

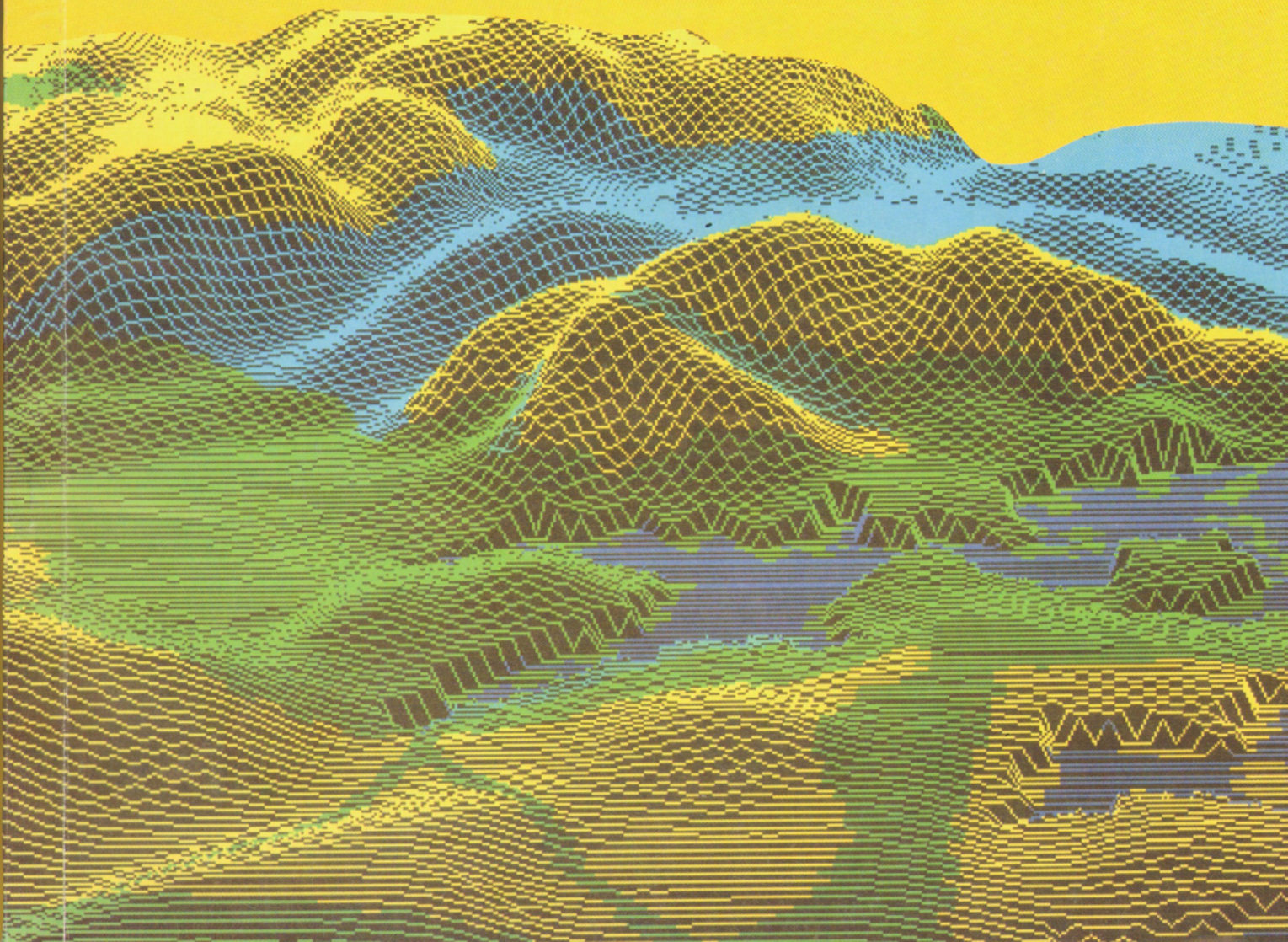
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Contents

Articles

Antonín VAISHAR

THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF DECISION - MAKING FOR SUSTAINABLE CITY (International research project funded by CEC Contract No.EV5V-CT92-0150)

Introduction 2
 (Kulturní a ekonomické podmínky rozhodovacího procesu pro trvale udržitelný rozvoj města. Úvod)

CASE STUDY: BRNO 4
 (Kulturní a ekonomické podmínky rozhodovacího procesu pro trvale udržitelný rozvoj Brna)

Antonín VAISHAR - Oldřich MIKULÍK - Jana ZAPLETALOVÁ - Roman BARTÁK - Martin DOKOUPIL

CASE STUDY: BUDAPEST 30
 (Kulturní a ekonomické podmínky rozhodovacího procesu pro trvale udržitelný rozvoj Budapešti)

Tibor TINER

Traffic policy and urban sustainability in Budapest 30
 (Dopravní politika a trvale udržitelný rozvoj Budapešti)

Michael J. DOUGLAS

Privatization, growth and sustainability of the retail sector in Budapest 44
 (Privatizace, růst a trvale udržitelný rozvoj maloobchodního sektoru Budapešti)

István TÓZSA

Green spaces and urban sustainability in Budapest 53
 (Zeleň a trvale udržitelný rozvoj Budapešti)

CASE STUDY: LJUBLJANA 66
 (Kulturní a ekonomické podmínky rozhodovacího procesu pro trvale udržitelný rozvoj Lublaně)

Metka ŠPES - Barbara LAMPIČ - Aleš SMREKAR

Reports

Karel KIRCHNER

To the research of pseudokarst 86
 (5th Pseudokarst Symposium with international participation)

Pavel VICHEREK

International Conference "Geography of Towns" 88
 (Mezinárodní konference "Geografie měst")

Chronicle

Professor Miroslav Havrlant (70) 90

Professor Jaromír Demek (65) 90
 Editorial

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "GEOGRAPHY OF TOWNS"

Pavel VICHEREK

An international scientific conference "Geography of towns" was held in Pilsen from 3 - 5 May, 1995, which was organized by the Department of Geography, Paedagogic Faculty, West Bohemian University Pilsen, on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of foundation of the town and 50th anniversary of its liberation. The greatest share at organizing the Conference falls to Jaroslav DOKOUPIL and Stanislav MIRVALD from the Department of Geography.

The Conference was attended by more than 20 experts from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Germany, who presented the total number of 17 papers. In contrast to the original plan, the participants did not split into individual sections, which means that all participants could listen to all papers and discussion contributions. As indicated by the title of the Conference, the presented papers tackled a whole range of issues. The papers were dealing with theoretical problems of town geography on one hand, on the other hand some of them brought concrete examples of the development of urban residences.

After the opening paper in which P. JURCZEK from the University of Chemnitz-Zwickau discussed new forms of urban systems in the Federal Republic of Germany, A. SZEWCZUK from the University of Szczecin assessed structural changes made in Polish agglomerations over the six years of functional market economy, B. DZIEDZIUL from the same institution discussed Polish agglomerations as the most important elements of the railway network. Application of the theory of production and life cycle on an example of development of the town of Bayreuth was documented by J. MAIER from the University of Bayreuth. M. STETTBERGER from the same university then presented a joint work of the Department of Geography, West Bohemian University and the University of Bayreuth, which tackles the development and structure of small privatization in the Czech Republic with particular attention being paid to the tertiary sector in the town of Pilsen. The first conference day ended with contributions by L. MIŠTERA who discussed agglomeration factors in the development of the town of Pilsen, especially from the viewpoint of theoretical interpretation of gravitational energy in the development of industry, and by A. VAISHAR from the Brno branch office of the Institute of Geonics, which tackled transformation of the society and its effects onto changes in area-functional structure of the towns.

The second day of the meeting was opened by a greeting address to conference participants of I. BIČÍK-delegate from the Czech Geographical Society, in which he advocated for more frequent contacts of geographers from workplaces both in the Czech Republic and in foreign countries, regarding highly significance of the Conference. The Conference itself was then started by presentation of P. KOREC from the Komenský University in Bratislava, who discussed issues of industry localization in Bratislava and the related spatial structure of the city. Then it was the contribution of R. PROKOP from the University of Ostrava, who tackled problems of the new town in conversion of the region, especially on the example of Havířov. The University of Prešov was represented by R. MATLOVIČ with the issue of an analysis into functional and spatial structure of the town, and B. NIŽŇANSKÝ who discussed about the problem of creating a mental map of Prešov. V. TOUŠEK from the Masaryk University in Brno devoted his paper to transformation of economy in towns from districts of Vsetín, Frýdek-Místek and Znojmo, M. BURSA from the University of J.E.Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem described changes of residential structure in the region of North Bohemia. Following contributions concerned mainly problems of utilization of the geographical knowledge by town authorities. V. ČECH tackled the issues of geographical and demographical aspects of marketing, J. HOFMAN from the workplace of West Bohemian University in Cheb discussed communal

marketing in service to the town future, and J. JEŽEK from the same workplace dealt with possibilities of applying socio-economic geography for development of the town on the example of Carlsbad. The last contribution was presented by a collective of authors (J. PECH, M. SEDLÁČEK, J. ŠACH, F. VÁVRA) who discussed the share of geographical factors in distribution of gamapathies in Pilsen.

The last day of the Conference was tuned to relaxation. An excursion was organized in the surroundings of Pilsen, at which the Conference participants could get acquainted with problems concerning the project of a motorway bypass in the town of Pilsen, and visited Starý Plzenec, Sedlec and the hunting chateau Kozel.

It must be stated with regret that the Conference was not attended by all registered speakers and that it remained outside the centre of attention of Prague geographical institutions. The papers will be published in the Proceedings from the Conference, which is being prepared by the organizer - Department of Geography, West Bohemina University in Pilsen. The document should not be missed by the technical public since it will certainly offer a whole range of inspirative issues which should still be tackled in the future.