

In Memoriam

Prof. dr. OCTAV CLICHICI *1926–2007*



Professor Octav Clichici was born on November 8, 1926, in Chişinău. His father working as an accountant with great responsibilities in the Cooperative economic system of the inter-war Romania, while his mother was a housewife. In 1940, after the loss of their parents in Bessarabia, the teenager Octav and his sister left the country as refugees,

establishing first in Brasov, then finally in Arad.

At Brasov, Prof. Clichici has started his high school period at “Mesota” Lyceum; he continued his studies at Arad, at the prestigious “Moise Nicoara” Lyceum. After graduating the high school, he registered as a student at the Faculty of Sciences in Cluj, where he attended the courses of the newly-founded Geology Section, chaired by the eminent professor Dumitru Iacob. His hard work and enthusiastic involvement as a student was so appreciated by Prof. Iacob, that Octav was offered a position as an instructor even before he defended his licence thesis. There were only a few academic positions in the structure of the Geology-Palaeontology Chair (Prof. D. Iacob, Prof. Otto Protescu, Prof. I. Al. Maxim, Assistant Prof. Răzvan Givulescu, Lecturer Valeria Marincaş, Lecturer Cornelia Pleşa), so that the new member of the staff had to fully dedicate himself to teaching and research activities. He instructed theoretical classes and practical sessions to a various number of geological disciplines, but he was focusing on the topics which later became his life-long professional interests: geological mapping, structural geology, prospecting, exploration and evaluation of geological reserves. Octav Clichici registered as PhD student under the supervision of Prof. Maxim, with a thesis referring to the geological study of the northern part of Şimleu Basin; he finished his PhD thesis under the co-ordination of Acad. Miltiade Filipescu (Bucharest) following the premature death of Prof. Maxim. The PhD thesis was awarded the Prize of the Romanian Academy after being published by the Romanian Academy Publishing House. After obtaining the title of Doctor in Geology, Octav Clichici was eventually promoted in successive academic position; this achievement was not an easy one, considering the constrains of that period. He was also actively involved in student fieldwork, collaborations with the former Geological Committee, research activities of the department, or research grants.

The actual need for didactic geological references allowed Prof. Clichici to express his creativity, both as single author or within author teams of university textbooks and notes for practical work for the topics “Prospecting,

exploration and evaluation of geological reserves”, “Geological mapping and structural geology”. In collaboration with geologist Dr. Stoici Slobodan, he was the author of the book “Geological investigation of solid mineral ore deposits” published in 1986 at the Technical Publishing House, representing a summation of theoretical and practical knowledge required for the instruction and then the professional activity of any economic geologist. Additionally, he published numerous scientific papers in specialized journals.

Being open to new initiatives, in collaboration with the late Prof. Nicolae Meszaros, Prof. Clichici was involved as co-ordinator, besides other colleagues geologists and mineralogists, in the publication of a book of high scientific level but in the same time accessible to the public that gathered the geological history of Cluj area. The book “Pe poteci cu bănuţei de piatră” (“Walking along paths with stone-coins”); was published by the Sport-Turism Publishing House and it was sold out rapidly; it would be beneficial to republish this guide, following some minor revisions. Again in collaboration with Prof. Meszaros, Octav Clichici elaborated the geological map of Cluj County and, in a larger team of authors, the geotechnical zonation of the central area of Cluj town. As an acknowledgment for his whole activity, in the period 1992-1995 Prof. Clichici was elected as Head of the Geology-Palaeontology Chair.

The brief presentation of the professor and scientific researcher cannot be otherwise but closely linked to the personality of Octav Clichici as a person. He himself admitted that he had a choleric temper, but he was never taking vengeance, but forgiving the mistakes of his collaborators. In fact, he manifested a natural, innate goodness, expressed in kind words for all his colleagues that led to a reciprocal respect and consideration on behalf of members of the academic staff of the Babeş-Bolyai University in general, as well as of other universities in Cluj. He was gifted in telling stories or student memories, and he was very good with teamwork. It is nice to remember our collaboration in the frame of two research grants in Sălaj County, then at Câmpeni, where Prof. Clichici was an inspiring and pleasant company, full of good humor and generosity. At the same time, Octav Clichici was always a discrete and delicate person, attributes that became even more evident in the last period of his life, when his illness started to manifest.

He died peacefully, in acquiescence with himself and with the world in general, on the morning of December 18, 2007, one month and 8 days after his 81st anniversary.

We believe that the soul of our former professor and colleague is now resting with the righteous and that from there, it follows us with the same human kindness and warmth that we knew - making us preserve his memory forever.

Constantin IANOLIU

Dr. PHILIP LAMOREAUX
1920-2008



Philip LaMoreaux, a former geologist for the state of Alabama and founder of Tuscaloosa-based P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, passed away at his home on June 23, 2008, at age of 88.

Dr. LaMoreaux had occupied a central role in the development of hydrogeology and environmental geology into the most dynamic and sought-after disciplines in geology. He has been a leader in the profession of geology and has had a distinguished career as a federal, state, academic, and consulting geologist.

Philip LaMoreaux was born in Chardon, Ohio, May 12, 1920. He graduated from Denison University (B.A., 1943); University of Alabama (M.S., 1949); Honorary Doctor of Science from Denison University (D.Sc., 1972).

He began his career in hydrogeology with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1943. From 1945 to 1958, he was District Geologist of the USGS's Ground Water Office in Alabama.

In 1958, LaMoreaux was appointed Division Hydrologist in charge of water resources programs in the 14-state mid-continent area, and a year later, became Chief of the Ground Water Branch of the USGS in Washington, D.C.

In 1961, he was appointed Alabama State Geologist and Oil and Gas Supervisor. During his 15-year tenure as state geologist, the Alabama State Survey grew to become one of the leading state surveys in the nation. From 1945 to 1983, he also served as adjunct professor in the University of Alabama, Geology Department.

In 1986, LaMoreaux was awarded with the Distinguished Service in Hydrogeology by GSA; in 1990, he was the recipient of the Ian Campbell Award of the American Geological Institute (AGI), given in recognition of singular performance in and contribution to the profession of geology. In 1989, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineers. He received the "Commanders Medal" of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the William B. Heroy Award of AGI, and a gold medal from the Russian Academy of Science. He served as the United States Delegate to the International Hydrogeological Map Commission of the International Union of Geophysics in Ireland, Greece, and France. During 2006, he received the Pillars of West Alabama and the Governor of Alabama's International Trade Excellence Award.

Nationally and internationally, LaMoreaux contributed to the profession of geology through involvement with major geological societies as President: of AGI, American Association of State Geologists, and IAH; as Chairman of the GSA's Hydrogeology Division and American Geophysical Union's Hydrology Division, Chairman of the Commissions on Karst and on Mineral and Thermal Waters of IAH.

He continued his professional career after retiring as State Geologist, as Editor-in-Chief of the international journal, *Environmental Geology*, with an international staff from nineteen countries. The journal is published twelve times a year and distributed worldwide to scientists and libraries by Springer-Verlag in Heidelberg, Germany.

Founded in 1961, P. E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. (PELA) for over four decades has provided clients with geologic, hydrologic, engineering, environmental, and waste management expertise. PELA professionals have worked with governments, industries, and individuals to develop innovative solutions to complex issues. Headquartered in Tuscaloosa, it has branches in Mobile, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee, and is involved with projects throughout the world.

PELA has conducted hydrogeologic and environmental studies in most states and in foreign countries throughout the Middle East, Europe and Central and South America.

I had the pleasure of knowing him as an employee, friend, and mentor for the past fifteen years. Dr. LaMoreaux's work required him to travel the globe, and he was often accompanied by his wife, Bunnie. Whether it was a colleague or a student that he taught or an employee, he always imparted something special to them that they really appreciated and learned to become better professionals and people because of it.

Gheorghe PONTA