
Memorials

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VIKTOR PETTERS
(1909–1992)

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A long illness claimed the life of an outstanding geologist, Viktor Petters, on July 28, 1992. With his passing, his many friends share the great loss of a treasured personality, a true scholar, and a scientific leader.

Vic was born in Vienna (Wien, Austria) on August 4, 1909. He grew up in Vienna, attending the university there from 1928 to 1933. He received his Ph.D. in geology and until 1937 worked as a paleontologist with Eurogasco, a daughter company

of Standard Oil of New Jersey. He concentrated his life on foraminifera, the stratigraphic evaluation of which had been completely ignored in Austria. Vic was also in charge of the geological interpretation of the Austrian petroleum drillings.

In 1937, Eurogasco closed in Austria. Vic was offered a position as paleontologist in Società Petrolifera Italiana in Fornovo Taro (Perma), ESSO's Italian subsidiary. In his micropaleontological study of the northern Apennines and Pô Valley Tertiary, he demonstrated that the Mesozoic "Argille Scaliose" was overlapping the upper Tertiary. Vic also contributed actively in finding and developing the Malalbergo gas field.

In 1946, Vic was transferred to Colombia, South America, as chief paleontologist to the branch of Standard Oil of New Jersey, Tropical Oil Company, later named International Petroleum Colombia Ltd. (Intercol).

In 1949 in Bogota, Colombia, Vic married Maria Vittoria Riccobon, a distinguished former secretary of Società Petrolifera Italiana.

Vic stayed in Bogota until 1961. Appointed chief geologist, he led a large team carrying out exploration geology in the northwest part of South America.

In 1961, Vic was transferred to Standard's Talara oil fields, where he remained until 1968, after having reached the age set by the company for retirement.

From 1969 to 1990, Vic lived in his hometown, Vienna. He was

correspondent for the *Review of Bundesanstalt Wien* and for the Colombian Department of Micropaleontology of the American Museum of Natural History of New York. In 1980, he received the "50 Jahre Erdöl in Österreich" medal. In 1986, he was granted the "Hans Höfer" medal from the Austrian Scientific Society of Oil Geologists. For health reasons, Vic left Vienna in 1990 and stayed in Bolzano, Italy.

Vic is the author of 20 publications, among which is a contribution, in collaboration with R. Gandolfi in Austria and R. Sarmiento in Colombia, to the Cushman Foundation for Foraminifera Research and Micropaleontological Studies.

Vic completed 60 years as a member of AAPG (1932–1992). He was also a member of various Austrian societies and of the Paleontological Society of America, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, and the National Geographic Society.

Although his friends knew of his long illness, his death in Bolzano was a shock. Vic was a gentle man with many outstanding traits: dedication to his profession, loyalty to his colleagues and to his company, and his habit of hard work. Vic was blessed with a keen sense of humor and, above all, with a profound generosity. Together with his totally involved, loving Maria, Vic was always glad to help.

Vic is survived by Maria. To her, to us, his departure has left a void that will be impossible to fill.