

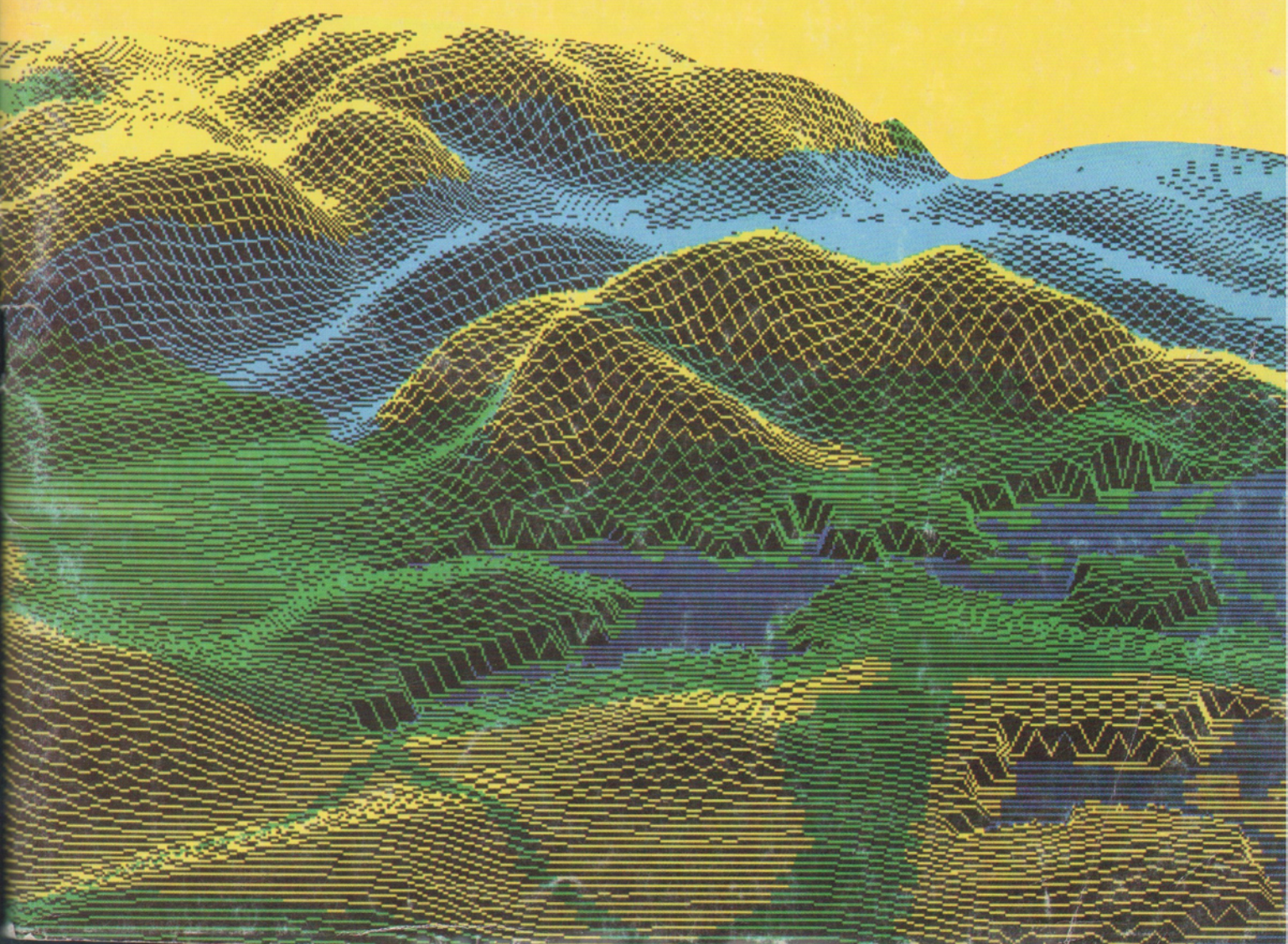
# MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS



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# MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS

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# **Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno Branch (its origin, structure, scope of scientific activities)**

*Antonín Vaishar*

## *Introduction*

The Institute of Geography of the Czech Academy of Sciences was cancelled after 30 years of its existence on 30 June, 1993 within the process of transformation. Only several scientists found new possibilities to continue in their investigations within the Academy of Sciences. They constituted the Brno branch of the new Institute of Geonics on 1 May, 1993. The headquarters of the Institute is located in the second largest Moravian town Ostrava. This part of the Institute originates in the former Institute of Mining.

Ancient seat of the Institute of Geography in the Old Brno Monastery was given back in 1990 – 1991 to the Augustinian Order of St. Thomas and only the Library continues on the Mendel's Square. The branch has obtained a pleasant house with a garden on 28, Drobného Street in the neighbourhood called Černá Pole. A smallish house on 195, Veslařská Street in another part of the city also belongs to the Institute, as well as the base in the Moravian Karst ("Salmovka" house) near the county town of Blansko.

Twenty scientists and five technicians form a team of specialists working at the branch. The list of scientists including their topical specialisations is enclosed. It is not expected that the existing number of workers would increase. Idea of the branch was based on efforts aimed at establishing a "Centre for Regional Research of Environment" launched two years ago. Not only the research programme, but also the model of management originate from that activity.

The Branch is officially defined as a "Centre for Environmental Geography", Institute of Geonics. The main scientific programme of the Branch consists in "Regional Evaluation of the Environment under Conditions of Economic and Social Transformation". The programme consists of institutional tasks (paid from the budget), grants, implementation tasks (paid by customers) and tasks of international co-operation. The programme is managed by the Council of Programme led by dr. MIKULÍK.

## *Structure of institutional programme*

### **1. Environment Development in Regions of Various Types**

Investigation is based on repeated research in model regions. Main model regions are: the Ostrava agglomeration as an example of urban and industrial region with difficult structural changes; the south Moravian region as an agricultural region with traditional culture; the Žďárské vrchy Mts. as an example of recreational region with protected landscape areas.

2. Geosystems in the Czech Republic from Environmental Viewpoint

The topic provides knowledge about environmental development in the territory of Moravia and the whole Czech Republic.

3. Environmental Studies in Urban Agglomerations and Settlement Systems

The topic is focused on urban aspects of environment. Its methodology is based on concepts of "Dwelling Environment", "Social Environment and its Perception", "Environment Evaluation of Territorial and Functional Structure of Towns" and a concept of "Town – Hinterland". The Brno agglomeration and the Ostrava agglomeration are supposed to be the main regions of interest for the study.

4. Regional Differentiation of the Quality of Life

The viewpoint of this research is social dimension of environment. Aspects of medical geography are taken into account, too.

5. Remote Sensing Methods for Landscape Use and Environment Management

The Branch intends to apply the original method of Low-Altitude Scanning among usual sensing methods.

6. Regional Information System and Environmental Cartography

A purpose-made regional information system is taken into account. It consists of statistical and graphic data. Computer maps are one of the most frequent supposed outputs from the system.

7. Programme of multilateral international co-operation "Regional Fundaments of Eco-development". The programme consists of seven topics related mostly to six basic points of the institutional programme:

- Environmental Issue in Europe,
- Ecological Aspects of Socio-Economic Transformation in Different Regions,
- Regional Environmental Problems of International Origin, Inter-regional Relationships and Barriers,
- Evaluation and Forecast of Large Technical Objects Impacts on Environment,
- Comparative Studies of Environmental Problems in Big Cities and Urban Regions,
- Regional Differentiation of Quality of Life as a Consequence of Environmental Transformation,
- Environmental Maps for Central and East Europe.

### *Grants, implementation tasks*

Grants of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Grant Agency of the Czech Republic and Ministry of Environment were used till this time. For 1993, eight grant projects were supported with nearly 600 thousand CSK. Their structure was as follows:

- Anthropogenic Impact on Course and Character of Karst Water
- Anthropogenic Transformation of Relief and Possibilities of its Assessment
- Prognoses of Underground Water in Relation to Geographical Conditions
- Evaluation of Elements of the Karst Environment and its Positive Influence on Infant Organism
- Possibilities of Detection of Climatic Changes in Historical Period
- Complex Geomorphological Analysis of the National Park "Podyjí"

- Danger to Some Towns, Villages and Important Technical Works in the Czech Republic caused by Natural Hazards
- Development of Slopes in Periglacial Period

Some realizational tasks in total volume of about 600 thousand CSK were resolved for various customers. The most important of them were:

- Regional Study on Protected Landscape Area "Žďárské vrchy Mts." for Ministry of Economy,
- Assessment of Geomorphological Investigation on the Bohemian – Moravian Highland Mts. for Czech Energetic Enterprise,
- Physical Geographical Characteristics of Regions of Water Reservoirs Letovice, Boskovice and Těrlicko for Agency HYDROEKO.

Grants and orders covered financial requirements of the Branch to one third.

### *International relations*

The following main goals were defined in the field of international relations:

- to renew the co-ordinational role of the Branch in multilateral scientific collaboration within the programme REGIONAL FUNDAMENTS OF ECO-DEVELOPMENT,
- to organize biennial scientific conferences CONGEO from 1995,
- to utilize the IGU Regional Conference Prague 1994 for better collaboration with IGU commissions and study groups,
- to deepen collaboration with IALE within the study group "Landscape Synthesis",
- to widen bilateral relations with geographical institutions of central and western European countries,
- to take part at international conferences held in European countries.

### *Collaboration with universities*

Geography is one of the basic subjects of general education of population. The relation between man and nature is one of new topical aspects of the subject. It is the basis for collaboration of the Branch with universities and other schools. It is oriented to Moravian Universities – Masaryk University in Brno, Palacký University in Olomouc and University of Ostrava.

Joint activities such as CONGEO conferences and MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS are to be main stimulations for collaboration which is daily filled with usual relations in educational and personal processes as well as with processes of investigation.

### *Editorial activities*

Aims of editorial activities of the branch are as follows:

- to crown the scientific process with publication of its results,
- to publicize a new scientific institution in scientific world,
- to achieve a possibility of exchange of scientific literature,
- to enable publishing of scientists of the branch and co-operating universities.



MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS form the base of editorial activities of the Branch. It indirectly links up with the series "ZPRÁVY" of the former Institute of Geography which ended with its 29th volume – 1992. Main differences should be seen in the fact that Moravian Geographical Reports are issued in English and in co-operation with departments of geography at Moravian Universities.

Monographs or miscellaneous will be issued mostly within the series STUDIA GEOGRAPHICA which continues from the Institute of Geography. The Institute of Geography has published 95 items of this series.

### *List of scientists and technical workers*

RNDr. Tadeáš CZUDEK, DrSc. [1] – geomorphology,  
 RNDr. Kateřina ČÚZOVÁ – cartography  
 Ing. Jitka FICOVÁ – technical editor, graphic  
 RNDr. Sylvie HOFÍRKOVÁ – scientific technical services  
 RNDr. Mojmír HRÁDEK, CSc. – geomorphology  
 RNDr. Antonín IVAN, CSc. – geomorphology  
 RNDr. Karel KIRCHNER, CSc. – geomorphology  
 RNDr. Miroslav KOŽELUH, CSc. [1] – scientific information  
 RNDr. Hubert KŘÍŽ, DrSc. – hydrology  
 Ing. Jan LACINA, CSc. [1] – biogeography  
 RNDr. Oldřich MIKULÍK, CSc. – social geography  
 RNDr. Jan MUNZAR, CSc. – climatology  
 RNDr. Vítězslav NOVÁČEK, CSc. – remote sensing  
 RNDr. Stanislav ONDRÁČEK – hydrology  
 Ing. Jan POKORNÝ, CSc. – computer specialist  
 RNDr. Evžen QUITT, CSc. – climatology  
 Eduard SEVERA [2] – librarian  
 Jiří TRNKA – technical services  
 RNDr. Antonín VAISHAR, CSc. – human geography  
 Mgr. Pavel VICHEREK – population geography  
 RNDr. Vladimír VLČEK [1] – hydrology  
 RNDr. Jana ZAPLETALOVÁ, CSc. – transport and tourism geography

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### *Bodies of the branch (May 1994)*

Head of the Branch: Antonín Vaishar  
 Member of the Academic Council of the Academy of Sciences: Mojmír Hrádek  
 Members of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Geonics: Antonín Ivan, Oldřich Mikulík  
 Council of the Scientific Programme: President Oldřich Mikulík  
 Editorial Board: President Jan Munzar  
 Commission for Scientific Education: President Antonín Ivan

There are two private associations connected with the Branch. REGIOGRAPH, Association for Regional Prosperity elaborates regional studies of various kinds, whereas Association GEOKONFIN organizes conferences and other events for the Branch.