

Editorial

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Dear readers and Klaudyán sympathizers, it is my sincere honour and pleasure to announce that after a four-year break (the last, 8th issue of our journal was edited in January 2003), we managed to restore issuing of “Klaudyán – an internet journal of historical geography and environmental history”.

You are met with its new image – new structure, editorial team, appearance and other changes. At this spot, it is necessary to emphasize a great pursuit of Jiří Martínek founder of Klaudyán. As its editor in chief, Jiří Martínek (now employed in Institute of History of the AS CR in Prague) was issuing it with the help of his brother and our cooperation at a private internet server. At that time he didn't anticipate that this journal was in an urgent need of the Czech historical geography and environmental history. Technical impossibility as well as contemporary demands prevented continuing issuing the journal in this initial manner and so we started to issue it at the server of the Faculty of Sciences of the Charles University in Prague. In order to do that, wider technical, editorial, authorial background as well as another concept and structure of the journal needed to be established. Another aim was to strengthen the role of Klaudyán as a collective organizer and a platform of cooperation within the development of Czech historical geography and within our effort in entrenching and development of environmental history in Czechia. Besides that, Klaudyán aspires to become a medial base of Section for Historical Geography and Environmental History of the Czech Geographical Society, established in 2004. So can Klaudyán become a means in activities of the regional representative of ESEH for Czechia and Slovakia. In order for Klaudyán to fulfil its mission and functions, it is thought to be issued twice a year (spring, and autumn term).

What has changed? First of all, the editorial board was enlarged so that other fields and institutes related to historical geography and environmental history were present there as well. The new members of the editorial board became Rudolf Brázdil (historical climatology) and Jaromír Kolečka (landscape ecology) both at Masaryk University in Brno, Lenka Uhlířová (CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency, landscape ecology and environmental history). Then Lucie Kupková (landscape ecology, dynamic land use), and Luděk Šefrna (historical physical geography and pedology) both fellows of our faculty Geographical Section. These changes reflect the holistic paradigm of historical geography as well as our efforts for holistic approaches development in geography itself. There is a new editor in chief; a new position of editor in chief deputy was established with Pavel Chromý of that occupation, and Zdeněk Kučera, a postgraduate student of the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development became executive editor.

The more generous nature of Klaudyán is reflected in the establishment of both honorary and advisory body – International Advisory Board (IAB). The members of the Board are the leading

personalities of both fields in particular countries in the world, especially in those where historic geography and environmental history have the most significant tradition, or where they have undergone the biggest progress. Although the personal cast of the IAB is not definite yet, we maintain long-term relationships with all of the current IAB members. It is our honour and credit of our work that the IAB members became personalities such as, e.g. Alan R.H. Baker (UK), Peter Coates (UK), Martin Melosi (USA), Winfried Schenk (Germany), Verena Winiwarter (Austria), Donald Worster (USA), and Graeme Wynn (Canada). We hope that the IAB members from Slovakia would be also active informal collaborators of the Klaudyán Czech editorial board so that the presentation research results of Slovak historical geography and environmental history would be more accessible.

“New” Klaudyán is divided into the following columns: Studies and Articles, Materials and Discussion, Reports, Information and News, Book Reviews and Annotations, and Miscellaneous. Instructions for authors and other necessary information are to be found in other place of this issue, or at the journal web pages. We will try to imprint Klaudyán by the image of an international journal not only by means of contributing authors but also of language. The major languages of Klaudyán are Czech and Slovak, and also English and German. Articles issued in Czech and Slovak languages will be appended – unlike the custom is – by broader summaries either in English, or German.

This issue of Klaudyán already indicates its international character by the content of its main section. The introductory article is the Czech translation of a chapter “Words on a Map” of a significant book of D. Worster (University of Kansas), my teacher not only in the field of environmental history. By means of this article we want to congratulate to his life-jubilee, which he celebrated in November 2006, as well as to express our thanks that helped – besides Verena Winiwarter – to introduce modern discipline of environmental history to Czechia’s science. As to myself, the D. Worster’s invitation to his program “Nature, Culture, and Technology”, dealt in the first half of the 90s with the support of Rockefeller Foundation in Hall Centre for the Humanities at the University of Kansas, led in 1994 into the publication of two “introductory and inspiring”, articles in Czech Historical Review and in Geography-Journal of the Czech Geographical Society about broader causations of origin, methodology, orientation and results of environmental history in its cradle, the United States. There evolved also so-called Deep Ecology, the most radical school of environmentalism as a world view and way of thinking and being. Brief information about Deep Ecology is to be found in a commented translation of selected parts of book of the representatives and historians of Deep Ecology in the USA, B. Devall and B. Sessions.

Then there is an English-written methodological study of one of the leading British historical geographers, Alan R. H. Baker (University of Cambridge), about the function, position, and mission of historical geography. According to the author, we can’t understand current geography of a particular region without knowledge of its historical geography, which he presents as an example of a holistic geography. The following, rather methodological article of an editor of Klaudyán refers about research results of long-term land-use changes in Czechia within a context of environmentalisation of science, geography, historic geography as well as environmental history. I suppose that the so-called historical land-use can be considered as one of the holistic approaches in geography. The article by J. Kubeš (South Bohemian University in České Budějovice) supports the significance of historical geography approach in the research of peripheral and border regions as well as the fact that historical geography spreads even at new universities established in Czechia after 1989.

In “Materials and Discussion” J. Martínek then provides a brief overview on pedagogical arrangement of geography study at the German part of the Charles University at the end of the 19th century.

The column “Reports and Information” is of a rich content; I point out on most-detailed information about the 2nd International Conference of the European Society for Environmental History (IC ESEH), which we had the honour to organize in Prague at the beginning of September 2003. Other information focuses at the 3rd IC ESEH in Florence, Italy, as well as some activities and results of the “historical wing” of the Czech historical geography, led by Eva Semotanová (Institute of History AS CR, Prague). The extent of this section as well as topics of other reports and information

reflects the length of interruption of the journal. As for the “Reviews and Literature Annotations” section a review of the last extensive book of D. Worster about the life and work of John. W. Powell, whose expedition as the first one sailed pass through the Grand Canyon and opened new ways and possibilities of taking-over of the American South-West should be highlighted.

What about the origin of the journal’s name? Mikuláš Klaudyán (+1521) was a renaissance man, Czech physician, cartographer and printer of protestant religion (Gild of Czech Brothers), who was living in a city of Mladá Boleslav in the 16th century. He was an author of the first known map of Bohemia printed in 1518. Mladá Boleslav is the seat of the well known Czech Škoda Auto Company (producing cars already from 1905), nowadays as a member of the Volkswagen Group.

I hope that our ambitious intention for regular issue of a solid professional level internet journal with the aim of support to the development of historical geography and environmental history would be accomplished. I invite all the colleagues, being employed in various fields of natural and social sciences to authorial cooperation on Klaudyán, which should serve for good of all.

On behalf of the Editorial Board

Leoš Jeleček (Editor in Chief)