



## Prof. Denis Geraads at 65

At the very end of last year the eminent paleontologist Prof. D. Geraads turned 65. For us, his colleagues and friends, who know of his extraordinary energy and the intensity of his research in the field of his favourite paleontology, the news was somewhat unexpected.

After graduating from the Paris University, Denis Geraads began working in MNHN, Paris. Afterwards, during his entire research career, he worked at CNRS (long years at the Lab. Dynamique de l'évolution humaine (UPR2147) and in recent years within a unit of CNRS, again in the NMNH (Lab. of Paleontology). Exceptionally active in research, he is the author of over 300 publications in the field of systematics, phylogeny and paleoecology of large mammals (above all of perissodactyls, artiodactyls, carnivores, primates), evolution and paleogeography of continental fauna, paleoanthropology (especially the early evolution of the hominins).

His entire career is related not only with the study of fossil fauna but also with active field work – paleontological excavations and field research in the Eastern Mediterranean (Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey) as well as in Northern, Equatorial and Eastern Africa. Without exaggeration we can say, that his name is known to every active researcher in the field of the paleontology of Neogene and Quaternary mammals of the old world. Undoubtedly, his contributions make him one of the distinguished researchers of our time in this field.

I started working together with Denis Geraads 18 years ago and we have many more ideas and plans for the future. He was the project leader of the French side of the CNRS and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences project: Mammal faunas of the late Miocene of Bulgaria 2000-2007. He has greatly contributed to the development of the Bulgarian school on paleontology of the Miocene Mammal Fauna. For his contributions in this respect he was awarded with “Acad. Ivan Buresch” prize of the National Museum of Natural History (Sofia) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

This year Dennis retired at the height of his scientific career, such are labour laws in France. This will not reduce his enormous energy, his desire for future work and his plans for new studies.

Let us wish him health, successes, and new discoveries!

*Prof. Nikolai Spassov*