



International Yearbook Baltica – 40 years passed

Algimantas Grigelis

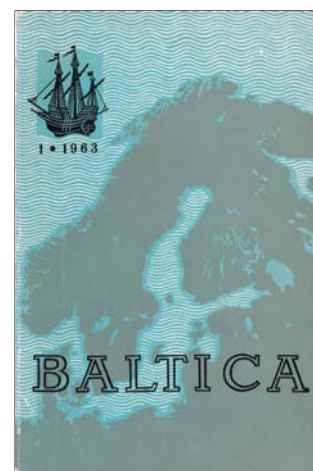
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In 1961 the 6th Congress of the International Commission for Quaternary Research (INQUA) in Warsaw established the Subcommittee on Shorelines of Northern and Western Europe. The goal of this new INQUA institution was to continue the Baltic Sea studies after the milestones fixed by famous scholars G.De Geer, E.Fromm, S.A.Yakovlev, M.Sauramo, L. von Post, to co-ordinate researches on the international scale, and to share their experience and results. Under such circumstances and the initiative of Professor Vytautas Gudelis, now full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, the BALTICA International Yearbook had been issued.

The BALTICA deals with the Quaternary geology and palaeogeography, coastal morphology and shore processes, marine geology and recent tectonics of the Baltic Sea area. Volume 1 of BALTICA appeared in Vilnius in 1963. The preface of this volume reads: "... *The Baltic Sea has become one of the most thoroughly explored sea basins. It has also played the part of a datum mark to which the stratigraphic schemes and palaeogeographic reconstructions of the European Late Quaternary were attached.*" However, earlier a major part of investigation data obtained was published in national languages, while co-ordination of these investigations on an international scale was meagre. Thus, the BALTICA Yearbook was formed to get over these difficulties. From 1963 to 1982 seven sound volumes of the Yearbook contained many serious articles in English, Russian, German and French languages to elucidate activities of the INQUA Shoreline Subcommittee, as well as discussions, reviews and synopses. Such prominent marine geologists as E.Seibold, E.H. de Geer, St.Florin, J.E.Gellert, J.Dooner, Th.Hurtig, H.Kliewe, V.Ulst, A.Blazhchishin, O.Granö, E.Dreimanis, K.Markov, N.Sokolov, B.Rosa, R.Knaps, H.Krog, N.-A.Mörner et al. used to publish their works in it. Scholars from the Baltic Sea region showed wide interest in the Yearbook. BALTICA is a widely cited scientific forum known in the Baltic region. In 1961 BALTICA was

put into the Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, and the index of international serial was given to it, i.e., ISSN 0067-3064.

From 1993, Professor Algimantas Grigelis, corresponding member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, took over the issue of the BALTICA Yearbook. Institute of Geology became the founder of the BALTICA that was published together with the Academy of Sciences being its father. New layout style of the BALTICA Yearbook was created, and the International Scientific Committee formed. The Yearbook deals with Baltic Sea geology, geomorphology and palaeogeography with its goal being "*to strengthen professional links among the Baltic Sea region scholars, ... to enrich scientific knowledge, develop promising researches and international co-operation.*" The language of the BALTICA was English, and articles are subjected to peer-reviews. BALTICA was introduced into the international indexing and data banks: Bibliography and Index of Geology, GeoArchive, GeoRef, NISC CD-ROM, GeoSEARCH, Current Geographical Publications, Petroleum Abstracts etc. From 1994 to 2003 each year a volume of BALTICA has been issued (Nos. 8-16). Scientists from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Poland, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands and China publish their articles in it. From 2000, BALTICA has Internet page within the Geology and Geography Institute website www.geo.lt/baltica. From Volume 14, it is published in colour. In 2002



Cover of first volume of Yearbook Baltica, 1963.

BALTICA appealed to the US Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) to obtain an index; at the end of 2003 Lithuanian Academy of Sciences renewed this appeal. In 2003 BALTICA obtained the index of online electronic version ISSN 1648-858X.

Since 2004 the BALTICA Yearbook is transforming into a Journal. Scholars say that BALTICA meets international standards, has its authors and is cited in the international scientific press. Therefore its scientific programme should be expanded in order that it became an international revisable scientific periodical – *International Journal on Earth Sciences of the Baltic Sea region*. The BALTICA Journal is planned first to be biannual (issued twice a year in June and December) with later extension to quarterly. The BALTICA Journal is enlisted in the programme of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences elaborated for publication of periodicals.

Thus, the new BALTICA Programme should be such as follows below: *“BALTICA provides a rostrum for original and peer-review papers of international interests on various Earth science issues. The basic themes, as BALTICA’s Vol. 1 published in 1963 reads, are “the history of the Baltic Sea, the shore morphology and recent dynamics, neotectonics and submarine geology”. However, the Earth science systems are far-reaching, therefore the renewed BALTICA Journal announces acceptance from 2004 papers relevant to whole Baltic Sea and land area. Particular emphasis is given to Quaternary geology, climate changes and development of ecosystems, palaeogeography, environmental geology, as wells as tectonics, sedimentology, and surface processes with relevance to the development of the Baltic region. The scientific publications in BALTICA emphasizes the modern techniques, methodology and standards.”*