Carpathian Journal of Mathematics: Celebrating 20 years of publication of the new series

VASILE BERINDE

ABSTRACT. In order to mark this important milestone, this editorial will give a brief account on the activity of our journal in the last two decades of existence.

1. INTRODUCTION

As, this year, by issuing volume **26** (2010), we celebrate 20 years of publication of the new series of *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics* (CJM), it is an opportune time to look back at what has been accomplished over the last two decades.

A good starting point for a partial retrospective tour might be the editorial marking the first decade of publication of the new series of our journal [1], that I have written and published in volume **16** (2000), issue no. 1, and then give some details on the journal's evolution in the decade 2001-2010. At the time the editorial from [1] has been written, our journal was issued under the very long name *Buletinul Ştiinţific al Universităţii din Baia Mare, Seria B, Fascicola Matematică-Informatică*, abbreviated as *Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B, Matematică-Informatică*, a name inherited from the publication it was continuing, *Buletin Ştiinţific*, published irregulary between 1969-1989.

The first issue of *Buletin Ştiinţific* has been published in 1969, after 8 years from the establishment of our university, in 1961, under the name *Institutul Pedagogic de 3 ani* (Higher Education Institute), consisting of 3 Faculties, among which one was the Faculty (School) of Mathematics.

Buletin Ştiinţific has been in its first years thought as a local publication that hosted only scientific contributions by the faculty members, that is, each issue of the Series B (series A was devoted to Philology and Human Sciences) was a collection of Reports by the biologists, physicists, chemists and mathematicians working in *Institutul Pedagogic de 3 ani*.

Mathematics was rather poorly represented in the 7 issues published before 1990, which contain in total 36 articles of mathematics but other subjects, like biology, were better represented. For example, in vol. IV (1972), from 35 articles published, 4 were devoted to mathematics, 8 articles were in physics-chemistry, 5 articles in geology and 18 articles in biology. The Editorial Board of volume IV, issued under the umbrella of *Institutul Pedagogic de 3 ani* comprised only one mathematician, Bela Janko.

Volume V (1980) included 4 articles of mathematics, 1 article of astronomy, 6 articles of physics-chemistry and 11 articles of biology-geology. The Editor-in-Chief was Iuliu Pop, a physicist, Editorial Secretary was a mathematician, Iulian Coroian, and another mathematician, Maria Sânziana Pop, was a member of the Editorial Board. The name of the institution at that time, after merging in 1974 with the *Institutul de Subingineri* was *Institutul de Învăţământ Superior* (Higher Education Institute), a name which will remain until 1991 when the actual name, *Universitatea din Baia Mare*, has been adopted.

Volume VI (1983) included 7 articles of mathematics, 8 articles of physics-chemistry and 12 articles of biology, while volume VII (1989) included 2 articles of mathematics and 5 articles of physics-chemistry. Editor-in-Chief for the latter was Iulian Coroian. Note that the only article written by an "external" author and published in *Buletin Ştiinţific* in the period 1969-1989 was my own paper [2] (at that time I was working as a computer scientist at the Computer Center of the company RAMIRA Baia Mare).

2. First decade of publication of the new series

I was very fortunate to be the initiator of this mathematical publication and one of its founders, alongside my colleagues Maria Sânziana Pop and Iulian Coroian, who have held at that time the positions of Head of Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Dean of Faculty of Letters and Sciences, respectively.

For the history of the first ten volumes of the new series, I'll quote here some parts of the text contained in [1], an editorial article which cannot be presently found on the journal's web site, `http://carpathian.ubm.ro/`, but which will probably be added very soon.

"In 1990, I joined the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Baia Mare, where I remained since. As a fresh and very enthusiastic Assistant Professor, one of my plans was the founding of a true mathematical journal instead of the hybrid nonperiodical publication I mentioned above. I have easily obtained the approval of Professor I. Coroian, then the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Sciences, to do so, and consequently, he and me were appointed as Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Secretary, respectively."

The first volume in the new series, **7** (1991), contained mainly papers contributed to a small conference that was organized in October 1, 1991, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our university.

Here and now I have to mention a very interesting story of what was happening in 1991. When I was looking in the university Library for the previous issues of *Buletin Ştiinţific*, the librarians found only 6 volumes, but, strangely, the last one of them, chronologically speaking, was numbered seven (VII). So, I decided to number the first volume in the new series starting by volume 8 (VIII), as it appears on the cover of the first issue in the new series. But, as until giving the material for printing it was impossible to find a copy of the seventh issue of *Buletin Ştiinţific*, I have presumed that the editors of these previous issues used at a certain step a wrong numbering, an assumption that turn out to be wrong itself but, then, it appeared to me as very realistic for a publication that has been issued irregulary. So, I immediately corrected the number of the volume in the head of

all articles to be included in the volume from eight (VIII) to seven (VII) but was not able to correct this on the cover, because the cover had been printed in the meantime. So, I was forced to correct by hand on the cover 8 (VIII) to 7 (VII). In 2004, I learned that the first numbering was actually correct. Indeed, during the scanning process of the material in these old issues, a work that was done in order to post all published articles of mathematics on the new launched journal's web site, the missing volume amongst the seventh volumes printed before 1989 has been eventually found, but not in the library ! Thus, we have lost one year for the volumes numbering of the *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics*.

I quote again from [1]: "In the early days of *Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B, Matematică-Informatică* the Editorial Secretary did almost everything: attracting contributors, assign the articles to a referee or very often doing the referee's job itself, assign the articles in each issue, put them in some sort of order, design the cover, gather all articles together and send them to the typist, check the technical edition and made corrections, send the material to the printer, check page proofs to verify that all corrections had been made and, not seldom, to make new ones etc. and finally rejoice when the printed issue was received by the Editorial Office.

A very important aim of our journal was accomplished starting even by volume **7** (1991): to ensure an international audience. In order to do this, only articles written in English, French, German and Russian were accepted. Secondly, I have written a letter to propose mutual exchanges that has been sent to some hundreds of journals in the world. To get their addresses, I personally copied them, by pencil and paper, from the files of the International Exchange Office of Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca, during my short documentation visits there, while I was finishing my PhD Thesis."

The number of papers included in volume 7 (which actually should be 7 bis !) of the new series was 27. They were grouped into three classes: **Algebra** with 3 papers (M.S. Pop, L. Iancu, E. Virag); **Analysys** with 17 papers (V. Berinde, I.A. Rus, V. Selinger, V. Câmpian, H. Akca and Gh. Micula, A. Coţiu, I. Păvăloiu, I. Coroian, D. Bărbosu, I. Muntean, S. Groze, A. Gaidici - 2 papers, P. Blaga, D. Acu - 2 papers); **Computer Science** with 7 papers (Gh. Coman, I. Chiorean, D. Chiorean, M. Bocu et al, Gh. Ardelean, I. Gherasim, R. Sima). The Editorial Board included Iulian Coroian (Editor-in-Chief), Vasile Berinde (Editorial Secretary), Aurel Gaidici, Maria S. Pop and Gheorghe Ardelean (Members).

While the first volume in the new series had a very poor typographical quality, the articles themselves being hand type-written and then photo-copied in the required number of copies by a rather primitive copy-machine, starting with volume **8** (1992), all articles were already computer edited. So, the typographical quality was significantly improved. In parallel, the cover design has gradually changed and then, starting with volume **12** (1999), it was produced by a professional graphic designer.

Some volumes published in the period 1991-2000 have been dedicated to certain important local or global events. So, vol. **11** (1995) has been dedicated to the "Centenary of *Gazeta Matematică*", vol. **12** (1996) has been dedicated to the 35th anniversary of University of Baia Mare, issue No. 1 of vol. **14** (1998) has been dedicated to Professor I. Coroian on the occasion of his 60th anniversary, vol. **15**

(1999) has been dedicated to Professor Ioan Păvăloiu on the occasion of his 60th anniversary, issue No. 1 of vol. **16** (2000) has been dedicated to the *World Mathematical Year* 2000, while issue No. 2 of vol. **16** (2000) has been dedicated to Maria Sânziana Pop on the occasion of his 60th anniversary.

I also mention here some data on the composition of the Editorial Board of *Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B, Matematică-Informatică*. As Aurel Gaidici prematurly died in 1992, he has been replaced in the Editorial Board by Professor Ioan Muntean from "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca. Unfortunately, Ioan Muntean himself died in 1996 and therefore the Editorial Board has been completely renewed starting with volume **13** (1997) when the following joined the Editorial Board: S. Bilchev (University of Rousse, Bulgaria), Yury Nosenko (National Technical University of Donetsk, Ukraine), Vincent Soltes (Technical University of Kosice, Slovakia), Joseph Steiner (Swinburne University of Technology, Australia), Gheorghe Micula, Ioan Purdea, Ioan A. Rus and Dimitrie D. Stancu ("Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca), Dan Bărbosu and Nicolae Pop (University of Baia Mare). Vasile Berinde was appointed Associate Editor, while Ioan Danciu was the Editorial Secretary.

One year later, starting with volume **14** (1998), Ioan Păvăloiu and Costică Mustăţa from the "T. Popoviciu" Institute of Numerical Analysis in Cluj-Napoca also joined the Editorial Board of *Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B, Matematică-Informatică* and contributed to the continuous improvement of the journal. Here there are some other data on the evolution of the journal in the first decade.

Year	Volume	Issues	Papers	Pages
1991	7	1	27	160
1992	8	1	9	88
1993	9	1	18	138
1994	10	1-2	14	104
1995	11	1-2	13	134
1996	12	1-2	35	272
1997	13	1-2	24	198
1998	14	1, 2	29	244
1999	15	1-2	20	158
2000	16	1,2	46	402
			235	1898

Table 1. Number of issues, papers and pages for the first 10 volumes of the new series of *Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B, Matematică-Informatică* (1991-2000)

3. Second decade of publication: adopting the current name

The number of submissions to *Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B, Matematică-Informatică* have steadily increased with time and their scientific quality was significantly better than the one at the beginning but I was looking for more. One of my marketing ideas was to change the name of the journal in a shorter and much visible one. After several trials, my final option was to adopt the name *Carpathian* in some form, mainly because Baia Mare is situated very close to

the northern part of Romanian Carpathian mountains chain. During an ad-hoc meeting, in 2003, I proposed to the local members of the Editorial Board the new name I was seeking, in an alternative form: *Carpathian Mathematics Journal* or *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics*. The last form has been adopted by a very weak majority. Anyway, the new name turned out to be much more "commercial" and immediately lead to the increasing of submissions in both number and scientific quality.

Simultaneously with the change of the name, we started to work on the electronic version. It is the merit of my colleague Ovidiu Cosma to design the first web site of *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics*. At the very beginning we posted on the journal's web site, `http://carpathian.ubm.ro`, only papers from recent issues, that were available in electronic format. Soon after that my colleagues Andrei Horvat-Marc and Cosmin Sabo started the huge work of scanning all old issues which are now available electronically. Cosmin Sabo and Andrei Horvat-Marc form the web master team and are responsible for up-dating it periodically. Andrei Horvat-Marc also posted on the web site the journal's manuscripts template.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the successive technical editors Gabriela Hossu and Marta Gae for the high typographical quality of the papers published in our journal in the last decade. Unfortunately, they are by now both retired but I do hope we'll be able to continue our cooperation and benefit from their experience in the coming years.

Some volumes published in the period 2001-2010 have been dedicated to certain important annual events. So, vol. **19** (2003), No. 1, has been dedicated to Professor I. Coroian on the occasion of his 65th anniversary, vol. **20** (2004), No. 2, has been dedicated to Professor I. Păvăloiu on the occasion of his 65th anniversary; vol. **21** (2005), Nos. 1-2, has been dedicated to Maria S. Pop (65th anniversary), Lidia Elena Kozma and Huba Sass (60th anniversary); while vol. **23** (2008), No. 3, has been dedicated to Professor I. Coroian on the occasion of his 70th anniversary.

Year	Volume	Issues	Papers	Pages
2001	17	1-2	26	186
2002	18	1, 2	62	396
2003	19	1, 2	18	252
2004	20	1-2	40	307
2005	21	1-2	21	155
2006	22	1-2	23	178
2007	23	1-2	25	200
2008	24	1, 2, 3	55	432
2009	25	1, 2	20	158
2010	26	1,2	28	280
			318	2543
Grand	Total	(1991-2010)	553	4441

Table 2. Number of issues, papers and pages for the last 10 published volumes of *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics* (2001-2010)

vi

4. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

I think we can be justifiably proud of the contribution the *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics* has made to the development of mathematics in our Department and university. Indeed, *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics* the journal has been recently selected for coverage in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) and Web of Science (WoS), starting with volume **24** (2008), and by SCOPUS, starting with volume 19 (2003). This year, 2010, will bring us the first Impact Factor of *Carpathian Journal of Mathematics*, that we are very eager to know.

It would be interesting to recall what were the aims, challenges and concerns over 20 years ago, and compare them to what actually did happen with the journal. One of the first concerns in 1991 and afterwards was that there would never be enough good quality submissions to support a journal on general mathematics and computer science. Indeed, submissions were initially slow, and the early issues had been mainly fed by papers presented to the anniversary conference organized in 1991, celebrating 30 years of existence of University of Baia Mare and then to the one organized in 1996, celebrating 35 years of existence of University of Baia Mare.

The current rather big number of submissions, most of them of high scientific quality, which lead to a rejection rate of 80-85 %, will require the editorial team for moving to a web-based journal submission and review system, like the ones owned by commercial publishers.

Sitting here in my Editors chair, my main concerns are related to the current challenges for the future development of the journal:

1) Increase subscriptions and make the journal financially independent (currently it is partly supported by Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, North University of Baia Mare and basically supported by SINUS Association);

2) Design, test and introduce an on-line editorial submission system (similar to the Elsevier Electronic System, but simpler);

3) Setting up specific questionnaires to published authors, submission authors, targeted authors and international colleagues in order to find the breakdowns of the journal, in order to remove them and improve the journal;

4) Get and keep a steadily good impact factor starting with 2010;

5) Increasing the size of the journal (by having 4 issues / volume).

REFERENCES

[1] Berinde, V., *Anniversary: Ten years of publication of the new series of **Buletin Ştiinţific**, Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare, Ser. B., Matematică-Informatică, **16** (2000), nr. 1, i-ii
[2] Berinde, V., *Asupra convergenţei unor procese iterative asociate la o clasă de sisteme liniare*, Buletin Ştiinţific, Inst. Înv. Sup. Baia Mare, seria B, vol. **VI** (1983), 26-29

NORTH UNIVERSITY OF BAIA MARE
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
VICTORIEI 76, 430122 BAIA MARE, ROMANIA
E-mail address: vberinde@ubm.ro