

CURRICULUM VITAE OF NICOLAS FEDOROFF

Summary

Nicolas Fedoroff, born in 1934 in Paris (France), graduated from the Institut National Agronomique (Agricultural University of Paris) in 1959 specialising in soil science. He also graduated during the same period from the Paris university in Earth Sciences, taking degrees in mineralogy and petrology which appeared to be later a good introduction to soil micromorphology. He got the *Doctorat de 3^{ème} cycle* in Geology from the University of Paris in 1969.

N. Fedoroff was an associate professor at the Institut National Agronomique from 1962 to 2003, year of his retirement. He taught soil genesis and soil classification in the department of Agronomy and Environment of this institute. He also delivered there a course on tropical soils, genesis and management.

N. Fedoroff was made Doctor Honoris Causa of the Polytechnic University of Barcelona (1987) for his contribution to development of soil micromorphology in Cataloña (north-east Spain).

He obtained in 1990 “Prix Jean Dufrenoy de “*Académie d’Agriculture de France*” for his achievements in soil micromorphology.

N. Fedoroff was a co-founder in 1969 during the Wroclaw meeting of the International Working Group of Soil Micromorphology, the main task of which was to establish an internationally acceptable system for soil thin description. This task was achieved in 1985 when was published the “**Handbook for Soil Thin Description**” of which N. Fedoroff is one of the fifth authors.

In 1985, N. Fedoroff organized the Seventh International Working Meeting on Soil Micromorphology in Paris. This the largest soil micromorphology meeting ever held. Two hundred and twenty registered participants attended the meeting while one hundred and sixty presentations (oral and posters) were presented.

Nicolas Fedoroff edited in 1987, together with L.M. Bresson and M.A. Courty the proceedings of the Seventh International Working Meeting on Soil Micromorphology, entitled “Micromorphologie des Sols/ Soil Micromorphology” which were published by Association Française de la Science du Sol consisting of ninety four papers, all of them peer reviewed.

N. Fedoroff was chairmen of sub-commission B (soil micromorphology) of the International Soil Science Society (1985-1989)

N. Fedoroff delivered courses and extended conferences on soil micromorphology in various countries. He trained in soil micromorphology and supervised twenty seven Ph.D. students from all over the World (Algeria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African republic, China, Cuba, Dominican republic, France, Jordan, Mali, Marocco, Mexico Niger, Spain, Switzerland)

The main scientific achievements of N. Fedoroff based on soil micromorphology have concerned clay and silt translocation in soils and sediments, calcitic features and organisations and calcretes, Identification of past and present aridity in soils, Application of soil micromorphology for interpreting drainage pipe ochre clogging, human impact on soils, palaeopedology, the role of sedimentation on soil genesis, the importance of abrupt events on soil memory, the application of soil micromorphology to archaeology.

The most original contribution of N. Fedoroff in palaeopedology was to have introduced the concept of hierarchy for analysing the soil memory. The hierarchy of features interpreted from soil thin sections enables to reconstruct sequences of pedological as well as erosional and sedimentary events, from which the environmental significance can be inferred.