110th anniversary of Lajos Veneny's birth

On the 17 of December 1998 will be the 110th anniversary of Lajos Veneny's birth in Cavojs, Nitra district. His father was a forester, and Lajos became for a life admirer and dreamer of the nature. He visited the public school in Cavojs, the secondary school in Prievidza and Nitra, and the high school in Kassa (Kosice). He worked in the Institute of Plant Breeding and Crop Production in Magyaróvár. His chef was Emil Grábner. He worked on wheat and potato. From this time dates his friendship with Ernő Obermayer, in spite of the distance between their workplaces. With the outbreak of the I. World War he fell in Russian captivity in 1915 and was deported to Siberia. In Tomsk they soon discovered his plant breeding abilities. He had the possibility not only to work in his job, but to study as well. So he returned in 1920 not only with precious wheat and barley material, but also with knowledge about Vavilov.

After his return he produced new winter- and spring wheats in Losonc (Lucenec) Nána and Perbete. (Perbete spring wheat was planted on a large scale). He not only created new, planned hybrids, but carefully observed the spontaneous interspecific and intergeneric hybrids and their offsprings. The II. World War interrupted his plant breeding work, and he had to start anew. But in Anyala, Gomba (Hubice) and Solary he produced already his new materials. His great knowledge was highly appreciated by the state and praxis. He educated excellent coworkers, among them Menyhért Bartalos and Lajos Rákóczi, and their staff. Still till today he keeps the priority in creation of winter durum and awnless - hullless barley. Though he regarded field plot trials indispensable for observations, he encouraged at first the analysis-investigations in the laboratories, in times, when quality was not focused yet. He requested analyses of wheats for determination of the quantities of essential aminoacids in gluten with intent to use it in production of new varieties.

With his coworkers he moved production-area of melons, so melon is today a home product of the country with improved quality (Vitamin A, C). He saw in melons similarly to durum wheats a possibility for better nutrition source for humans.

Beside his very diligent plant breeding work he found time for aesthetics, too, so he sponsored creating arts and artists (Gyula Szabó, etc.). In his last years he moved back to his country of birth. He lived on the bank of a rushing brook. When he died in Klačno (North Nitra district) on October 20, 1975, at the age of 87, his closest coworkers buried him on the southern side of the steep hill slope, above the village. He had being always of a great help and encouragement for us, younger plant breeders.

Galanta, August 26, 1998.

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