

FOREWORD

Acta Climatologica et Chorologica has reached a 50-year jubilee in 2009. This occasion requires a few words devoted to this high-quality journal, which has enabled a number of researchers to publish their work in German and English language. The Department of Climatology of the University of Szeged became independent of the then existing single Department of Geography in 1952, under the name Department of Geography 2. From September 1953 it operated as an independent department, mainly thanks to Professor Richard Wagner, the Head of Department of that time. The independence of the new department manifested both in the education and research of climatology. The first few years passed with organising the operation of the new unit and with field work; however within a few years the department's research results have already reached a level of international interest. In 1959, Professor Wagner launched the now internationally renowned series of *Acta Climatologica*, as a foreign-language publication opportunity. The first studies focused on microclimate research, the main profile of the department. Research was carried out in two areas: one on the special microclimate in the karst region of Bükk Mts while the other dealt with the microclimate conditions for rice production with flooding in Kopáncs. In the course of the first research they studied the microclimate of the forest stands, as well as the extreme conditions of bare surfaces and dolines. This could be considered a pioneering initiative; already the establishment of the measurement network required outstanding expertise but the evaluation of the results was also at the forefront of microclimate research in Hungary. The microclimate studies related to rice production took place between 1956 and 1959 in order to clarify the circumstances of some fungal disease outbreaks. Between 1959 and 1972, 10 editions of *Acta Climatologica* were published, edited by Wagner (until his death in 1972). By this time it became a journal already refereed abroad.

In 1974 the profile of *Acta Climatologica* changed, since Professor György Péczely had become Head of the Department, and took over the task of editing the journal. From that time on the emphasis was put on macrosynoptic studies. This research, led by the professor significantly enriched the Hungarian but also the international macrosynoptic results, which is reflected in the published issues of *Acta Climatologica*. For a short time after the sudden demise of Professor Péczely, Professor László Jakucs undertook the editing of the journal, keeping the earlier profile. Then the newly appointed Head of the Department, Professor György Koppány went on with editing, and he kept the focus on macroclimate research. Urban climate research, which is today the main profile of the department, started at this time; although some studies on the subject had already been carried out before. Later a special issue was published in Hungarian language, about the urban climate of the city of Szeged, which summarized the previous work of János Unger. The next change in the lead of the department was followed by a further thematic shift in the professional profile of *Acta Climatologica*. The landscape ecological research of Professor Ilona Bárány-Kevei and her students were incorporated into the department's work, which also brought about a thematic change in the content of *Acta Climatologica*. The department was by then renamed to Department of Climatology and Landscape Ecology. In 2004, the research community of the department decided to expand the journal's profile with landscape research, and this change also appeared in its name; the volume in 2005 was published under the name of *Acta Climatologica et Chorologica*. Since

2007 János Unger, the current Head of the Department has been the chief of the editorial board consisting of the department's colleagues and renowned international experts. Under his lead the departmental community decided on a formal renewal of the journal. The newly released volume brings a renewal of external looks and hopefully also of content for all who read our journal in Hungary or abroad. We would like to express our thanks to both the content and the technical editors for their high-quality work, and on the occasion of the 50th birthday we wish further good and valuable work!

Professor Ilona Bárány-Kevei