

LEIU HEAPOST 85

On 13 March 2021, anthropologist Leiu Heapost celebrated her 85th birthday; 19 October marks 60 years of her active membership in the Estonian Naturalists' Society.

Estonian anthropologists are happy to congratulate the most distinctive anthropologist of Estonia, to wish her continuing strength and energy.

The most delightful feature about Leiu Heapost is her versatility. Leiu is an anthropologist with excellent education who, on the one hand, has worthily continued and supplemented the work of her teacher, Juhan Aul, in the studies of humans. On the other hand, Leiu has always been ready to try something entirely new and innovative for Estonia. So, for example, she has laid the foundation to population genetic studies of Estonians according to blood groups. This, however, is not all – Leiu has also studied the Estonian people based on bone remnants to get an idea what Estonians were like long ago. She has conducted thorough-going research on Estonians' craniology, has studied people's body height and proportions at present and in the past. Leiu has excellent knowledge of odontology, discrete features of the skeleton, pathological changes on bones, and she has ample experience of working with very different bone material collected by archaeologists, including incinerated bones found from cremation burials. Special mention should be made of Leiu's deep interest in the formation history of the Estonian people and Finno-Ugric peoples' anthropology. This deep interest and sense of mission led her to the publication of an impressive book – *Physical Anthropology of Finno-Ugric peoples*. In the book, Leiu has summed up the results of 25 years'



work of Karin Mark, her long-time colleague and a renowned anthropologist, on physical anthropology of the Finno-Ugric peoples.

With her immense vitality, inquisitiveness and learning capacity, Leiu has done the work of several people in the field of science and, along with that, has had the strength to till real land at her birthplace on Muhu island. She does everything at her home farm with the same enjoyment and devotion as her research work.

As Leiu's colleagues and students, we must confess that she has educated us in her delicate and guiding way. Coffee-breaks with Leiu at her workplace have been infinitely educative and inspiring. With pleasure, we remember the luck to participate in anthropological fieldwork as Leiu's students and colleagues. It is exceptional how she managed to create an atmosphere in the period of intense work where all the expedition members were willing to follow her example, working for long days with delight and joy. When working together with Leiu, it has always been like that. A lot of thanks for passing on your knowledge and skills, but also for creating the cordial atmosphere and being a role model as a researcher.

Thanks to Leiu, we know how research can be the greatest enjoyment and privilege.

Gudrun Veldre and Raili Allmäe