

## Editorial

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Dear Klaudyán readers,

After a long pause, once again we present you with a double-issue; actually, it is a double-volume (8–9). Despite all of our endeavors, regularly publishing two issues of Klaudyán per year has proven to be an impossible task. The reason for this is still the same as in the past: we do not receive enough manuscripts. We have written about this problem here many times. This situation is one of the negative results of “impact-mania”; to complicate matters in Czechia there is also a system of awarding points to academic articles in journals without impact factor in the social sciences. *Historická geografie*, a journal published by the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, which has been published since 1968, has been awarded points. This tool, which was originally introduced to help libraries and booksellers orient themselves on the marketplace, has become a system for managing and financing science in today’s scientific information era. Scholars intrinsically know what they should work on and how; however, they are forced to write papers on themes that have a greater chance of being accepted by a journal with impact factor. To put it extremely, this practice is a certain form of limiting scholarly freedom.

We are, however, very glad that we are publishing this double-issue of Klaudyán on the occasion of the XV. International Conference of Historical Geographers being held in August 2012 at the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague-Albertov. We are also particularly glad to note that the leadership of the editorial board of Klaudyán comprises the same personnel as the organizational committee of the conference.

The fact that one of the three main articles in this double-issue are by our Slovak colleagues pleases us. It is our honor that in the Materials column we are publishing an unusual essay, in both form and theme, that was written by Alan Baker at the end of his study trip to Czechoslovakia in 1985. In my opinion this sparked the building of bridges between historical geography in the English-speaking world and in Czechia. Perhaps, this year’s ICHG in Prague is one of the results of A. Baker’s visit to Prague. On the occasion of important events, the past is recalled and relived. This issue focuses on this in part.

We wish all the best for our conference and for Klaudyán as well. We still believe that “things will be better”.

Leoš Jeleček (Editor-in-chief)