

DR. ANDRÁS KEVE 1909—1984

One of the greatest Hungarian ornithologists ever since was born on 10th November, 1909 in Budapest. Following his secondary school studies He read law between 1927 and 1930. But even at that time visited regularly the Institute for Ornithology and received the certificate of „orderly watching” in 1929. Next year, in 1930 he gave a lecture in Padua at the XIth Zoological Congress. Having taken his degree in law He matriculated at the Faculty of Arts and was a student of this faculty between 1933 and 1935. From 1934 He has worked in the Institute for Ornithology as a „temporary substitute professional clerk” but He gave a lecture in Oxford at the VIIIth International Ornithological Congress in the same year. He obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1935. He became assistant in 1939 and adjunct in 1946 at the Institute. In 1941 He received a one-year invitation from the Tihany Biology Research Institute. He Hungarianized from Kleiner to Keve in 1942. In the same year He was appointed to chief adjunct. He was Vienna scholar between 1942 and 1943 then, He fulfilled military service from 1944 to 1945. He obtained the title of private-docent in 1946 and was entrusted with the direction of the Museum of Agriculture between 1948 and 1949.

During the subsequent years He had received numerous invitations for foreign ornithological conferences. In 1950 He was elected to be a member of the Committee of the Xth International Ornithological Congress held in Uppsala. He was a guest of the Soviet Academy of Science in 1956 and He represented Hungary at the Memzbir Commemoration, too. He was elective member of a lot of foreign ornithological society, his scientific publications appeared in sequence in the most respectful journals. It is impossible to summarize even the most outstanding, most remarkable events of his scientific career in the frame of a commemoration.

András Keve was an authentic scientist who was wholeheartedly attached to his work, but who might be a model for humanity. He never refused anybody, everyone might appeal to him with confidence. He was always ready to make good use of his wide intellectual horizon, immense knowledge and great professional experience not only for the young researchers but for the incidental inquirer, as well. With his competent knowledge of languages and his legendary diligence He was in contact with the most significant experts and institutes of the world. It is his work alone that the library of the Institute for Ornithology that was destroyed during the war has developed into the most important collection of Central-Europe in a short time. His comprehensive work comprised almost all the fields of ornithology. He contributed a great deal to the discovery of the ornis of the Lake Balaton but He dealt among others with the avifauna of the Danube and took active part in the Bakyony research program. We knew first who collaborated with him in the Institute that how much He worked and how productive He was.

It was probably due to his modesty, characteristic of the real outstanding personality, that He has unfortunately received inadequate recog-

dition in our country. He has never received the appreciation owing to his scientific work and to his status achieved in the scientific world. Still Dr. András Keve has made his mark as a scholar; his life-work, his message formulated and written in the many hundred scientific and popular papers and his wise advice put into words will serve as an example for the rising generations of ornithologists.

After his retirement He continued to work with undiminished diligence and enthusiasm in the Zoological Department of the Museum of Natural Sciences until when his impaired health fastened him to his room. He did not cease to work even at that time and when we visited him He took interest in the problems of birds and the recent results of the Hungarian ornithology. He was aware of his illness, yet He made plans, notes and did his correspondence. Only the merciless death wrenched the pen from his hand. On 30rd March, 1984 He departed quietly from our society. However, Dr. András Keve will never die for us who loved and respected him. His kind, lovable personality ready for joke at any time, his rich life dedicated to scientific research are still remembered.

Egon Schmidt