Dr. S. Hrabě, Professor of General and Systematic Zoology, J. E. Purkyne University in Brno, died on March 29th 1984, at the age of 84. He was born in Moscow in 1899 and was educated in Moscow and in Prague, where he studied with Prof. A. Mrázek. On his appointment to Brno as assistant lecturer in 1927, he continued the study of aquatic oligochaetes that he began with his doctoral dissertation, continuing the long distinguished history of work in this field in his country begun by Dr. F. Vejdovsky. While as a teacher and researcher his interests were wide, it is his monumental contribution to aquatic oligochaete biology, and especially systematics, that we acknowledge here. His major contributions were in the systematics of the Lumbriculidae, Haplotaxidae and Tubificidae, and in the fauna of the U.S.S.R. The faunas of Lakes Aral, Onega, Teleckoe, Baikal, Issyk-Kul, the Volga River drainage and Estonia, the Ponto-Caspian area, the Caspian and Black Seas received special attention in studies that spanned 13 countries. He published over 80 papers, continuing well after his retirement in 1970.

I was privileged to be able to work with him for a brief period in Brno at a formative stage in my own career and know how interested he was in encouraging young people both then and through his continued correspondence directly with my students as well as myself. This brief memorial is extracted largely from the biography by Obr (1985), who lists all of the publications produced by Dr. S. Hrabě.

Ralph O. Brinkhurst.

Reference