

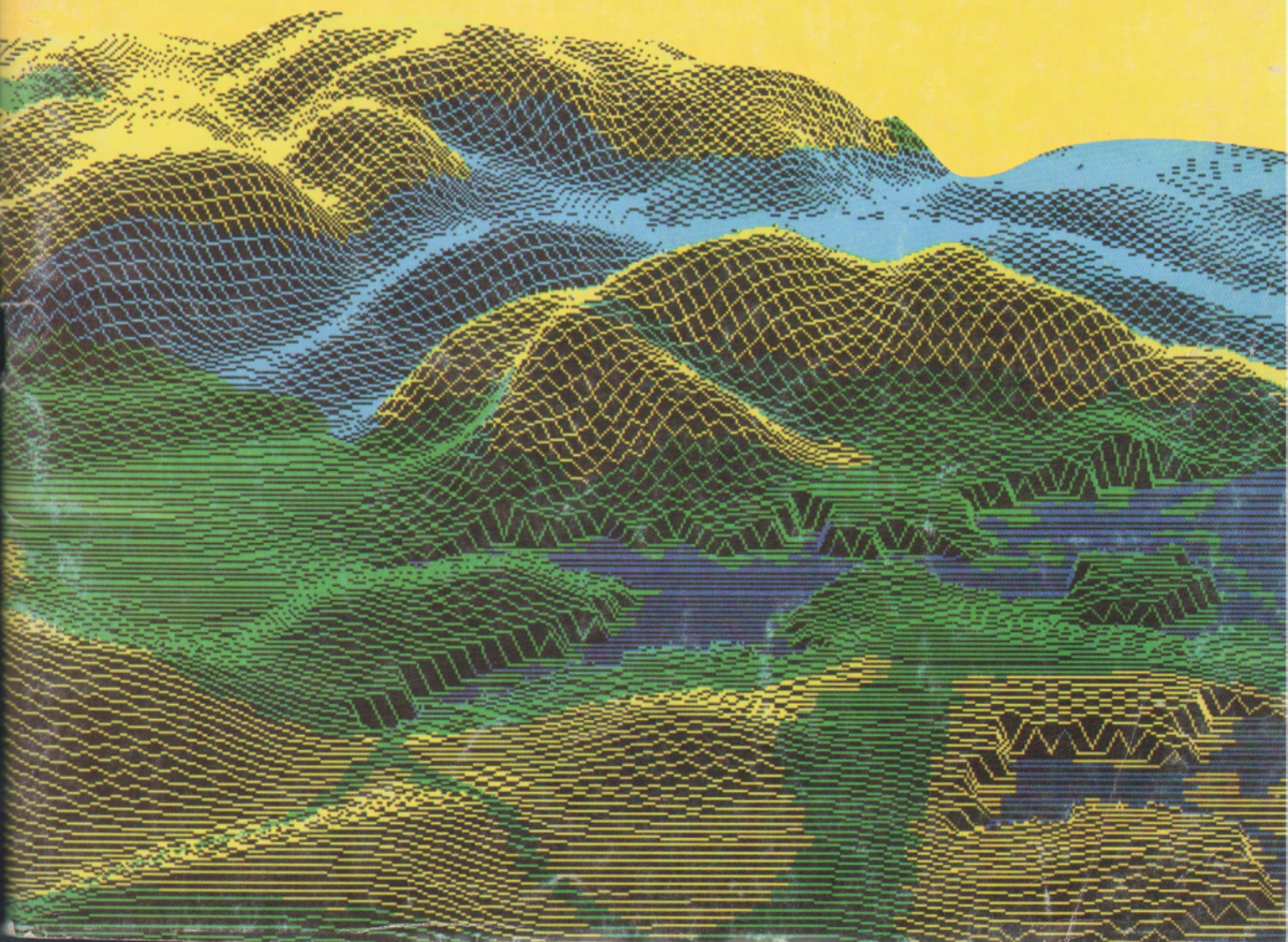
# MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS



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# MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS

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## Editorial

*Jan Munzar*

MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS whose first volume just appears is meant to be a professional geographical magazine openly linking up with nearly thirty years' tradition of the magazine ZPRÁVY GEOGRAFICKÉHO ÚSTAVU ČSAV (Reports of Geographical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences – ISSN 0587-1247) which has come to an end due to dissolution of its publisher-Geographical Institute - in 1993.

The intention to issue a new periodical was born in January 1994 at the Brno branch office of a newly established Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences. This affiliation could provide continuity of scientific work to a team of experts from the former Geographical Institute, who were engaged mainly with environmental issues. In contrast to the original "REPORTS", new MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS (MGR) exhibit a whole range of changes of which the most visible one can be seen in language of the new periodical. With regard to its purpose, the magazine will be published in English as this is the only way how to gain regular readers and become a studied item of technical press in foreign geographical libraries. We are fully aware of the fact that success of the new periodical will also depend on linguistic standard of the texts.

A considerable change can also be seen in appearance of the magazine. The A4 format has been chosen mainly to facilitate publication of graphical, namely cartographical enclosures, which seems an important issue in a geographical journal. Similar role is played by colour cover and inner two-page spread, which should contribute to additional attractiveness of the journal. Print technologies based on computing techniques make it possible today to produce graphical standard that could never be achieved by "REPORTS". Other changes cannot be spotted at the first sight. An important novelty is cooperation with departments of geography at the faculty of natural sciences and the Paedagogic faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno as well as with the Faculties of natural sciences of the Palacký University in Olomouc and University of Ostrava. In this way, the journal will attempt at integration of Moravian academic geographers and the idea gave name to the journal, too. The concept of Morava is understood regionally, not nationally. Collaboration with geographers in Bohemia, Slovakia and in all other neighbouring countries is cordially welcomed.

At the beginning, the journal is expected to appear twice a year with its total extent being some 150-200 pages. Since the last double-issue of REPORTS OF GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES was published in 1992 (volume 29), the just born issue 1993 should be considered a bridge between the former periodical and the first regular volume of MGR. This issue is being published on the occasion of the IGU Regional Conference that will be held in Prague in August 1994. The first regular volume of MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS will be the volume of 1994.

Unlike the "REPORTS", MGR will be financed in a different way. While the "REPORTS" were fully covered from the budget of the former Geographical Institute, the MGR will operate on the basis of contributions. This means that costs are being covered from the budget of the branch office only to certain extent, the rest of income must be ensured from external sources. These income sources can be seen in sales of the journal, in advertisement activities,

subsidies granted from the headquarters of the Czech Academy of Sciences and gifts from sponsors, receipts from scientific activities of the branch office. This is the reason for us to pay more attention to MGR marketing.

Publishing in MGR is opened first of all to all Moravian geographers from the Czech Academy of Sciences, universities, and other institutions which can publish their works. In addition to this, we would like to publish *Moravica*, ie. scientific geographical works dedicated to Moravia and its territory. Last but not least we can offer a possibility of reciprocal publishing to foreign partners of the Brno branch office of Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences.

From the above mentioned facts we can easily deduce main objectives for publishing the MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS:

- a) to facilitate publication of scientific results achieved by experts in the form that would conform to present requirements,
- b) to inform the Czech and foreign professional public of a new workplace established at the Czech Academy of Sciences, engaged with geographical issues,
- c) to create a basis for close cooperation of Moravian geographers in Academy, universities and in practice,
- d) to facilitate continuation of literature exchange within the scope of international relations by replacing the REPORTS OF GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE, with the new journal and thus improve publication possibilities for the exchange.

Success of MGR is conditioned by a whole range of factors, of course. The first of them must be sufficient amount of good standard technical papers which would reflect condition of Moravian geography. Next factor would be sufficient funds in the conditions of ever increasing printing costs. However, the MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS would never see light of the world without enthusiasm of editors who ensure technical, graphical and linguistic respects of the journal, and - of course - without proper joint work of the whole board of editors. Even here we can claim that human factor is the most important element of any effort.

We would like to wish to the newly born periodical MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS that it becomes soon a beneficial contribution among geographical journals in Central Europe, that it can contribute to learning geography of Moravia historical region, that it can join international scientific collaboration in the field of geography. The editorial board will expect response from readers to the intention of issuing this new periodical as well as to individual papers published.

Issue 1-2/1993 is a monothematic issue whose main papers are devoted to mapping some environmental factors. Example can be maps at the scale of 1:50 000, sheet Brno, which illustrate the area in NW quadrant of surroundings of this south Moravian metropolis. Five such maps are enclosed. Our idea was that the reader of the first issue gains more than a mere text for the same price. Therefore readers will perhaps excuse the fact that the maps have not been specially made for MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS.

### *About Moravia and Moravian Geography*

Moravia is a historical territory situated in eastern parts of the Czech Republic, the second of constituent lands of the Czech Crown (Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia). Its geopolitical position has always been favourable as Moravian Gate

is the lowest point of main European watershed. The Moravian Gate represents a magnificent natural corridor which makes possible contacts with countries to the south of Danube as well as with those near Baltic Sea, and which has always meant an important trading route. As early as in the work of the greatest ancient geographer Claudian PTOLEMAIOS from the mid-2nd century, the geographic image of Moravia appeared in more details than that of Bohemia. In the 9th century, Moravia became a core of the Great Moravian Empire which was a cradle of Christianity and culture for entire East Europe. After the Empire had been disrupted by Hungarians in 907, the centre of national development had to be transferred to Bohemia.

Since the 10th century, the Moravian territory appeared very similar to its present form. Despite being always firmly connected with Bohemia, Moravia never lost its administrative independence. Margraviate of Moravia as an administrative formation within the Czech state came into existence in 1182. Eventful history of Moravia is a history of the country which was situated right on the border line between the West and East of Europe, and on the way between its North and South. This fact not only resulted in penetration of different cultural influences, but also in frequent wars and violence. Moravia has given a whole range of famous personalities to the world, of whom let us mention paedagogist Jan Amos KOMENSKÝ (Comenius), and founder of the first Czechoslovak state, and its first president Tomáš Garrigue MASARYK. In overseas countries, Moravia is sometimes being put together with the Church of Moravian Brethren, religious exiles after the Battle at Bílá Hora, followers of Jan HUS and Jan Amos KOMENSKÝ.

After constitution of the independent Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, Moravia was a land with area of 22 304 km<sup>2</sup>: this represents approximately 28% of the present Czech Republic. After a system of regions had been introduced in 1949, Moravia became extinct as an administration unit, and at the territorial reform of 1960, even the historical border between Bohemia and Moravia was ignored. However, the poll survey of population, houses and flats made in 1991 as well as other symptoms indicated that historical awareness of Moravian population is still alive, and manifests itself in the sphere of culture and mentality of inhabitants. At present, there are approximately 4 million inhabitants living in Moravia. Post-revolution euphoria has given once again rise to the issue of Moravian rights, which is not presented as a problem of separation but as that of territorial self-government, though.



*Pavlovské vrchy*

*Photo: O. Mikulík*

Moravian geography has a long-term tradition. Its beginnings and development were described in comprehensive works of František VITÁSEK (1890 – 1973). This author of the first Czech three-volume university textbook of physical geography from 1934 - 1939 has organizational deserts for development of the discipline beside his extensive scientific and paedagogic work. Right in 1945, after a forced six years break caused by closure of Czech universities by Nazis, he began with renewal of the Geographic Institute at Masaryk University in Brno. He also took part at building the geographical institute at Palacký University in Olomouc, and in 1952, when the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was founded, he was appointed with creation and leadership of its Cabinet for Geomorphology in Brno, which became a nucleus to the later Geographical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (1963). In his works on Moravian geography, F. VITÁSEK paid attention to both the works concerning Moravian region and to research scientists who worked in Moravia and were devoted also to wider geographical issues. We can say – the field of interest, which was very close to that of our new journal.

Present Moravian geography is centred in three largest and most significant Moravian cities: Brno, Olomouc, and Ostrava. The three largest workplaces have about twenty scientific and professional workers each. Besides the Brno branch office of the Institute of Geonics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (AV ČR), it is the department of geography at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Masaryk University, and the department of geography at the Ostrava University. The department of geography at the Paedagogic Faculty, Masaryk University, and the department of the geography at Palacký University – are smaller workplaces. Other geographers are individually engaged at further faculties and universities or other institutions where they ensure an irreplaceable geographical view of reality. The number 1/1994 of MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS will present "Orbis geographicus bohemo-moravicus", from which present workplaces of the Moravian geographers will be recognisable.

