinės ir mokslinės literatūros leidykla, 1960. 87 p.
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Dictionaries

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Jūros krantotyros terminų žodynas [A Glossary of Coastal Research Terms]. V.: Academia, 1993. 408 p.

Compiler and Editor

Lietuvos TSR mokslų akademijos Geologijos ir geografijos instituto moksliniai pranešimai. T. 4. [LSSR Academy of Sciences Geology and Geography Institute Scientific Reports, Vol. 4]: Regioninio pasitarimo Pabaltijo ir Baltarusijos kvarterinių darinių tyrimo klausimais darbai (rusų k.) [Transactions of regional consultations on research of Quaternary formations in the Baltic states and Belarussia; in Russian]. Red. V. Gudelis. Vilnius: Valst. polit. ir moksl. lit. I-la, 1957. 444 p.; T. 6. [Vol. 6]: Geologija ir geografija (liet. k., rez. rusų ir anglų k.) [Geology and Geography; in Lithuanian, summaries in Russian and English]. Red. V. Gudelis. Vilnius, 1958. 175 p.; T. 7. [Vol. 7]: Geologija ir geografija (liet. ir rusų k., rez. anglų k.). [Geology and Geography]. Red. V. Gudelis. Vilnius, 1958. 185 p.; T. 8. [Vol. 8]: Geologija ir geografija [Geology and Geography]. Red. V. Gudelis. Vilnius, 1958. 271 p.

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Dissertations

Baltijos pajūrio geologinė raida vėlyvajame glaciale ir postglaciale Lietuvos TSR ir Kaliningrado srities (RTFSR) ribose [The Geological Development of the Baltic Sea in Late Glacial and Post-glacial in the area of the Lithuanian SSR and Kaliningrad Region. Manuscript of Cand.Sci. (Geology and Mineralogy) dissertation]. Rankraštis. V.: 1954. [Geologijos ir mineralogijos mokslų kandidato disertacija]

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Kiselienė B. Vytauto Gudelio 1995–2002 m. bibliografija [1995–2002 Bibliography by Vytautas Gudelis]. *Geografijos metraštis* [Geographical Yearbook]. T. 36. V.: 2003.

Akademikas Vytautas GUDELIS (1923 07 13–2007 07 17)

Lietuvos mokslų akademijos tikrasis narys, profesorius, habilituotas gamtos mokslų daktaras Vytautas Gudelis šešiasdešimt savo darbo ir aktyvios mokslinės veiklos metų paskyrė Baltijos jūros krantų ir gelmių tyrinėjimui. Akademikas V. Gudelis – pasaulyje žinomas Lietuvos geologas, geografas, okeanologas, tarptautinio žurnalo „Baltica“ įkūrėjas ir ilgametis redaktorius, valstybinių mokslo premijų, tarptautinio fondo „Via Baltica“ laureatas, Lietuvos geografų draugijos narys.

Mokslininko tyrimai apėmė geomorfologiją ir kvarterio geologiją, neotektoniką ir paleogeografiją, krantų dinamiką, kitas geografijos bei geologijos kryptis. Pirmieji jo darbai, paskelbti 1954–1955 m., buvo skirti Kuršių marių sedimentogenezei, Kuršių nerijos sandarai ir geologinei raidai. Po dviejų dešimtmečių jo atliktų darbų rezultatai su bendraautoriais apibendrinti monografijose „Baltijos jūros geologija“ (1976) ir „Baltijos jūros kvarterio istorija“ (1979; anglų k., kartu su L. K. Kionigsenu).

1961 m. Varšuvoje V. Gudelis tapo Tarptautinės sąjungos kvarterui tirti (INQUA) ir jos komisijų nariu korespondentu, Tarptautinės geofizikų ir geodezininkų sąjungos Holoceno komisijos nariu, buvo įvairių užsienio mokslo organizacijų dalyviu. Įvertindamas mokslininko Baltijos jūros ir jos krantų tyrinėjimus, jo veiklą plėtojant tarptautinį mokslinį bendradarbiavimą 1992 m. Upsalos universitetas suteikė V. Gudeliui garbės daktaro vardą. 1995 m. akademikas išrinktas Europos Sąjungos Krantų apsaugos asociacijos (EUCC) garbės nariu, 2003 m. apdovanotas Lietuvos geografų draugijos profesoriaus Kazio Pakšto medaliu.

1998 m. V. Gudelis išleido stambią apibendrinančią monografiją „Lietuvos įjūris ir pajūris“. Mokslininko iniciatyva prigijo apie 340 naujų mokslinių terminų, kurie užfiksuoti jo išleistuose geologijos, fizinės geografijos, jūros krantotyros terminų žodynuose (1953, 1956, 1993). 2006 m. profesorius išleido knygą „Lietuvos pajūrio žvejų marinistikos įvardai“ – savotišką paminklą bebaigiančiai išnykti senųjų Lietuvos pajūrio žvejų šnekai.

V. Gudelis – jūros krantų dinamikos tyrinėjimo mokyklos įkūrėjas ir vadovas, žemės plutos naujausių judesių (neotektonikos) tyrimų pradininkas Lietuvoje. Visų jį pažinojusių atmintyje Vytautas Gudelis išliks kaip neeilinė asmenybė, dėjusi fundamentalius pamatus platiems Baltijos jūros geologinės istorijos tyrinėjimams.

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Академик Витаутас ГУДЕЛИС (13 07 1923–17 07 2007)

Действительный член Литовской академии наук, профессор, габилитированный доктор естественных наук Витаутас Гуделис более шестидесяти лет своей активной научной деятельности посвятил исследованиям берегов и недр Балтийского моря. Академик Витаутас Гуделис – выдающийся литовский геолог, географ, океанолог, ученый с мировой известностью, основатель и многолетний редактор международного журнала „Baltica“, лауреат государственных премий, международного фонда „Via Baltica“, член Литовского географического общества.

Многолетние научные исследования Витаутаса Гуделиса охватывали геоморфологию и четвертичную геологию, неотектонику и палеогеографию, динамику берегов, а также другие направления геологии и географии. Первые его работы, опубликованные в 1954–1955 гг., были посвящены седиментогенезису в Куршском заливе, строению и геологическому развитию Куршской косы. Два десятилетия спустя результаты выполненных им исследований были опубликованы с соавторами в монографиях „Геология Балтийского моря“ (1976) и „Четвертичная история Балтийского моря“ (1979; на англ. яз., совместно с Л. К. Кенигсеном).

В 1961 г. Витаутас Гуделис в Варшаве был избран членом-корреспондентом Международного союза по изучению четвертичного периода (INQUA) и его комиссий, членом Комиссии по голоцену Международного союза

геофизики и геодезии, являлся членом различных международных научных организаций. В 1992 г. В. Гуделису присвоено звание почетного доктора Уппсальского университета (Швеция) в знак высокой оценки его деятельности по изучению Балтийского моря и его берегов, а также деятельности ученого, направленной на развитие международного научного сотрудничества. В 1995 г. академик был избран почетным членом Ассоциации охраны морских берегов Европейского Союза (EUSC). В 2003 г. Литовское географическое общество наградило Витаутаса Гуделиса медалью профессора Казиса Пакштаса.

В 1998 г. Витаутас Гуделис выпустил крупную обобщающую монографию „Взморье и поморье Литвы“. Благодаря В. Гуделису возникли и вошли в обиход около 340 новых научных терминов, которые отражены в выпущенных им терминологических словарях по геологии, физической географии, морскому береговедению (1953, 1956, 1993 гг.). В 2006 г. профессор выпустил книгу „Морские термины рыбаков Литовского поморья“, памятник исчезающему говору старинных рыбаков Литовского поморья.

Витаутас Гуделис – основатель и руководитель школы изучения динамики морских берегов, зачинатель изучения новейших движений земной коры (неотектоники) в Литве. Все знавшие академика Витаутаса Гуделиса сохраняют память о нем как о незаурядной личности, об ученом, заложившем фундаментальные основы обширных исследований геологической истории Балтийского моря.

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