

## Editorial

Leoš Jeleček

jelecek@natur.cuni.cz

UK v Praze, PřF, katedra sociální geografie a regionálního rozvoje, Albertov 6, 128 43, Praha 2

In writing this text, I feel somewhat embarrassed, because, due to a number of objective reasons, this edition of *Klaudyán* is being published later than we had intended. The bottom line, however, is: better late than never. We hope that the next edition will be published in its proper time frame, i.e. at the end of the year. Why? One of the conditions for recognizing a periodical as an academic journal is the regularity of its being published. This is required not only by the Web of Science system, but also by the Government of the Czech Republic's Research and Development Council (RDC). This council has, oddly enough, determined that, in this age of the Internet, it will not recognise articles published in Internet academic journals, and therefore the journals themselves. It will not include them in its database of research and development results, upon which, among other things, it bases its assessment of the various scientific fields. Nevertheless, a number of these journals meet all the required parameters of the printed journals. Many of these, especially in foreign countries, are issued simultaneously on the Internet; moreover, with some journals it is even possible to download articles in the internet journals from the most recent edition (e.g. the American journal *Environmental Review*). As far as the Czech Republic's Research and Development Council is concerned; anyone who publishes in internet journals simply does not exist.

In spite of this, we will continue in our efforts to publish *Klaudyán*. The RDC's strange approach will not discourage us and we hope it will not discourage our authors either. Our aim is not only the sustenance of the already long established role of historical geography in Czechia, but its further development, as well. We consider securing the foundations of environmental history in Czechia, which has gradually established itself, since the second half of the 1990's, in the Czech science scene, to be a worthwhile endeavour. Historic and environmental approaches in geography as well as geographic and environmental approaches in historiography (in essence, holistic approaches), in other words interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, are the life and breath of modern science. Pursuit of an "impact factor", implanted arbitrarily into social sciences, which are for the most part (and from this group, especially the human sciences) "national", is illogical and, in particular, it is incapable of reflecting or even "measuring" the level of an observed field, as it more or less functions with natural and technical – and therefore "international" – sciences. How many scientists throughout the world and here in Czechia, for instance, are researching certain chemical compounds and how many, for instance, are studying the historical geography of Czechia or a certain period of its environmental history?

This edition of *Klaudyán* is unique in the representation of authors. Among other things, it shows that Czech historical geography and environmental history have a promising "young generation". The authors of articles in the main section and works in other sections are collectively either post-graduate students or even "mere" (for the time being) graduates of masters' studies.

N. Orsillo is an American, who studied at the Environmental Studies Department in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Masaryk University in Brno. His article pertains to environmental history and with its topic and approach proves that it is possible to apply the questions of environmental history even to periods of the not-so-distant past and that doing so can provide useful results for the present. The theoretical study of Klaudyán's executive editor Z. Kučera on historical geography presents a high-quality superstructure of all previous methodological studies of Czech authors, including even Klaudyán's editor-in-chief and his assistant, who is also the author's supervisor. Leonardo da Vinci's exaggerated claim that "It is a bad pupil, whose abilities do not exceed those of his teacher" truly applies here.

The more than shameful situation of using, or rather not using the official (for a number of reasons – see the economic significance of the brand name "Made in..." – the most significant) foreign language mutation of the geographic name of our country, i.e. the English "Czechia" (now see the summer Olympic Games in Beijing, following by billions of people through television), has led us to publish an edited and shortened version of P. Krejčí's article from edition No. 1/2007 in English. This embarrassing and undignified situation was, of course, not caused by the Anglophone world, which will use the name that our country and its representatives, institutions and organisations use. Other countries respect the rules and usage of the appropriate UN institutions on this issue. The Czech state, however, has taken, in respect to the case of its name Czechia, a "dead beetle position". And if we geographers as professionals do not contribute to the correction of this status, who will, when those who are paid to do so, ignore it?

This edition is also unique in that all the articles in the main section are written in English. It is definitely, by coincidence, but it also follows the trend in world science of late. English as the Latin of modern times allows for a democratic, open and highly effective platform for discussions such as the most fruitful sources of new thoughts and ideas. Today Czech Honza can wander with knowledge of English into the world in search of experiences through the Internet very inexpensively and quickly. Moreover Czech science, as expressed in "new Czech", is becoming more visible, in a manner many times cheaper than through sport with its nearly unidentifiable national athletic representatives.

In connection with the fact that preparations are underway in Japanese Kyoto for the 14th International Conference of Historical Geographers in August 2009, we are presenting a look back on its 13th conference in Hamburg from 2006 – it is not our fault, it was certainly some malicious elf that caused it to stay "in the bag". As noted herein, in 2012, the next and 15th International Conference of Historical Geographers will possibly be held in Prague. If not at that time, then it will be here in 2015. And so, let's look forward to this event and prepare for it.

Leoš Jeleček (Editor in Chief)