

Dear Reader,

*Geologica Balcanica* starts its 21st volume in a most turbulent time. Created in 1934 by Prof. Stefan Bončev, it suffered the crisis during and after World War II, and had been cancelled for 23 years. Restored by Acad. Prof. Ekim Bončev in 1975, it produced during the last 16 years 80 issues (16 volumes) containing more than 430 original papers, 20 critical papers, and about 40 short communications. The ambition of the Editorial Board has always been to provide for you with the most recent information in the field of regional geology of the Balkan Peninsula and the adjacent regions.

We wish to express our gratitude to E. Bončev who retired from the post of Editor-in-Chief, and to I. Kostov, V. Vergilov and I. Velinov. These scientists contributed substantially to the new life of the journal which began in 1975. Their further assistance will be warmly welcomed.

The Editorial Board wishes to affirm the international character of the journal in the field of regional geology. For these purposes, an international Editorial Council has been formed by leader authorities on the regional geology of the Balkan Peninsula and the adjacent regions who conceded to dedicate some of their precious time and efforts to the Journal. We believe that their and our efforts will serve to the benefit of the international geological community.

East European countries have now considerable economic problems, and Bulgaria has been particularly struck by the crisis. Science is extremely vulnerable in such situations, and increasing cost of paper, manpower etc. reflects on the technical quality of the Journal. Therefore, we would like to appeal to you for your help in maintaining the old or making a new subscription. Our desire is to maintain a comparatively low price irrespectively of the increasing cost.

We expect from you also to forward to us manuscripts of articles exposing the results of your new studies. Manuscripts may be sent through the members of the Editorial Council from your country, or directly to the Editorial Board. As you know, our journal is publishing relevant papers in the fields of geotectonics, paleontology, stratigraphy, mineralogy, petrology, lithology, geochemistry, geophysics, hydrogeology, economic geology etc. connected to the regional geology of the Balkan Peninsula. The official languages are English, Russian, French and German, with the tendency of increasing the number of English papers. All papers are accompanied by an English abstract, and the figure captions are translated in English in case of another original language.

The regional geology of the Balkan Peninsula is closely related to the geological problems of the adjacent regions of Alpine Europe, the Mediterranean and the Near East.

Therefore, *Geologica Balcanica* is also publishing appropriate studies of broader regional aspect.

We hope that with its international regional coverage the journal will further contribute to the sound development of the collaboration between the geologists of the Balkan countries as well as of all geologists interested in the exciting geology of this region. The Editorial Board hopes that the number of foreign and Bulgarian specialists and institutions who accept our programme, and subscribe and contribute to the journal, will further increase, and that you will find in *Geologica Balcanica* valuable information for your studies or business.

*The Editor-in-Chief*