
OBITUARY



Ramon Vaquer Navarro

Barcelona (5 - 6 - 1945) – Campdevàrol (4 - 8 - 2010)

Ramon Vaquer, Emeritus Professor of Petrology and Geochemistry passed away on August 4, 2010, two months after his sixty-fifth birthday, from a heart attack. He was a professor of Geochemistry and Petrology at the University of Barcelona for nearly forty years.

Ramon Vaquer studied geology and spent most of his professional career at the University of Barcelona. During his entire degree studies (1964-1968) he held a fellowship. After his degree he became an Assistant Lecturer (Profesor Adjunto Interino) under the supervision of the late Professor A. San Miguel Arribas at the cathedra for petrology of the University of Barcelona (1968-1973). For his PhD thesis (1973) he mapped and studied thermal metamorphism in Paleozoic rocks around Barcelona city, a subject that surprisingly had not been explored since Jaume Almera's pioneer works at the beginning of the 20th century. At that time there was no tradition in studying metamorphic rocks in Barcelona, and therefore during this period he was a humble autodidact, a personal attitude to study that Ramon cultivated throughout his life. For this work he obtained the Extraordinary Doctorate Award of the Faculty of Geology

of the University of Barcelona (academic year 1972-73). Like other colleagues at the Department of Petrology, Ramon spent a year (1975) in a postdoctoral stay in the UK at the Imperial College of Science and Technology of the University of London, a period that he always remembered happily and nostalgically.

Afterwards, he became a Lecturer (Profesor Agregado Interino, 1973-1975), then a member of the staff as a Permanent Lecturer (Profesor Adjunto Numerario 1975-1984; Profesor Titular 1984-1990) and finally Full Professor (Catedrático, February 1990) until his pre-retirement as an Emeritus Professor in 2007. During all this time Ramon had different responsibilities at the University of Barcelona: Secretary of the Faculty of Geology (1974-75), Dean of the Faculty (1984-85), and Director of the Department of Geochemistry, Petrology and Geological Prospecting (1994-2000, 2004). He was also founder and the first director of the Geochemical Analysis Service of the Faculty of Geology of the University of Barcelona (1978-1987). This was the first geochemical facility at the Faculty after the removal of the department laboratories in the early sixties. He was also advisor and member of a large number of commissions at the centralized Scientific-Technical Services of the University of Barcelona over three decades, and contributed greatly to their progressive development. He also contributed to the organization and development of four editions of the Congreso Geoquímico de España (1989-1995). Whoever met Professor Vaquer in all these activities can attest to his dedication, modesty and accessibility. He was, in the larger sense of the word, a man of order at work (except for his smoking!).

During his prolonged academic activity, Ramon Vaquer's scientific interests gradually shifted from Metamorphic Petrology to Geochemistry, and in particular to the development of analytical protocols and techniques, which became his main devotion. He was involved in a great number of research activities, including geochemical prospecting for ore deposits and geothermal research, litho-geochemical mapping of Paleozoic terrains, hydrogeochemistry, organic geochemistry, and during the last decade, regional reconnaissance and igneous petrology studies in Central Mexico. All this research was the object of more than sixty published papers and a number of reports of restricted diffusion. He directed the PhD theses of A. Casas (UB), P. Enrique (UB), J. Martí (ICTJA-CSIC),

A. Valentín (Gaia Geotermia y Aguas Minerales) and K. Flores (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, México).

Ramon was a man devoted to his beloved wife Maria and family, and was particularly proud of the progress of his sons and daughter. His father's delicate state of health prompted Ramon to take an anticipated retirement in 2007 in order to take care of him.

People who met Ramon at the Faculty will also remember other aspects of his personality. Former students would

remember his great teaching capacities, which were always given high scores in the yearly scholar inquiries, and also the empathic professor who dedicated some of his private time to directing an amateur theatre group. Colleagues and friends will remember Ramon as the occasional football referee and passionate classical music expert.

Domingo Gimeno and Laura Rosell
on behalf of the Departament de Geoquímica, Petrologia i
Prospecció Geològica
Facultat de Geologia, Universitat de Barcelona (UB)