
NEWS



Farewell to the Executive Editor, Margit Antal

IDŐJÁRÁS (Weather in English) is one of the oldest meteorological journals in Europe. Since the end of the nineteenth century it has published papers on meteorology as well as other news in the Hungarian language. After the Second World War it was felt that other languages must also be used in order to make publication for foreign authors possible. However, this caused a rather chaotic situation since the language of the publication was not determined. Thus, papers of quite different quality were published in at least five languages.

At the end of the seventies and at the beginning of the eighties it became clear that papers should be accepted only in one language, namely in the world-common language of natural sciences: in English. One also believed that the manuscript reviewing procedure must be similar to that applied in leading scientific journals. The philosophy was to publish papers of Hungarian specialists and other scientists from the neighboring countries in a way that would be understandable all over the world. Further, we believed at that time, that an international forum on atmospheric science was necessary for strengthening the relationship between scientists behind and outside the iron curtain.

As the chairman of the editorial board (later the Editor-in-Chief) I needed a new board consisting of internationally well-known scientists and, also very important, a secretary for fulfilling the administration necessary. It was an obvious solution to choose for this purpose my own secretary, Ms *Margit Antal* (her married name is *Dr Antal Emánuelné*), called by everybody “*Pimpi*”, who had already proved that she is a very good person to arrange correspondence and typing not only in Hungarian, but also in English, French, and German. It turned out later that this choice was an excellent one.

I have to emphasize that *Pimpi* did not finish any course to be secretary. She began to work at the Department on Solar Radiation of the Hungarian Meteorological Service in 1963. After some years she continued similar activity at the Department on Heat and Water Balance. Her bosses were always very satisfied with her work (mostly calculations and observations), she quickly became famous because of her accuracy and precision. This was obviously the reason why the executive editor of *IDŐJÁRÁS* at that time (*J. Kakas*) used *Pimpi*'s ability to help him in editing of the journal. And, more important for myself, this motivated me to ask her to be my secretary, when I was appointed director of the research institute (Central Institute for Atmospheric Physics) of the Hungarian Meteorological Service. In the life of anyone among us there are good and bad decisions. Anyway, this was a good one for me. *Pimpi*, as secretary, helped my work in an excellent and correct way until leaving the service in 1992.

In the same year *Pimpi* became officially the technical editor of the journal. In 1996 the president of the Hungarian Meteorological Service nominated her to the post of executive editor. By this time she already knew everything concerning the editorial work. She played a decisive role in introducing the up-to-date computerized journal production, giving to *IDŐJÁRÁS* the present attractive aspect. *IDŐJÁRÁS* has been indexed and abstracted in Science Citation Index Expanded and Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition since 2007. This milestone could not be reached without her perfect editorial activity. She has executed the editorial work to the satisfaction of everybody, including members of the editorial board, authors, and readers. For acknowledging her work during decades for *IDŐJÁRÁS* and the Hungarian Meteorological Service, the Minister of the Environment Protection and Water Management rewarded her in 2006 with the medallion “*Pro Meteorologia*”.

Dear *Pimpi*! On the occasion of your retirement, on behalf of all the Editor-in-Chiefs with whom you worked, I want to thank you for your efforts to make this journal an international forum. I wish you further health and a long and peaceful life after almost fifty years of professional work!

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Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences