

EDITORIAL

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF AUC GEOGRAPHICA

In 2015 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our journal. The journal is published by Karolinum Press which is the official publisher of Charles University in Prague. The first issue was published in 1966 and the first papers were gathered from a Czech-Polish Geographical Seminar held at Charles University in Prague between April 26 and 30, 1966. The first issue was written in the native languages (Czech and Polish), while the next issue also contained papers in English and German (followed also by papers in Spanish and French). We began publishing fully in foreign languages in 1990 and step by step English prevailed, even if we published some papers in other world languages from time to time (e.g. French, Spanish). The first editorial board was represented by leading national geographers – all of them became professors and leaders in their geographical specializations in the subsequent years. The character of the editorial board became international in 2007 and substantially so in 2009; nevertheless this is a continuous process to also reflect the progress in our geographical disciplines.

One of the members of the first editorial board prof. Z. Pavlík told us, “Our journal was established to promote international contacts and research carried out abroad”. And this is the reason why we decided (after 50 years) to prepare the following issue, where we collected together papers based on international cooperation in different subjects of geography to show the variety of geographical research. Prof. Pavlík also explained to us that another idea was behind the founding of the new journal: “During the 1960s we had only one geographical journal (currently entitled ‘Geography’) where rather short papers were published in Czech. We felt the need to have a journal for publishing larger research topics”. Acta Universitatis Carolinae was exchanged for other journals published abroad from the very beginning. This was a reasonable source of international journals for our geographical library.

During the 50 years of publishing the journal it went through several phases of evolution. During the early years the journal was based on papers mainly from geographers of Charles University, nevertheless we were able to cover all fields of geography and we were supported by the leading domestic geographers. This is the reason why the journal quickly became rooted among the geographical society. The first international contributor (apart from the Czech-Polish seminar in 1966) was from Cuba. Also

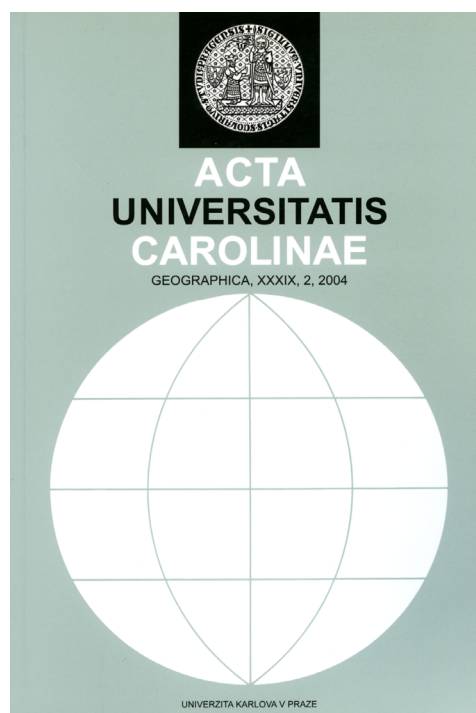


Fig. 1 The design of AUC Geographica has undergone different phases until the current issue.

our scientists presented original research papers from abroad (e.g. Greenland).

The original journal bore the name: “Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Geographica” and the design changed twice during the last 50 years (slightly in the beginning of the 1990s and significantly in 2011). In coordination with our publisher we also shortened the official name to AUC Geographica in 2011 and we began using a large format and coloured appendixes. These changes were introduced by Vilímek (2011) in more detail. Recently, we moved towards an open access journal and the use of DOI.

REFERENCES

VILÍMEK, V. (2011): Editorial. AUC Geographica, 46, No. 1, p. 5.

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