



since 1961

**Baltica**

**BALTICA Volume 26 Number 1 June 2013 : 1–4**

doi:10.5200/baltica.2013.26.01

## Editorial Column

### Baltica Journal celebrates its 50th anniversary

Grigelis, A., 2013. Baltica journal celebrates its 50th anniversary. *Baltica*, Vol. 26 (1), 1–4. Vilnius. ISSN 0067-3064.

**Baltica**<sup>®</sup>, an International Journal on Geosciences, celebrates its 50th anniversary. As the Editor-in-Chief I congratulate Journal authors, readers, reviewers, Scientific Committee members for your excellent work. Let remind you that the Editorial Column once briefly reported how **Baltica's** history remarkably changed during the semi-centenary.<sup>1</sup>

**The Yearbook *Baltica* – 1963 (1961)–1982.** *The Baltica* – as an International Yearbook – established in 1961 in Warsaw during the sixth Congress of the International Commission for Quaternary Research (INQUA). It was initiated by Professor Vytautas Gudelis (1923–2007) elected Vice-President of the INQUA Subcommittee on Shorelines of Northern and Western Europe. Making this proposal V. Gudelis thought the ***Baltica Yearbook*** might be devoted “to Quaternary geology and palaeogeography, coastal morphology and shore processes, marine geology and recent tectonics of the Baltic Sea area”. V. Gudelis became Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, and the first Volume of ***Baltica*** issued in Vilnius in 1963. The preface written by V. Gudelis reads: *The Baltic Sea has become one of the most thoroughly explored sea basins. It has also played the part of a datum mark to which the stratigraphic schemes and palaeogeographic reconstructions of the European Late Quaternary were attached.* 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>

As noted, the Yearbook was published about every second or third years until 1982. Professor 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, written in English, German, Russian, Lithuanian, and sometimes in French, on various geographical and geological problems regarding the Baltic Sea and its coasts. It covered the activity of the INQUA Subcommittee on Shorelines, also discussion papers, reviews, and references. Outstanding scientists from countries surrounding the Baltic Sea have published their works in ***Baltica***. Every volume also offered articles written by Lithuanian scientists. The Yearbook became a widely cited scientific source in the Baltic Sea region.<sup>3</sup>

**Meaning of the term *Baltica*.** In 1995, Professor V. Gudelis explained why the name ***Baltica*** was chosen for a new edition of the journal. 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 Mya periods. Quite a few eminent researchers of the Baltic Sea approved it. In 1963, when I became an Editor of the new international edition devoted to the research of the Baltic Sea and its shores, 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 fishing boat ‘*kurėnas*’ (Lith.), still appearing with this edition.<sup>4</sup>

**The renewed International Yearbook *Baltica* – 1993–2003.** Unfortunately, a “hiatus” of more than ten years intruded into ***Baltica's*** biography after the seventh 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

<sup>1</sup> Grigelis, A., 2010. ***Baltica*** approaches its 50 years anniversary. *Baltica*, Vol. 23 (2), 71–76.

<sup>2</sup> Gudelis, V., 1963. Preface / Vorwort / Предисловие. *Baltica*, Vol. 1, 9–14.

<sup>3</sup> Grigelis, A., 2004. International yearbook *Baltica* – 40 years passed. *Baltica*, Vol. 17 (1), 3–4.

<sup>4</sup> Gudelis, V., 1995. Apie žodžius ir jų prasmę [About words and its meaning]. *Geologijos akiračiai*, Nr. 1.

new Editor-in-Chief.<sup>5</sup> I myself was a geologist and palaeontologist 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>1</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 issued annually as before, yet published in English. Thus, the edition did not swerve from its main course. *Baltica* was introduced in the international indexing and data bases. From 1994 to 2003 each year a volume of *Baltica* was issued (Nos 8–16).

From time to time, *Baltica* went through stages of improvement. Beginning with Volume 11 (1998) the edition obtained a new modern variable cover. Since 2000, *Baltica* has its own website, and—starting with Volume 14 (2001)—the edition is printed in colour, and the contents of the journal became rather broad. 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. Through all these years *Baltica* was financially sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania.

With these changes *Baltica* has acquired a new approach to the geosciences of the Baltic Sea region. 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. Its scientific programme did expand in order to become an international revisable scientific periodical. Indeed, increasing complex geological–geophysical investigations on an international and national basis, such as projects supported by the European Union 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.

**The *Baltica* – International Journal on Geosciences – 2004–2013.** Consequently, from 2004 the *Baltica* edition is transforming into a semi-annual, peer-reviewed *International Journal on Geosciences*. This has led to 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 to 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 change and development of ecosystems, palaeogeography, and 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 20 members, 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 guaranteeing 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. The content of the journal presents new topics and enriches the database holdings in geosciences.<sup>6</sup> The Journal is enlisted in the programme of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences elaborated for publication of periodicals.

The geographic distribution of *Baltica* is international and diverse. An electronic counterpart has been developed since 2000, and the journal website 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) and EBSCO Publishing, Inc. The number of printed copies per volume is 200 – of these, 100 copies distribute through the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

**Course to ISI Web on Science – 2002–2008.** In 2002, the journal applied for Institute of Scientific Information, Philadelphia, USA, to select for coverage in Thomson Reuter products and custom information

<sup>5</sup> Gudelis, V., 1994. Some retrospective thoughts about the “Baltica”. *Baltica*, Vol. 8, 4.

<sup>6</sup> *Baltica*'s bibliography for 1963–2004 is published in Volume 17, No. 2, 2004, and for 2004–2010 in Volume 23, No. 2, 2010.

services. Application renewed every year for ISI expert evaluation. Journal was already included for 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, Ulrich's Periodical.

According to ISI database sources, the *Baltica* edition has had over 100 citations in ISI journals during the 1999–2004 year period; and during the 2006–2009 period, the citation exceeded 72 cases [source: 'scopus.com']. Evidence indicates that *Baltica's* acceptance has continuously increased. As a result, *Baltica* was included in the Thomson Scientific Master Journal List record in April 2006. Beginning with Vol. 20 2007, *Baltica* has been indexed and abstracted in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch®), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition. In 2008, *Baltica* was included in the Thomson Web on Science record. Thomson Reuters stated that Journal Impact Factor for 2009 was 0.529, for 2010 (5-years) 0.913; for 2011 0.613.

**Conclusions.** Growing interest in *Baltica* edition is, increasing the number of presented manuscripts, better financing allow to upgrade the scientific spectrum and volume of the journal to 180–190 pages per year (two numbers). In 2012, a novelty was introduced towards greater reader interest. The Editor has decided to re-publish some articles of outstanding scientists previously published on the *Baltica* sheets. These articles—Editor calls them *Classic Papers*—have in their time had a significant impact on scientific knowledge and methodology, as well as on the better understanding of the geology of the Baltic Sea and surrounding coastal states. However, these research papers seem to be disused in the shortcomings of current bibliographic trends. They should be taken again into scientific circulation.

Thus, in 2012, the first *Classic Paper* presents the geologist professor Gerard De Geer (1858–1943), a pioneer in Quaternary geology. This is the article, published in *Baltica*, Volume 1, in 1963, on Gerard De Geer's early scientific achievements in 1881–1906 related to the Baltic Sea geology, written by his wife, Ebba Hult De Geer. The publication is introduced by Swedish geologist professors Ingemar Cato (Uppsala) and Rodney Stevens (Gothenburg).<sup>7</sup>

In 2013, in this issue, the *Classic Paper* presents the geologist and palaeontologist professor Eugen Seibold (1918), a promoter of European marine geology. The article, published in *Baltica*, Volume 2, 1965, presents extended data on the role of the Great Belt for the recent sedimentation in the Baltic Sea. The publication is introduced by German geologist professor Jan Harff (Szczecin).<sup>8</sup>

The author acknowledges Drs Boris Winterhalter and Henry Vallius (both Espoo, Helsinki), indispensable Members of the *Baltica Scientific Committee*, for the valuable review of this summary of the *Baltica* scientific achievements.

*Algimantas Grigelis, Editor-in-Chief*

## **Supplement**

Contribution of „BALTICA” to the studies of the earth science of the whole Baltic Sea and the surrounding land area, 2010-2012

**Volume 23, No. 1, Vilnius, June 2010. – 1-70 pp. : figs. – Circ. 200 copies.**

Zuzevičius, A. The groundwater dynamics in the southern part of the Baltic Artesian Basin during the Late Pleistocene.

Chubarenko, I., Chubarenko, B., Esiukova, E., Baudler, H. Mixing by Langmuir circulation in shallow lagoons.

Krzymińska, J., Przędziecki, P. Fossil lacustrine bodies in the Gulf of Gdańsk as recorded by seismoacoustic data and ostracodological analysis.

Jakimavičius, D., Kovalenkoviënė, M. Long-term water balance of the Curonian Lagoon in the context of anthropogenic factors and climate change.

Suuroja, K., Suuroja, S. The Neugrund meteorite crater on the seafloor of the Gulf of Finland, Estonia.

Jungerius, P.D., Riksen, M.J.P.M. Contribution of laser altimetry images to the geomorphology of the Late Holocene inland drift sands of the European Sand Belt.

**Volume 23, No. 2, Vilnius, December 2010. – 71-170 pp. : figs. – Circ. 200 copies.**

Grigelis, A. *BALTICA* approaches its 50 years anniversary. Emelyanov, E. M., Kravtsov, V. A., Savin, J. I., Paka, V. T., Khalikov, I. S. Influence of chemical weapons and warfare agents on the metal contents in sediments in the Bornholm Basin, the Baltic Sea.

Depellegrin, D., Blažauskas, N., de Groot, R. S. Mapping of sensitivity to oil spills in the Lithuanian Baltic Sea coast.

Leontjev, I., Ryabchuk, D., Zhamoida, V., Spiridonov, M., Kurennoy, D. Reconstruction of Late Holocene development of the submarine terrace in the eastern Gulf of Finland.

<sup>7</sup> De Geer, E. H., 2013 (1963). De Geer's part in exploring the history of the Baltic Sea. *Baltica 1*, 15–33. Introduced by Cato, I., Stevens, R. L., 2012. Gerard De Geer – a pioneer in Quaternary geology in Scandinavia. *Baltica*, 25 (1), 1–22.

<sup>8</sup> Seibold, E., 2013 (1965). Der Grosse Belt in seiner Bedeutung für die rezenten Sedimente der Ostsee. *Baltica 2*, 139–166. Introduced by Harff, J., 2013. Eugen Seibold – a promoter of European marine geology. *Baltica*, 26 (1), 9–36.

Gelumbauskaitė, L. Ž. The Palaeo–Nemunas delta history during the Holocene.

Saarse, L., Vassiljev, J., Heinsalu, A. Reconstruction of the land-sea changes on the Juminda Peninsula, North Estonia, during the last 10 000 years.

Trimonis E., Vaikutienė G., Gulbinskas S. Seasonal and spatial variations of sedimentary matter and diatom transport in the Klaipėda Strait (the eastern Baltic Sea).

Avotniece, Z., Rodinov, V., Lizuma, L., Briede, A., Klavins, M. Trends in the frequency of extreme climate events in Latvia.

Žaromskis, R., Gulbinskas, S. Main patterns of coastal zone development of the Curonian Spit (Lithuania).

Kask, A., Soomere, T., Suuroja, S., Kask, J. Sand accumulation under varying lithohydrodynamic conditions in the coastal area of the north-eastern Baltic Sea.

Spiridonov, M., Harff, J. The Baltic Sea Geology–10.

Dagienė, S. BALTICA bibliography in 2004-2010.

**Volume 24, No. 1, Vilnius, June 2011. – 1-60 pp. : figs. – Circ. 200 copies.**

Grigelis, A. Research of the bedrock geology of the Central Baltica Sea.

Ryabchuk, D., Leont'yev, I., Sergeev, A., Nesterova, E., Sukhacheva, L., Zhamoida, V. The morphology of sand spits and the genesis of long–shore sand waves on the coast of the eastern Gulf of Finland.

Stančikaitė, M., Baltrūnas, V., Karmaza, B., Karmazienė, D., Molodkov, A., Ostrauskas, T., Obukhowsky, V., Sidorovich, W., Motuzko, A. The Late Glacial history of Gornitsa foreland and Kovaltsy Palaeolithic site, W Belarus.

Raukas, A., Stankowski, W. On the age of the Kaali craters, Island of Saaremaa, Estonia.

Gailiusis, B., Kriaučiūnienė, J., Jakimavičius, D., Šarauskienė, D. The variability of long-term runoff series in the Baltic Sea drainage basin.

Emelyanov, E., Pustelnikovas, O., Gulbinskas, S. Farewell to Professor Egidijus Trimonis (1939-2011).

**Volume 24, No. 2, Vilnius, December 2011. – 61-122 pp. : figs. – Circ. 200 copies.**

Assinovskaya, B., Shchukin, J., Gorshkov, V., Shcherbakova, N. On recent geodynamics of the Eastern Baltic Sea region.

Kažys, J., Stankūnavičius, G., Rimkus, E., Bukantis, A., Valiukas, D. Long–range alternation of extreme high day and night temperatures in Lithuania.

Emelyanov, E. M. The approach to limology (barrier zones) in the Baltic Sea : a review.

Morkūnaitė, R., Baužienė, I., Česnulevičius, A. Parabolic dunes and soils of the Curonian Spit, south–eastern Baltic Sea coast.

Veteikis, D., Šabanovas, S., Jankauskaitė, M. Landscape structure changes on the coastal plain of Lithuania during 1998–2009.

Zelčs, V., Raukas, A. Farewell to Professor Aleksis Dreimanis (1914–2011).

**Volume 25, No. 1, Vilnius, June 2012. – 1-90 pp. : figs. – Circ. 200 copies.**

Cato, I., Stevens, R. L. Gerard De Geer – a pioneer in Quaternary geology in Scandinavia.

De Geer, E. H. (1963). G. De Geer's part in exploring the history of the Baltic Sea.

Vallius, H. Arsenic and heavy metal distribution in the bottom sediments of the Gulf of Finland through the last decades.

Taminskas, J., Pileckas, M., Šimanauskienė R., Linkevičienė R. Wetland classification and inventory in Lithuania.

Pupienis, D., Žilinskas, G., Jarmalavičius, D., Satkūnas, J. Dynamics of the Nemunas River delta front during the period 1910–2005.

Kuijpers, A., Kunzendorf, H., Rasmussen, P., Sicre, M.-A., Ezat, U., Fernane, A., Weckström, K. The Baltic Sea inflow regime at the termination of the Medieval Climate Anomaly linked to North Atlantic circulation.

Jurgelėnaitė, A., Kriaučiūnienė, J., Šarauskienė, D. Spatial and temporal variation in the water temperature of Lithuanian rivers.

Gasiūnaitė, Z. R., Razinkovas-Baziukas, A., Grinienė, E., Gulbinskas, S., Pilkaitytė, R., Žaromskis, R. Pelagic patterns along the Nemunas River–Curonian Lagoon transition, south-eastern Baltic Sea.

Stevenson, A. The European marine observation and data network – geological data.

**Volume 25, No. 2, Vilnius, December 2012. – 91-188 pp. : figs. – Circ. 200 copies.**

Štuopis, A., Juodkazis, V., Mokrik, R. Quaternary aquifer system flow modelling by chemical and tritium isotope data: the case of south-east Lithuania.

Klemas, V. Remote sensing of environmental indicators of potential fish aggregation : An overview.

Rosentau, A., Harff, J., Oja, T., Meyer, M. Postglacial rebound and relative sea level changes in the Baltic Sea since the Litorina transgression.

Metsur, Mait, Metsur, Madis, Niitlaan, E., Raukas, A., Siitam, P. Geological and environmental pre-conditions for utilisation of Maardu granite deposit, northern Estonia.

Rimkus, E., Valiukas, D., Kažys, J., Gečaitė, I., Stonevičius, E. Dryness dynamics of the Baltic Sea region.

Latkovska, I., Apsite, E., Elferts, D., Kurpniece, L. Forecasted changes in the climate and the river runoff regime in Latvian river basins.

Bučienė, A., Gaigalis, K. Chemical composition of wet deposits and drainage runoff in agroecosystems : a case of Middle Lithuania.

Šiaulyš, A., Bučas, M. Species distribution modelling of benthic invertebrates in the south-eastern Baltic Sea.

Bagdavičiūtė, I., Kelpšaitė, L., Daunys, D. Assessment of shoreline changes along the Lithuanian Baltic Sea coast during the period 1947-2010.

Kotilainen, A. Holocene saline water inflow changes into the Baltic Sea, ecosystem responses and future scenarios.