



Argument

During the last decennia, the environmental quality in most lake ecosystems has deteriorated continually, the eutrophication, the bad and often irrational management, which did not take into account the local particular features, has inevitably led to dramatic modifications of the lakes' biotic or abiotic characteristic features. To all these are added the ever more extreme climatic phenomena, occurred on the background of the global climatic modifications, on the one hand, and the increasing human pressure, on the other hand.

In this general context, it is becoming obvious that the management and conservation of the water resources from lakes and reservoirs has become a stringent necessity, as in some situations the relations between the anthropic demand and the natural possibilities to satisfy them while being capable of regeneration have attained a critical point. It is not by accident that many of the world's lakes are faced with major problems determined by the anthropic influence, such as: lake eutrophication, acidification, siltation, salinisation, contamination with toxic chemicals and the introduction of animals and plants from elsewhere.

Starting from these general considerations, the limnological research, both theoretical and applied, is faced nowadays with numerous challenges that can only determine a continuous increase of the quantity and the quality of the studies made in this sense, all this research inevitably leading to finding rational and durable solutions to today's problems.

Obviously, the periods of great accumulation are those when the quantity of information is accumulated exponentially, when the horizons of the knowledge on the limnosystems become broader, when new and more efficient methods and techniques of research are introduced out of the desire to enlarge more and more the boundaries of limnology towards other sciences. Maybe that is why, many a time, wishing to enlarge the initial object of our study, the "lake", the researchers begin to consider as well the rivers, the underground water, etc., actually the continental waters as a whole, and even the Earth's seas and oceans, to which the limnology is obviously closely related. Under these circumstances, have we not passed to the study of the hydrosphere, forgetting the object of our study, namely the "lake"?

In Romania, the limnological research has known, in time, both periods of effervescence and times of incertitude, with moments of explosive development and moments of stagnation. After a period of great accumulation of the 6th and 7th decennia of

the last century, when the **physical limnology** has gone through a period of accelerated development, followed, maybe naturally, a period of stagnation in the Romanian limnological research, and then came again a period of gradual reinforcement after 1990.

An analysis, brief as it may be, of the lake research, internally and regionally, has allowed us to notice with no doubt that the Romanian limnology, and not only it, is now at a right moment, when the challenges become increasingly higher and the expectations are just as great. May be this is why, in this general favorable context, in 2008 was created **The Romanian Limnogeographical Association (Asociația Română de Limnografie)**, its founding members being: professor dr. docent Petre Gâștescu, professor dr. Victor Sorocovschi, professor dr. Gheorghe Romanescu, dr. Basarab Victor Driga and dr. Petre Brețcan, by whose side now we can find several researchers and teaching staff from different domains of activity.

Though part of the association's name refers to "**limnogeography**", the term is not seen as opposed to that of "hydrobiology" or "limnobiology" but as a serious partner able to efficiently complete the study of this "microcosm", as St. A. Forbes called it in 1887.

The relation with the biologists **is not at all one of concurrence, but, on the contrary, one of collaboration**, endeavoring to be as close as possible, for the benefit of both parties.

A special attention will be given to the young researchers, for their integration in the scientific community. The Association will support, as much as it can, all those interested and gifted for research, helping them to become part of research teams or to develop their own projects, to participate to courses, scientific events, both in Romania and abroad. This is how we wish to assume the role of advisers of the young generation of limnologists, in order to consolidate the Romanian School of limnology and to have the certainty that the future of the research in this domain is in good hands.

In order to implement the knowledge accumulated in time by the associations' members and to improve the awareness of the public and of the authorities concerning the concrete problems to which many of the lake ecosystems are faced today, the association sets itself the goal of initiating in 2009 a national campaign of education and increase of the public awareness regarding the measures of protection and conservation of the Romanian lakes. In this sense, the Association will organize a series of courses, seminars and conferences, to which are invited to participate researchers from Romania, Europe, North America and Asia, out of the desire to share the experience of other countries as well.

For a better dissemination of the Romanian researchers' finds, the Association will edit the annual journal, "**Lakes, reservoirs and ponds**", with two numbers, publishing original scientific contributions on physical, chemical, biological, or related research, including environmental issues, and on any aspect of theoretical or applied limnology. Our mission is to create an international journal containing high-quality papers, to encourage limnologists to submit papers, and to link limnologists throughout the world with common interests in lakes science.

We wish to encourage in this way the dialogue, the interaction and the collaboration between researchers in order to achieve a multidisciplinary approach, creating in this way a basis for discussion and a platform allowing the accumulation of knowledge in order to improve the efficiency of the research in this domain.

If, in many of the prestigious magazines worldwide, the biological research occupies an important area, both as number of papers and as information quantity (some being dominated in an overwhelming proportion by articles dedicated to hydrobiology), in the review “Lakes reservoirs and ponds” we would like to diversify the range of issues approached both in theoretical and applied domains. In our pages will find place not just the geographers or the biologists, but also the researchers from other domains of science, or political decision actors, in the attempt to find “unity in diversity” by our approach of the research.

In the future, depending on the materials we receive, we will achieve special issues dedicated to actual problems to which limnology is faced at present.

In each issue of our magazine there will be, as well, distinct sections dedicated to “contemporary limnologists” and “in memoriam” as homage to the “servants” of this science. These messages transmitted to the young generation of researchers by means of such articles will certainly be valuable examples to follow and inspiring models of generosity and perseverance in the didactic and research activity.

We would like to thank here Mister Gene Likens (ex-president of the SIL) and Mister Colin Reynolds (Convenor, European Federation for Freshwater Sciences) for their words and encouragements addressed at our beginning of the road. Last but not least, we would like to address our thanks to all those who were by our side with articles or being part of the scientific committee of this first issue of our magazine, or encouraged us and promised a close collaboration in the future. We thank them all and we wait for them to be on our side.

Professor PhD. Petre Gâstescu
President