

Editorial

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In the introduction to the first issue of last year's volume of *Klaudyán* I expressed my embarrassment over the fact that its publishing was delayed. As an optimist bounded by reality I expressed hope that we would be publishing the journal on time from then on. This did not happen. And it gets even worse. We had to combine issues 1 and 2 of the 2009 volume and we had to publish this year's "double issue" at the very end of the year. Last year we also indicated that the main reason we lack articles to publish is the fact that the Research and Development Council of the Czech Republic has not included any internet publications on the list of about 400 Czech journals that receive "points", with only two exceptions. Today publications made by Czech academia, including as we can see the social sciences and humanities, as well as the development of publishing, is completely ruled by scientometry, which has resulted in an overall scramble by academics if not for impact factor, then at least for points from the Research and Development Council. After all the more points, the better the science is. Quantity beats quality. An author is awarded more points for an obituary of a fellow academic in a Czech journal with impact factor than for a monograph, and thus motivation is lacking. So be it that the motivation of academics henceforth shall be the collection of "the most valuable" figures, not however "results".

I am not making any excuses. We have to keep trying, because Czech historical geography and environmental history need *Klaudyán* if not for anything else than the fact that we have been awarded with the honor of organizing the 15th International Conference of Historical Geographers in Prague in 2012. It will be held in the same place as the 2nd International Conference of the European Society for Environmental History, which we held six years ago. My "prophecy" at the end of the editorial in edition 1/2008 has thus been fulfilled. The decision of the ICHG in Kyoto in 2009 is for us a great honor, as well as a great commitment; Czechia is the first post-communist country to hold a main academic conference in either environmental history or historical geography, and this time it is on a world-wide scale.

This issue of *Klaudyán* contains only two articles instead of the normal three. However, as far as topics are concerned they fall outside of the normal framework. Jana Krčmářová, a doctoral student at the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University in Prague, attempts to search out the influence of E.O. Wilson's concept of biophilia on the environmental movement in the United States in an English-language article. Accordingly we and the author are curious about reactions from our colleagues, especially from the USA. This article can be included in the "third level" of environmental history research, as defined by Donald Worster. The topic of Aleš Nováček's article falls into historical geography. The author is from the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague. His article deals with contemporary state of development of historical geography in Czechia.

The remainder of this issue is of an informative nature. I call attention to a review of a book on the geopolitics of the Central European region by Oskar Krejčí, a top Czech political scientist (the author of about 20 books). In the “News” section I have allowed myself to discuss news related to the proceedings and some of the outcomes of the 1st World Congress of Environmental History, which took place this August in Copenhagen.

Here’s to seeing you in better publishing times! I wish good health and success in 2010 to all the authors and readers of Klaudyán.

Leoš Jeleček (Editor in Chief)