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THE FIRST YEARS OF ACTIVITY OF THE CARPATHO-BALCAN
GEOMORPHOLOGICAL COMMISSION

During first decade after second World War, the contacts between Carpathian geomorphologists were extremely sporadic and restricted to individual visits. From 1956 the first international meetings, such as IGU congresses in Rio de Janeiro (1956) and Stockholm (1960), as well as the symposium of Periglacial IGU Commission organized in 1957 by prof. J. Dylik gave more possibilities. Greater gatherings followed during the INQUA Congress in 1961 in Warsaw and meeting of the IGU Commission on Geomorphological Mapping in 1962 in Krakow, both combined with fieldtrips to the Polish Carpathians and attended by colleagues from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. At that time, an idea was born among two groups from Polish and Slovak Academies of Sciences lead by prof. M. Klimaszewski and prof. E. Mazur to start close cooperation and organize a symposium on Carpatho-Balcan Geomorphology leading to the foundation of the international commission based on the agreement between institutes of geography of Academies of Sciences (organized in socialist countries).

That idea was realized between 17 and 28 September 1963. The symposium started in Krakow and after a trip across Western Carpathians it ended in Bratislava. It was attended by representatives of 7 academies: Bulgarian (K. Mišev and V. Popov), Czechoslovak (J. Demek and O. Stehlik), Hungarian (M. Pecsí), Polish (M. Klimaszewski, L. Starkel, T. Gerlach and several others), Romanian (V. Mihailescu and T. Morariu), Slovak (E. Mazur, J. Kvitkovič and J. Urbanek) and Russian (L. Kamanin and N. Blagovolin). There were also colleagues from Polish and Slovak universities.

During the symposium it was decided that the Carpatho-Balcan Geomorphological Commission (later accepted by 4 Academies) would be created. The aim was the cooperation of geomorphologists working on the typology of relief, role of structure and neotectonics, evolution of relief, present-day geomorphic processes and evaluation of relief for economy. Several working groups were formed: on geomorphological regionalization of Carpathians, general geomorpho-

logical mapping, study of terraces, on methods of studies of present-day processes and on terminology. Prof. M. Klimaszewski was elected the chairman of the Commission and L. Starkel became the secretary. Deputy chairmen represented other countries: Ž. Gaľabov, E. Mazur, T. Morariu, M. Pecsí and I. Gierasimov. It was decided to organize symposia every three years, as well to publish two volumes on state of the art of the evolution of the Carpathians during Tertiary and Quaternary periods. The first volume, edited by E. Mazur, was published in Bratislava in 1965, the second one, edited by M. Klimaszewski, in *Geographia Polonica* in 1966.

The second symposium of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission, organized on 27 September–5 October in 1966 in Bulgaria by geomorphologists from Sofia headed by Ž. Gaľabov (chairman) and V. Popov (secretary), showed great progress in cooperation and in the organization of working groups. That symposium was attended by 22 foreign participants from all Carpathian countries (excluding Ukraine), but among them also three from Yugoslavia and one from Georgia.

Finally 7 working groups were formed:

1. General geomorphological map of the Carpathians (chairman L. Starkel, later replaced by M. Pecsí).
2. Systems of Quaternary terraces (L. Badea, E. Mazur).
3. Methods of study of present-day processes (T. Gerlach).
4. Mapping of planation surfaces (Ž. Gaľabov).
5. Karstic phenomena (J. Gavrilovič).
6. Mountain glaciations (G. Niculescu).
7. Terminology (V. Mihailescu).

Next decade showed a great progress in the work of various groups. In 1967, the Krakow Branch of Polish Academy of Sciences started publishing an annual journal *Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica* which was accepted as the official journal of our Commission (editor L. Starkel, secretary M. Baumgart-Kotarba).

In 1968, a workshop on the unification of methods in the studies of present geomorphic processes (organized by T. Gerlach) took a place in the Polish Carpathians. Next year, also in Krakow, a conference on karstic phenomena in Europe, focused partly on the Carpathian region was organized by S. Gilewska. The next symposium of the Commission was supposed to take place in 1970 in Romania, however, the Romanian government refused to approve of the international conference. Therefore our colleagues from Bucharest organized a Symposium on Physical Geography of Romania with invited speakers from other countries. In 1973, Ž. Gaľabov organized a workshop with presentation of maps of planation surfaces from various parts of the Carpatho-Balkan mountain range.

At the third Symposium of Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission, in Budapest, the effects of activity of various working groups were presented. M. Pecsí presented the 1:1000 000 geomorphological map of the Carpathians

and surrounding which he compiled on the basis of mostly manuscript maps delivered by about 12 authors from all involved countries. That map was later printed in *Atlas der Donauländer* in Vienna. At that meeting M. Pecsí was a new president of our Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission.

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