



## Editorial Column

### **BALTICA** approaches its 50 years anniversary

**Baltica**<sup>®</sup>, An International Journal on Geosciences, is a high-ranked, peer-reviewed research journal issued in cooperation with the geoscientists of the Baltic States region. This Editorial Column briefly reports how **Baltica**'s history remarkably changed during the semi-centenary. **Baltica** was founded through the initiative of the Lithuanian geographer and geologist Vytautas Gudelis in 1961 at the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Commission of Quaternary Research [INQUA] in Warsaw.<sup>1</sup> At this Congress, a new INQUA Subcommission on North-west Europe Shorelines was established, and V. Gudelis was elected its Vice-president. The Subcommission tasks were to continue the Baltic Sea studies defined in works of such eminent scientists as G. de Geer, E. Fromm, S. A. Jakovlev, M. Sauramo, and L. von Post, to coordinate new studies at an international scale, and to share experience and results. Under these circumstances Professor Gudelis established a new scientific periodical **Baltica**, published by the Department of Geography, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The journal was first called "**BALTICA. International Yearbook on the Quaternary geology and palaeogeography, coastal morphology and shore processes, marine geology and recent tectonics of the Baltic Sea area**". As was proclaimed by the Editor, the core topics of the journal are "*the history of the Baltic Sea, the shore morphology and recent dynamics, neotectonics and submarine geology*".<sup>2</sup>

In 1995, V. Gudelis explained why the name **Baltica** was chosen for a new edition of the journal.<sup>3</sup> He wrote that the term **Baltica** indicates a broad meaning as „of the sea“. „I introduced the Latin word **Baltica** first in 1955. I proposed to recall with this term an entire time span in the history of the Baltic Sea after the Litorina Stage, instead of the Limnea and Mia periods. It was approved by quite a few eminent researchers of the Baltic Sea. In 1963, when I became an Editor of the new international edition devoted to the research of the Baltic Sea and its shore, it fell to me to select a

title for it. I decided to call it **Baltica** having in mind that the subject of this edition will encompass not only the Baltic Sea but also all its coasts. Therefore, **Baltica** includes not only one sea—Mare Balticum ... ". Being a responsible Editor he sought a desirable look for the journal cover, whose background was decorated by contour lines of the Baltic Sea with accents of the inscription **Baltica** and a symbolic view of a Curonian fishermen boat 'kurėnas' (Lith.), still appearing with this edition (Fig. 1).

In 1963 the first volume of **Baltica** appeared in print in Vilnius. As the Editor noted in the Preface "... the Baltic Sea became one of the best studied marine basins in the world and assumed a role as a key benchmark, to which European Late Quaternary stratigraphic charts and palaeogeographic reconstructions have been related".<sup>4</sup> However, a significant part of the research results received for publication up to now were written in the national languages of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea. There were difficulties in using these results, and investigations were rarely internationally coordinated. **Baltica** Yearbook was intended to overcome these difficulties, and the initiative has been excellently realized.

The Yearbook was published irregularly, about every two or three years, while Professor Gudelis was Editor-in-Chief until 1982. V. Gudelis took care to develop a **Baltica** team of authors, inviting notable researchers of the Baltic Sea to submit their papers. During 1963–1982, seven solid volumes of **Baltica** Yearbook saw daylight with about 160 articles, though written in English, German, Russian, Lithuanian, and some times in French, on various geographical and geological problems regarding the Baltic Sea and its coasts. The activity of the INQUA Subcommission on Shorelines has been covered; discussion papers, reviews, and references were published, too. Outstanding scientists from Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Canada have published their works in **Baltica**; of them, specifically should be mentioned: E. Seibold, E. H. de Geer, St. Florin, J. F. Gellert, J. Donner, Th. Hurtig, H. Klieve, K. Orviku, H. Kessel, V. Ulst, A. Blazhchishin, O. Granč, A. Dreimanis, G. S. Biske, S. V. Jakovleva, T. V. Kleimenova, T. I. Gorshkova, K. K. Markov, N. N. Sokolov, R. Knaps, B. Rossa, H. Krog, N.-A. Mörner,

<sup>1</sup> Vytautas Gudelis (1923–2007), an eminent scientist, Professor, Doctor Habilitus, full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Doctor Honoris causa of the Uppsala University, honorary member of scientific societies and international bodies. In 1950–1999, academician V. Gudelis worked in the institutes of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences: Geology and Geography, Geography, Ecology. V. Gudelis developed researches of the Lithuanian sea coast, evolution and palaeogeography of the Baltic Sea. He was an active character of the scientific community.

<sup>2</sup> Gudelis, V. Preface. *Baltica*, Vol. 1, 1963, 11–12.

<sup>3</sup> Gudelis, V. Apie žodžius ir jų prasme, *Geologijos akiračiai*, Nr. 1, 1995. [About words and its meaning].

<sup>4</sup> Gudelis, V. Preface. *Baltica*, Vol. 1, 1963, 11–12.

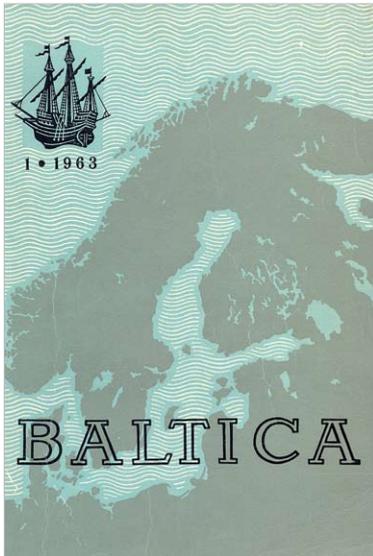


Fig. 1. Cover of BALTICA, Vol. 1, 1963.

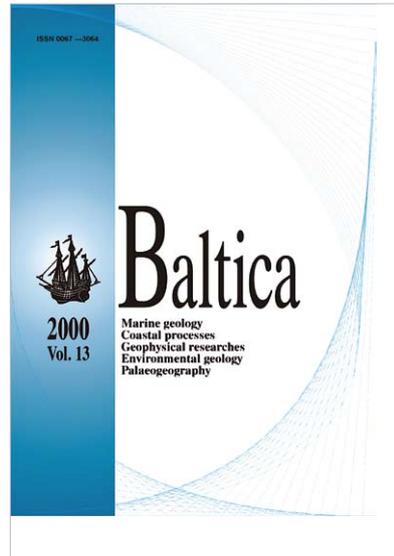


Fig. 2. Cover of BALTICA, Vol. 16, 2003.

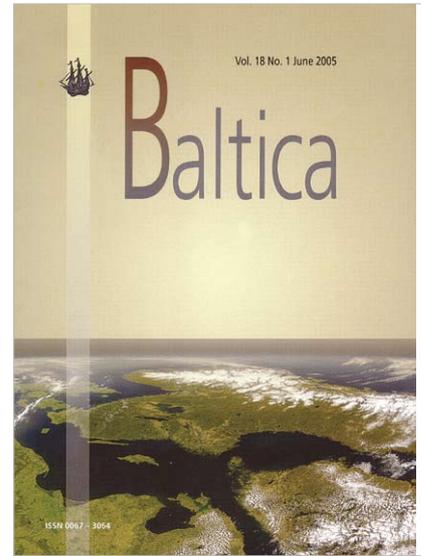


Fig. 3. Cover of BALTICA, Vol. 22, 2009.

and others.<sup>5</sup> Every volume also offered articles written by Lithuanian scientists.<sup>6</sup> The Yearbook became a widely cited scientific source in the Baltic Sea region. Already in 1961, through the extraordinary work and efforts of Academician Vytautas Gudelis, *Baltica* was included into Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, carrying the international scientific serial index ISSN 0067-3064.

Unfortunately, a "hiatus" of more than ten years intruded into *Baltica's* biography after the 7<sup>th</sup> volume (1982). After the break in publication, the renewed *Baltica* was initiated again in July, 1993. Prof. V. Gudelis handed over the editorship to me as the new Editor-in-Chief of *Baltica*. I was a geologist and palaeontologist at the State Institute of Geology, a Professor at Vilnius University, a member of the Academy of Sciences, and experienced in managing scientific and editorial work, having worked in marine geology since 1976. *Baltica* was re-registered in 1993 by the State Institute of Geology as its publisher.

A renewed scientific programme and a new publication style were set up. The Yearbook has announced its goals "... to strengthen professional links among the Baltic Sea region scholars, ... to enrich scientific knowledge, to develop promising researches and international cooperation".<sup>7</sup> My initial efforts were to form an International Scientific Programme Committee, and to try to increase a circle of authors. Announcements of *Baltica's* renaissance and updated programme were broadly distributed to the various geological institutions around the Baltic Sea, manuscripts began to roll in, and Volume 8 for 1994 appeared in print in January 1995. Once again, the Yearbook was issued annually

as before, yet published in English. Thus, the edition did not swerve from its main course.

In between, *Baltica* did again join the family of such Nordic journals as *Boreas*, *Lethaia*, *GFF*, and others. The editor anticipated favour of authors, grace of readers and attention of publishers.<sup>8</sup> The Yearbook was introduced into the international indexing and databases. From time to time, *Baltica* was consistently improved. Beginning with Volume 11 (1998) the edition obtained a new modern cover (Fig. 2). Since 2000, *Baltica* has its own website, and—starting with Volume 14 (2001)—the edition has been issued in colour. In 2003, *Baltica* was selected for inclusion in Web of Science, the Institute for Scientific Information's (ISI) highly-respected index to scientific journal literature. From 1994 to 2003 one volume of *Baltica* Yearbook was issued annually (Vols. 8–16).<sup>9</sup> Through all these years *Baltica* was financially sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania. Contents of the journal were rather broad, scholars of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and China contributed their papers.

Thus, edition of *Baltica* achieves its new approach to the geosciences of the Baltic Sea region.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, since the 40 years that have passed, scholars say that *Baltica* meets international standards of research publication, having its authors and citations in the international scientific press.<sup>11</sup> Its scientific programme

<sup>8</sup> Grigelis, A. Foreword. *Baltica*, Vol. 12, 1999, 4.

<sup>9</sup> BALTICA's bibliography for 1963–2004 is published in Volume 17, No. 2, 2004, and for 2004–2010 in the present issue Volume 23, No. 2, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Grigelis, A. An international journal *Baltica* – a new approach to the circum-Baltic geosciences. In *The Baltic: The Eight Marine Geological Conference. Abstracts. Excursion Guide*, by I. Puura, I. Tuuling and T. Hang (eds), Institute of Geology, University of Tartu, Tartu, 2004, 18.

<sup>11</sup> Gudelis, V., Grigelis, A. Tarptautiniam metraščiui BALTICA – 40 metų. *Geologijos akiračiai*, Nr. 2, 2004; *Mokslas ir technika*, Nr. 4, 2004. [International Yearbook BALTICA – 40 years].

<sup>5</sup> The names are ordered by the year of appearance.

<sup>6</sup> Gudelis, V. Some retrospective thoughts about the "Baltica". *Baltica*, Vol. 8, 1994, 4.

<sup>7</sup> Grigelis, A. Editor's address to BALTICA readers. *Baltica*, Vol. 9, 1995, 4.

did expand in order to become an international revisable scientific periodical—*An International Journal on Geosciences of the Baltic Sea region*. Indeed, increasing complex geological–geophysical investigations on an international and national basis, such as European Union supported projects or geological and environmental mapping, and the representation of obtained results, in particular those regarding the protection of the marine environment and the effective use of natural and recreational resources of the Baltic Sea broadened the publication programme.

Most responses to the Editor’s call for comments have been received from well-known scientists present members of the *Baltica* Scientific Programme Committee. Consequently, *Baltica* was reformed in 2004 to a semi-annual, peer-reviewed international Journal. This drove considerable changes in journal management and raised the requirements for the quality of papers. The journal intends to provide information on a wide range of interests of earth scientists. The *Baltica* programme is proclaimed as follows:

‘*Baltica* provides a rostrum for original and peer-review papers of international interests on various Earth science issues. The basic themes, as *Baltica*’s Volume 1 published in 1963 reads, are “*the history of the Baltic Sea, the shore morphology and recent dynamics, neotectonics and submarine geology*”. However, the earth science systems are far-reaching, therefore the renewed *Baltica* journal announces acceptance from 2004 papers relevant to the whole Baltic Sea and the surrounding land area. Particular emphasis is given to Quaternary geology, climate changes and development of ecosystems, palaeogeography, environmental geology, as well as tectonics, sedimentology and surface processes with relevance to the development of the Baltic area. The scientific publications in *Baltica* emphasize modern techniques, methodology and standards.’

Therefore, basic journal standards have been introduced. Timeliness of publication requires that *Baltica* appear regularly in June and December of the current year. *Baltica*’s Scientific Programme Committee consists of 19 members for 2010, and the journal strongly follows international editorial conventions, which include an informative journal title, fully descriptive article titles and abstracts, complete bibliographic information for all cited references, and full address information for every author. The manuscripts submitted are reviewed by two external/internal referees indicating the overall quality of the research presented and the completeness of cited references. A list of reviewers is announced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> title page of every volume. *Baltica* at present covers the scientific literature of the geosciences of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea. The content of the journal presents new topics and enriches the database holdings in geosciences.

The geographic distribution of *Baltica* is international and diverse. An electronic counterpart has been developed since 2000, and the journal website [<http://www.geo.lt/geo/index.php?id=710>] offers electronic access to the full article texts in PDF format beginning with volume 13 (2000). Electronic access is available also through Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) [<http://www.doaj.org>] and EBSCO Publishing, Inc. [<http://www.epnet.com>]. The number of printed copies per volume varies from 250 to 400 – of these, 120 copies are distributed mainly through the book exchange department of Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

In 2002, the journal applied for Institute of Scientific Information, Philadelphia, USA, to be selected for coverage in Thomson Reuter products and custom information services. Application has been renewed every year for ISI expert evaluation. Journal was already included into abstracting and indexing services: Current Abstracts (EBSCO List), DOAJ, GeoRef, TOC Premier (EBSCO List), VINITI, Bibliography and Index of Geology, Current Geographical Publications, GeoArchive, GeoSearch, Petroleum Abstracts.

According to ISI database sources, this publication has had 101 citations in ISI journals during the 1999–

Data of published *Baltica* issues for 2005–2009 are given in Table.

<i>Baltica</i> for 2005–2009	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
number of published issues	2	2	2	2	2
number of pages	98	100	64	100	136
number of submissions	11	11	9	10	16
number of published articles	10	11	7	9	11
number of reviews	1	0	2	1	5
number of authors	23	27	26	26	40
geographical distribution of authors:					
journal home country	8	11	6	6	14
Baltic countries	14	16	20	18	24
rest of Europe	1	0	0	2	2
Impact Factor (for 2010)					0.529
number of advisory board members	18	18	18	19	19



## ▲ Journal Immediacy Index

Cites in 2009 to items published in 2009 = 1  
 Number of items published in 2009 = 13  
 Calculation:  $\frac{\text{Cites to current items}}{\text{Number of current items}} = \frac{1}{13} = 0.077$

## ▲ Journal Cited Half-Life

The cited half-life for the journal is the median age of its items cited in the current JCR year. Half of the citations to the journal are to items published within the cited half-life.

### Cited Half-Life:

Breakdown of the citations *to the journal* by the cumulative percent of 2009 cites to items published in the following years:

Cited Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999-all
# Cites from 2009	1	2	7	7	14	3	6	5	8	5	37
Cumulative %											

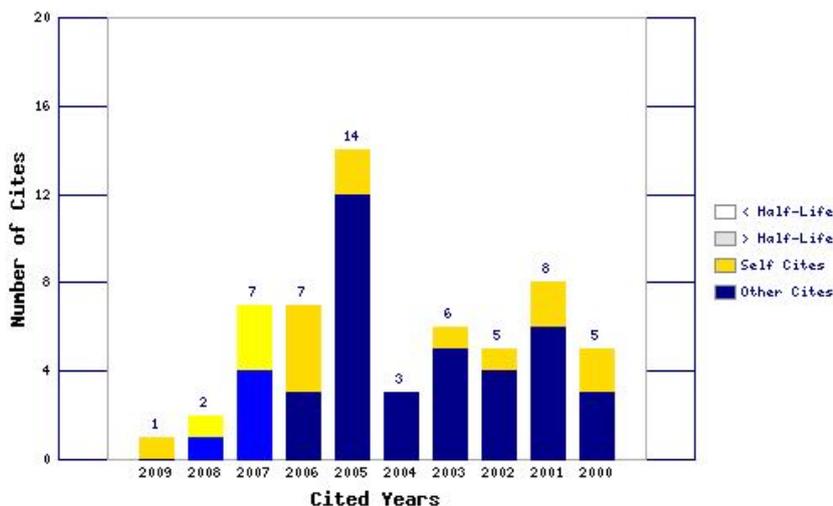
### Cited Half-Life Calculations:

The cited half-life calculation finds the number of publication years from the current JCR year that account for 50% of citations received by the journal. Read help for more information on the calculation.

## ▲ Cited Journal Graph

This graph shows the distribution by cited year of citations to items published in the journal BALTICA.

### Citations to the journal (per cited year)



- The white/grey division indicates the cited half-life (if < 10.0). Half of the journal's cited items were published more recently than the cited half-life.
- The top (gold) portion of each column indicates Journal Self Citations: citations to items in the journal from items in the same journal.
- The bottom (blue) portion of each column indicates Non-Self Citations: citations to the journal from items in other journals.
- The two lighter columns indicate citations used to calculate the Impact Factor (always the 2nd and 3rd columns).

## ▲ Journal Citing Half-Life

The citing half-life for the journal is the median age of the items the journal cited in the current JCR year. Half of the citations in the journal are to items published within the citing half-life.

### Citing Half-Life: >10.0 years

Breakdown of the citations *from the journal* by the cumulative percent of 2009 cites to items published in the following years:

Cited Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999-all
# Cites from 2009	7	20	38	33	39	39	32	19	29	25	314
Cumulative %	1.18	4.54	10.92	16.47	23.03	29.58	34.96	38.15	43.03	47.23	100

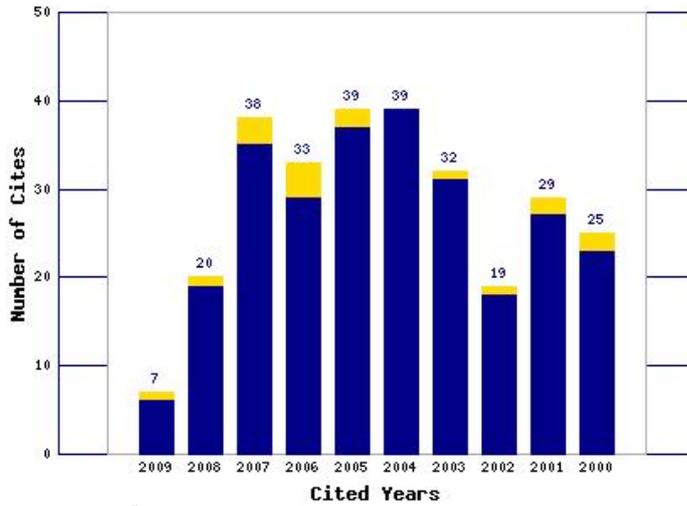
### Citing Half-Life Calculations:

The citing half-life calculation finds the number of publication years from the current JCR year that account for 50% of citations in the journal. Read help for more information on the calculation.

## ▲Citing Journal Graph

This graph shows the distribution by cited year of citations from current-year items in the journal BALTICA.

### Citations from the journal (per cited year)



- The white/grey division indicates the citing half-life (if < 10.0). Half of the citations from the journal's current items are to items published more recently than the citing half-life.
- The top (gold) portion of each column indicates Journal Self-Citations: citations from items in the journal to items in the same journal.
- The bottom (blue) portion of each column indicates Non-Self Citations: citations from the journal to items in other journals.

### Journal Source Data

	Citable items			Other items
	Articles	Reviews	Combined	
<b>Number in JCR year 2009 (A)</b>	13	0	13	3
<b>Number of references (B)</b>	358	0	358	3.00
<b>Ratio (B/A)</b>	27.5	0.0	27.5	1.0

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