

ZA RUDAMI Z ČECH AŽ NA KONEC SVĚTA / IN QUEST OF ORES FROM BOHEMIA TO THE END OF THE WORLD

A BOOK REVIEW

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In Quest of Ores from Bohemia to the End of the World is the name of a new book by Petr Láznička, a leading Czech-Canadian-Australian geologist, published in Czech this year. Professor Petr Láznička (Peter Laznicka) is a globally renowned expert in the field of ore deposits and metallogenesis.

After graduation in the 1960s in Czechoslovakia, Petr Láznička emigrated to Canada, where he continued his studies in Economic Geology at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, where he later worked as a university professor. In 1971, while he waited for the assessment of his doctoral thesis, he undertook a short-term contract of work with Australian Selection Trust. This is when the project *Data Metallogena, the Global Encyclopaedia of Ore Deposits* was started known then as the ‘Lithotheque collection’ [1]. Besides a large number of important professional publications, Professor Láznička has authored seven books, in English, the most famous of which are *Giant Metallic Deposits. Future Sources of Industrial Metals* (Springer Verlag), and *Empirical Metallogeny. Depositional Environments, Lithologic Associations and Metallic Ores* (Elsevier).

The book *In Quest of Ores from Bohemia to the End of the World* describes the author’s journey over 6 continents, more than 100 countries, and 3,500 deposits he has visited. In the book, the reader will not only find an overview of the geology, mineralogy, and basic economy of many world ore deposits, but also many remarkable experiences Petr Láznička lived through during his research in many parts of our planet. A large number of future readers, especially those who are more deeply interested in geological sciences, will certainly appreciate the professionally based descriptions of ore deposits. As the extraction of minerals is very often associated with extreme environmental burdens, the author does not fail to cite some of sometimes drastic examples of reckless devastation of nature in his book.

The author draws attention to his own and de facto specific selection of world deposits in the book as follows: “*Since this book is a popular memoir and not a textbook, I mention only these ore deposits I have personally visited and whose origin and other characteristics I have my own opinion on. Even so, I believe that these deposits represent a sufficient selection of the most important ones.*” [2]

Similar publications on the world’s ore deposits in Czech are rare. For example, the book *Minerals of the World* of 1995 by Mirko Vaněček [3] has long been sold out. We can state that the work of Professor Petr Láznička is in a way exceptional. During his 65-year career, he became a recognized authority in the fields of deposit geology and metallogenesis. Unfortunately, he has become more recognized abroad than in the Czech Republic. This book is the first comprehensive publication in Czech about Láznička’s life and work. At the same time, it is also an expression of honours to his merits in the scientific and economic knowledge of ore deposits and his approach to this complex issue.

The book was published by the Czech Geological Survey in Prague in 2020, ISBN: 978-80-7075-994-3. It has 393 pages and costs CZK 450.

REFERENCES

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- [2] LÁZNIČKA, Petr. *Za rudami z Čech až na konec světa. Lidský svět očima geologa [In Quest of Ores from Bohemia to the End of the World. How a Geologist Sees the World]*. Praha: Česká geologická služba, 2020. ISBN 978-80-7075-994-3.
- [3] VANĚČEK, M. *Nerostné suroviny světa [Minerals of the World]*. Academia, 1995. ISBN 80-200-290-1.