

CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE. UNPUBLISHED NOTES AND DOCUMENTS ON THE FOUNDING OF THE FIRST SOCIETY OF LIMNOLOGY IN ROMANIA

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MOTTO: "Amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas" (Plato is my friend but a closer friend is the truth). (Paraphrase of the Alexandrine philosopher Ammonios Saccas to a text of the first book of Aristoteles' "Nicomachean ethics" underlining the idea that the truth should always be higher than the friendship or the consideration one has for his master).

Abstract. The present article assembles the notes and documents of the two authors on the initiation, founding and history of the "Society of Limnology" of Romania, yet to be affiliated to "Societas Internationalis Limnologiae" (SIL). We emphasize that this is the first Romanian society to have as its primary goal the development of this scientific discipline and to carry this specific name. The authors consider it suitable to publish these materials so that future researchers to have access to them.

Keywords: contribution, the history of science, The Society of Limnology, Romania.

Rezumat. Contribuție la istoria științei. Note și documente nepublicate privind fondarea primei Societăți de Limnologie din România. Acest articol reunește notele și documentele a doi autori privind inițiativa, fondarea și istoria "Societății de Limnologie" din România, ce urmează să fie afiliată "Societății Internaționale de Limnologie" (SIL). Am arătat faptul că aceasta este prima societate românească care are ca scop primar dezvoltarea acestei discipline științifice și care să poarte acest nume. Autorii consideră adecvată publicarea acestor materiale deoarece, în acest fel, viitorii cercetători pot avea acces la aceste informații.

Cuvinte cheie: contribuție, istoria științei, Societatea de Limnologie, România.

INTRODUCTION

Our paper is constructed as a detailed account of the events we have taken part in, starting with the initial idea that led to the foundation and the development of the Romanian "Society of Limnology". All the events are presented in first person, and ordered chronologically as much as possible.

The purpose of this account is to relate the events that led to the foundation of a nationally important scientific society. We emphasize that this is the first Romanian society to have as its primary goal the development of this scientific discipline and to carry in its title this specific name. We think it is suitable to publish these new materials in order for the future researchers to dispose of the necessary data in their reconstruction of the historical truth from first hand sources. We hope that shortly, with the publication of the first number of the new series of the former periodic "Hidrobiologia" – edited in English by the Romanian Academy and the Society of Limnology as "Romanian Journal of Limnology" – the Romanian and foreign limnologists will have a permanent space for articles dedicated to the history of limnology.

The idea of the foundation of a Limnological Society in Romania fragments from Claudiu Tudorancea's letter to Ștefan Negrea and Alexandrina Negrea from the 14th of may 2009

Our dear Ștefan and Didina,

[...] In February 2001 Melbourne (Australia) hosted the 28th Congress of the International Society of Limnology (SIL), to which Monica (his wife and collaborator – *Note by Ș.N.*) participated with a paper on the importance of the chironomid larvae in the assessment of the running water quality. Otherwise, we were the only Romanian participants to this Congress. I went there intending to meet Prof. Robert G. Wetzel, the General Secretary and Treasurer" of SIL at the time, in order to ask his opinion on an idea of mine to found a Romanian Society of Limnology (at the time, C.T. was a professor at the University of Cluj-Napoca – *Note by Ș.N.*). I met him and approached him in a longer recess that had allowed us to speak at our ease.

First I thanked him for asking me to contribute with a chapter to the volume he edited for SIL on the limnology in several developing countries. I wrote the chapter "Limnology in Ethiopia" since I worked in that country for a year and a half. He was delighted by this material. As a proof, at my return to Cluj-Napoca, he wrote a very flattering recommendation letter for me and the co-authors of the mentioned chapter. This recommendation was attached to the proposal of that volume for one of the Romanian Academy's awards from that year.

At this point I approached the issue of the foundation of a Romanian Society of Limnology. His first question was: "Where is the Romanian representative to SIL?" He thus noticed the absence of our colleague N. Gâldean! I

answered him that, unfortunately, my wife and I are the only Romanian biologists present at this Congress. Prof. Wetzel's following question came just as abruptly and difficult to answer: "I would like to know: how do you proceed in determining who is the SIL representative in your country?". I recalled that, the Academy of the S.R. of Romania appointed PhD. Ludovic Rudescu, who later passed this responsibility to his disciple, Stoica Godeanu without an election. In his turn, Godeanu passed the responsibility to Nicolae Gâldean. Taken by surprise, I avoided a straight answer. Instead I replied that, after 20 years of work in Canada I am still catching up with the events that took place in Romania during the communist regime. But that I also thought that on my return home after the December 1989 Revolution, as a full professor at the „Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, that it would be a good thing to found a "Romanian Society of Limnology". Professor Wetzel picked up the idea straight away: "Very well, I hope that you also thought of affiliating it to SIL, as you normally should". I thanked him for this suggestion and he informed me that the SIL statutes are available on the internet and that he will be glad to provide me any material or clarifications necessary. He asked me to keep him updated on the developments of the Society of Limnology foundation. At the end of this conversation, he invited Monica and me, to take part in the national SIL representatives meeting that evening. We thanked him and, of course, attended that meeting.

We returned to Romania pleased with the Congress' developments, the participants' interest in Monica's work and especially the support prof. Wetzel had promised us. My task was not an easy one. I had at Cluj-Napoca a group of young limnologists to whom I had taught the ecology and the limnology. In order to approach the limnologists across the country I needed more time, so I arranged for my limnology class to be taught by PhD. Laura Momeu, and I took my notebook from the SIL Congress and went to Bucharest.

The first person to whom I disclosed my idea and the result of the discussions I had with Prof. Wetzel was my mentor, prof. Nicolae Botnariuc, former head of the General Biology Desk and dean of the Biology Faculty of the Bucharest University. He listened carefully, as he usually did, but he did not give me a straight answer: he didn't tell me if my initiative was appropriate or not. He tilted his head as he used to when he didn't wanted to be involved in a proposal (maybe his age was also a matter – he was 86 years old at the time – *Note by Ș.N.*). In a few days I met Nicu Gâldean. I informed him also of the discussion with Prof. Wetzel about a Society of Limnology affiliated with SIL. I showed him my book and its notes from my conversation with Professor Wetzel. He also did not give me a straight answer. He didn't said "no", but his "yes" was ambiguous...

The next day I went to the Development Biology Institute (founded after the Revolution of December 1989 by elevating the laboratory of the same name that was part of the Biology Institute, director PhD. Mărioara Godeanu. It does no longer exist. – *Note by Ș.N.*). Here, I spoke to PhD. Stoica Godeanu, the ex -SIL Romanian representative, who was very enthusiastic about my idea and the outcome of my discussion with Prof. Wetzel. Afterwards I stopped at the Biology Institute (building situated in the same yard as Godeanu's Institute – *Note by Ș.N.*), more precisely at the Hydrobiology laboratory where I met my old colleagues and friends, PhD. Victor Zinevici and PhD. Laura Parpală. They both agreed to my idea, although without too much enthusiasm – probably because they were oblivious of the reaction of their colleagues from the Institute's other branch.



Figure 1. Prof. PhD. Claudiu Tudorancea (right) having a conversation with his guest, PhD. Ștefan Negrea during a break between two lectures for the Ecology Master students. / Figura 1. Prof. PhD. Claudiu Tudorancea (dreapta) în timpul unei conversații cu oaspetele său, PhD. Ștefan Negrea, într-o pauză dintre două prelegeri pentru studenții de la Masterul de Ecologie.



Figure 2. On the shore of lake Tarnita (Cluj County) during a “limnological” field trip. From left to the right: PhD. Alexandrina Negrea, PhD. Ștefan Negrea and PhD. Maria Monica Tudorancea. / Figura 2. Pe malul lacului Tarnița (județul Cluj) în timpul unei aplicații practice de limnologie. De la stânga la dreapta: PhD. Alexandrina Negrea, PhD. Ștefan Negrea și PhD. Maria Monica Tudorancea.

My next step was towards a few limnological colleagues and friends from the University in Bacău, with whom I had kept close relations for a number of years. An occasion arose in the fall of 2001, when I was invited to the Scientific Session of the Biology University. During one of the lunch breaks, while in Prof. Constantin Măzăreanu's office, I touched upon the subject, Professor Klaus Werner Batters being present as well. I laid the case for the founding of a Society of Limnology in Romania affiliated with the SIL (International Society of Limnology). Both expressed their approval as well as their enthusiasm.

On returning to Cluj, back to scientific and didactic problems, I had become more confident in the possibility of a Society of Limnology being founded. I was thinking of how to put together an 'Initiative committee'. In the following year (2002), I invited my colleagues from Bacău to teach a few classes to my students enrolled in the Ecology Master Program. Their accepting my invitation gladdened me. (Still during 2002, my wife and I were invited for the same purpose, and were most pleasantly impressed by the ultra-modern endowment of the limnology laboratory as well as by the enthusiastic activity of the master and doctoral students of the colleague C.T. – *Note by Ș.N.*)

Being caught up in my profession, especially with finalizing the manuscript of the book '*Danube Delta. Genesis and Biodiversity*', I no longer had time to proceed toward founding the outlined Society of Limnology (the mentioned book was published in 2006 at Backhuys Publishers in Leiden, Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Tudorancea being the editors – *Note by Ș.N.*)

Somewhere at the threshold of the years 2002/2003 I received an envelope from my colleagues in Bacău that contained a shocking surprise: a small message accompanied by a set of Rules for... *the founding of a Society of Limnology in Bacău!* I was asked to read it and make suggestions for further modifications or improvement. There was no word on what we had previously discussed or about Professor Wetzel's suggestion (let alone my own) to affiliate the Society to the International Society of Limnology. To an uninformed party this message would have sounded as if the initiative as well as the idea belonged to them entirely. When I realized that this was the message being transmitted to me of all people, the true initiator, I was given to a sort of 'shock' or as the saying goes 'the cat got my tongue'!

The decision being already made, I made my suggestions and remarks. Among other things, I suggested that this ordinance be in conformity with the SIL ordinance, as well as with those of the other scientific societies. Noticing that in their project there were phrases standard for the Communist Youth Union, I suggested to them that what is needed is a purely scientific society, not one based on criticism and self criticism. In my reply to my colleagues I made no mention of the proposal that I had presented to them, one year previously, nor did I mention Professor Wetzel's suggestion that upon the founding of a Romanian Limnology Society, such a society ought to be affiliated to SIL.

In the fall of 2003, the Scientific Session communication program of the Biology Department within the University in Bacău included the 'founding of the Romanian Society of Limnology'. Among those present were you, Ștefan and Didina, and Marian Traian Gomoiu from the Romanian Academy. The organizers did not mention the initiative that I

had made one year ago, Professor Robert Wetzel's proposal, or my discussions with them and other limnologists on the matter of founding a SIL affiliated Limnology Society. PhD. N. Gâldean, then the national representative to the SIL, could not come to Bacău to take part in this meeting. Professor I. Miron from the "Al. I. Cuza" University (Iasi), a respected limnologist, expressed his desire and availability to be a part of the provisory committee set up for the organization of the General Assembly to elect a Ruling Council of the Romanian Society of Limnology.

PhD. Stefan Negrea, had been invited at this session (by the chief organizer, Professor C. Măzăreanu, with the intention that he be proposed as a member of the 'Provisory Committee' and that of the Ruling Council' as 'editor' – *Note by Ș.N.*) but now he no longer showed on the proposal list included in the program of the Scientific Session (Fig. 3) and had not been nominated. At that moment, Monica, sitting next to me, noticing their hypocrisy and dissembling word whispered to me: "What's this now, are they not proposing PhD. Negrea?" Then I said to her "Without further ado, you will stand up and propose PhD. Negrea!" Monica complied and the proposal was voted on and approved. [...]

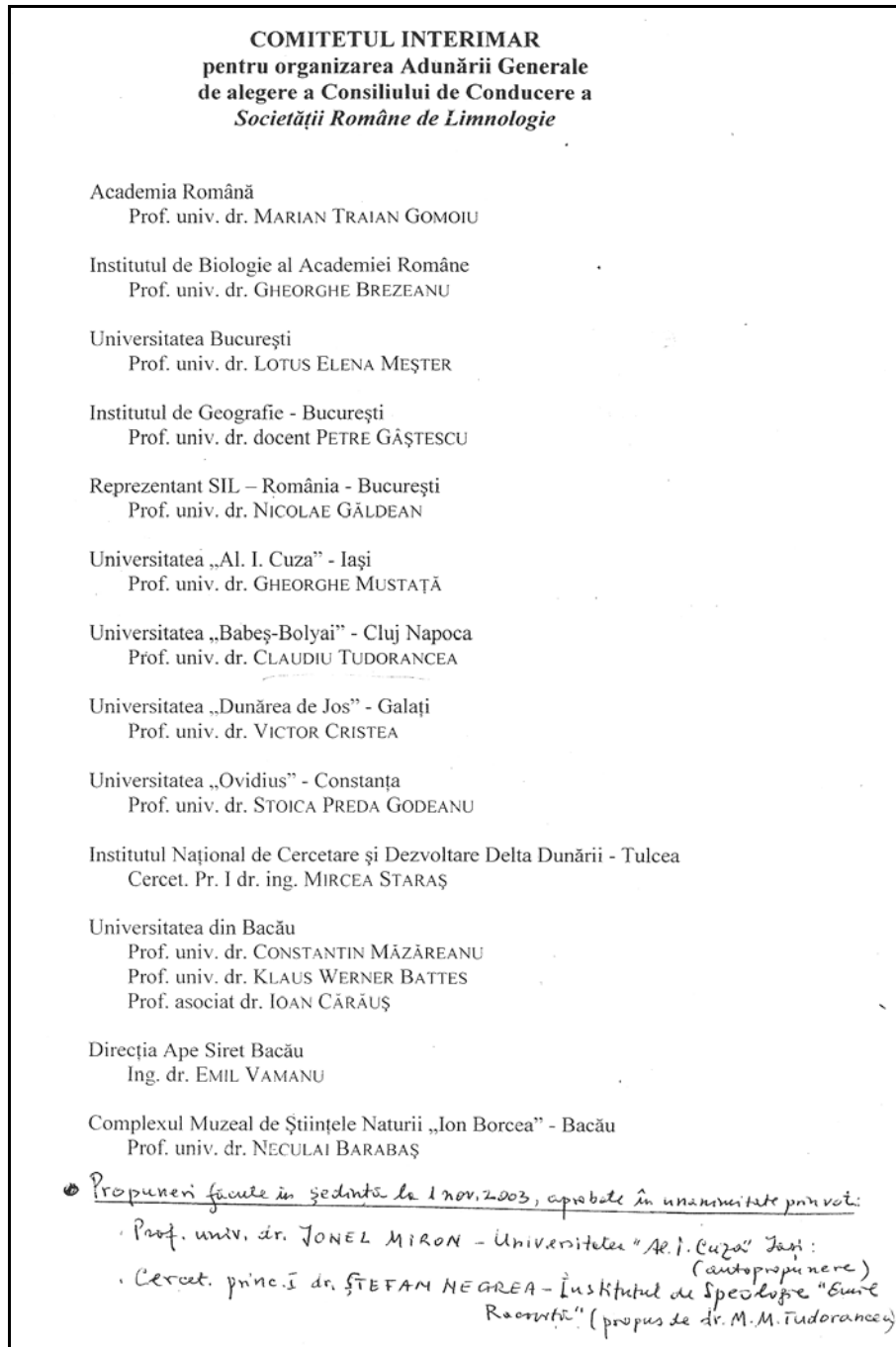


Figure 3. The list of the 13 proposals for the Interim Committee of the Society of Limnology as published in the booklet of the 5th Scientific Communication Session "Aquatic ecosystems ecology and protection", Bacău, 1st of Nov. 2003 (facsimile). / Figura 3. Lista celor 13 propuneri pentru Comitetul Interimar al Societății de Limnologie așa cum a fost publicată în broșura ediției a V-a a Sesiunii de Comunicări Științifice "Ecologia și protecția ecosistemelor acvatice", Bacău, 1 noiembrie 2003.

Short history of the foundation and the evolution of The Society of Limnology. Unpublished notes and documents presented by Ștefan Negrea

I must confess that I knew nothing of my colleague Claudiu Tudorancea's idea and advances at a national and international level concerning the founding of a "Romanian Society of Limnology" when I was mailed a letter dated 18 of September 2003 and signed by two biologists from Bacău: PhD. Constantin Măzăreanu, prorector of the University of Bacău and PhD. Klaus Werner Battes director of the "Centre for Research, Formation and Consultancy for the Resources of the Environment and Biotechnology". In this official letter (it had an official header and stamp –Fig. 4) I was solicited to accept my being included on the list of the "Initiative committee for the Founding of the Romanian Society of Limnology" (Fig. 5) and that I was to make proposals, observations or completions on a "Proposal for Ordinance" annexed to the letter.

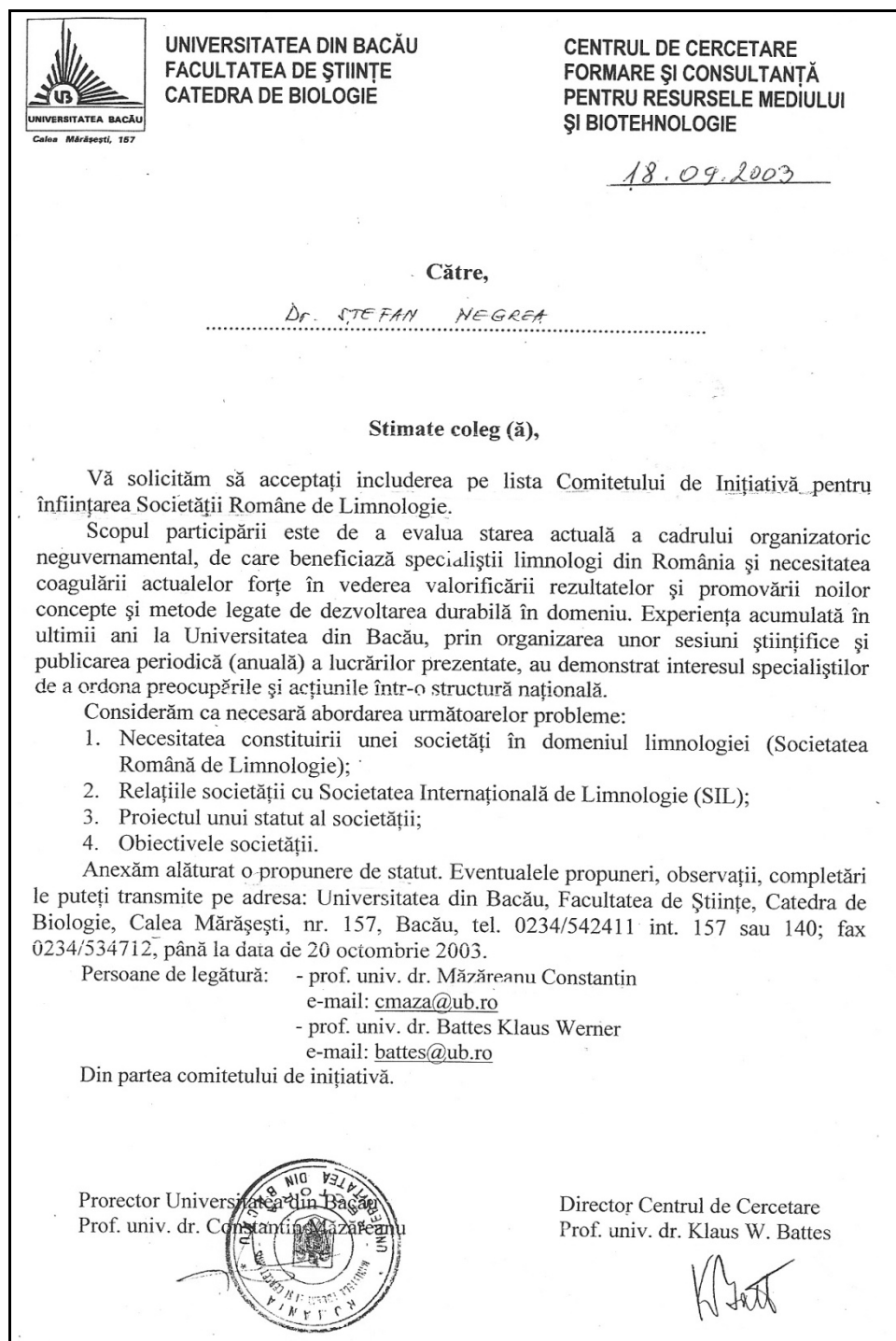


Figure 4. Address from the 18th of September 2003, received by PhD. Ștefan Negrea from the "Initiative Committee for the Foundation of the Romanian Society of Limnology" (facsimile). / Figura 4. Adresa din data de 18 septembrie 2003, primită de PhD. Ștefan Negrea de la "Comitetul de Inițiativă pentru fondarea Societății Române de Limnologie" (copie).

I understood from this project that the new Society was to function as a juridical person upon the Romanian Government Ordinance no. 26 from the 30th of January 2000 concerning associations and foundations; that the University of Bacau had offered to host the headquarters of the Society; that it was to have an exclusively professional character, and be apolitical, independent, non governmental and non profit. The proposed goal was to “stimulate the development of theoretical and practical research in the field of limnology, to contribute to the perfecting of studies on the same profile and to participate in raising awareness amidst the public opinion towards the problem of protecting and scientific treasuring of aquatic resources”. Among the Society's objectives, I took notice of *Article 11* that stated: “Acting as a liaison between profile specialists from Romania and international societies or associations from the field (the International Society of Limnology, the International Danube Study Association etc.)”.

**COMITETUL DE INIȚIATIVĂ
pentru înființarea
SOCIETĂȚII ROMÂNE DE LIMNOLOGIE**

Cercet. Pr. I dr. PETRU BĂNĂRESCU Membru al Academiei Române Institutul de Biologie al Academiei Române	- București	Prof. univ. dr. IORDACHE ION Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași
Prof. univ. dr. MARIAN TRAIAN GOMOIU Membru Corespondent al Academiei Române Președintele Comisiei de Oceanografie și Limnologie Centrul Român de Geologie și Geocologie Marină	- Constanța	Prof. univ. dr. IONEL MIRON Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași
Cercet. Pr. I dr. ȘTEFAN NEGREA Institutul de Speologie „Emil Racoviță” - București	- București	Prof. univ. dr. VLADIMIR ROJANSCHI Universitatea Ecologică din București	- București
Prof. univ. dr. CLAUDIU TUDORANCEA Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai” – Cluj-Napoca	- Cluj-Napoca	Prof. univ. dr. OCTĂVIȚA AHLJESEI Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași
Prof. univ. dr. GHEORGHE BREZEANU Institutul de Biologie al Academiei Române	- București	Prof. univ. dr. ERICA NIMITAN Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași
Prof. univ. dr. STOICA PREDĂ GODEANU Universitatea „Ovidius” - Constanța	- Constanța	Prof. univ. dr. LUCIAN OPREA Universitatea „Dunărea de Jos” - Galați	- Galați
Prof. univ. dr. docent PETRE GĂȘTESCU Institutul de Geografie - București	- București	Prof. univ. dr. CONSTANTIN MĂZĂREANU Universitatea din Bacău	- Bacău
Prof. univ. dr. GHEORGHE MUSTĂȚĂ Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași	Prof. univ. dr. KLAUS WERNER BATTES Universitatea din Bacău	- Bacău
Prof. univ. dr. IONEL ANDRIESCU Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași	Prof. univ. dr. NECULAI BARABAȘ Complexul Muzeal de Științele Naturii „Ion Borcea”	- Bacău
Prof. univ. dr. LOTUS ELENA MEȘTER Universitatea București	- București	Prof. univ. dr. COSTICĂ MISĂILĂ Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași
Prof. univ. dr. MIHAI DRĂGAN-BULARDA Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai” – Cluj-Napoca	- Cluj-Napoca	Conf. univ. dr. CĂTĂLIN RANG Universitatea din Bacău	- Bacău
Prof. univ. dr. VICTOR CRISTEA Universitatea „Dunărea de Jos” - Galați	- Galați	Cercet. Pr. I dr. ALEXANDRINA NEGREA Institutul de Speologie „Emil Racoviță” - București	- București
Cercet. Pr. I dr. MIRCEA STARAȘ Institutul Național de Cercetare și Dezvoltare Delta Dunării - Tulcea	- Tulcea	Conf. univ. dr. LAURA MOMEU Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai” – Cluj-Napoca	- Cluj-Napoca
Cercet. Pr. I dr. TEODOR NALBANT Muzeul de Istorie Naturală „Grigore Antipa”	- București	Lector univ. dr. FERDINAND PRICOPE Universitatea din Bacău	- Bacău
Prof. univ. dr. NICOLAE GĂLDEAN Universitatea Ecologică din București Reprezentantul Societății Internaționale de Limnologie în România	- București	Lector univ. dr. MIRCEA NICOARĂ Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” - Iași	- Iași
Ing. dr. EMIL VAMANU Direcția Apelor Siret	- Bacău	Lector univ. dr. DOREL URECHE Universitatea din Bacău	- Bacău

Figure 5. List of the 32 persons that accepted to be included in the “Initiative Committee for the Foundation of the Romanian Society of Limnology” (facsimile). / Figura 5. Lista celor 32 persoane care au acceptat să fie incluse în “Comitetul de Inițiativă pentru fondarea Societății Române de Limnologie” (copie).

My answer, from the 29th of September 2003, was a positive one: 'Esteemed Colleagues, you have my gratitude for your letter of the 18th of September, of the current year, in which I am being asked to accept a position on the list of the Initiative Committee for the Founding of the Romanian Society of Limnology. I am convinced of the necessity to found a *National level Society of Limnology*, due to the fact that the several Romanian societies presently or formerly dealing with “the natural sciences”, “biology”, “ecology”, “hydrobiology” etc. *have not had or do not at present have limnology as their main goal*— a scientific discipline ever more growing in the country and around the world.

“It remains to be seen if specialists from the other centers of limnological activity will rally their banner to your proposal to host the headquarters of a future society at the University of Bacău. It is my opinion that this headquarters ought to be at a site with powerful limnological activity and not necessarily in the capital of the country or in a historical province. I can offer as an example Belgium, wherein Henri J. Dumont Ph.D. transformed his own

laboratory at the Ghent University as a nursery school for limnologists coming from everywhere to perfect themselves. In parallel, as an editor-in-chief of the *Hydrobiologia* periodical (subtitled “*The International Journal of Limnology and Marine Sciences*”) he has published from 6 to 25 volumes per year, from no: 171 in 1980 to no: 500 in 2003 (the last issue was dedicated to himself, and was edited by his successor at the helm of the periodical, Koen Martens. It was published by the famous publishing house “Kluwer Academic Publishers Dordrecht/Boston/London” - *Note by Ș.N.*). Another side note to this, as a 'coordinating editor' of the esteemed volumes from the “*Guides to the Identification of the Microinvertebrates of the Continental Waters of the World*” series published at the prestigious publishing house “Backhuys Publishers” of Leiden (Holland), Dumont has published over 20 books authored by the most reputed specialists in the world. In other words, here are the initiatives of a tireless limnologist that has made of Ghent a true world limnology centre, although this city is not the capital of Belgium. Why then, would it not be possible that in Romania the national centre for limnology be in Bacău?

“I intend to reply to your invitation that I take part, together with my wife, in the 5th Scientific Communications Session “Ecology and the protection of aquatic ecosystems” from the 31st of October – the 1st of November 2003 with our communication: “*Ștefan Negrea & Alexandrina Negrea: The biodiversity within the underground aquatic environments in Romania*” and to also take part in the planned session of 'Foundation of the Romanian Society of Limnology' scheduled for Saturday, the 1st of November 2003.

“I will attach onto this letter, a draft of the volume: “*Introduction to the Branchiopoda*”, recently published in the “*Guides to the Identification of the Microinvertebrates ...*” series, authors H.J. Dumont and S.V. Negrea, with hopes of being published at Backhuys Publishers of Holland for the library of the Biology University and for the future Society of Limnology.

“Awaiting your response, with esteemed consideration and best regards, PhD. Ștefan Negrea.”

Two days later, on the 1st of October 2003, I received the prompt answer of my colleague, C. Măzăreanu. There is worth mentioning some fragments from that letter in particular, that refer to the advance and preparations on the founding of the 'Romanian Society of Limnology':

“Dear PhD. Negrea, we are glad to have received the message in your letter, especially since it adds to similar opinions on the matter of how necessary it is to found a scientific forum on a national level within the domain of limnology (notice the protocol address belonging to my generation that has today become unfashionable – *Note by Ș.N.*) I can inform you that numerous specialists from Bucharest, Iași, Cluj-Napoca, Galați, Tulcea, and Constanța have expressed their intention to take part in our session. We have sent some 100 nominal invitations to esteemed specialists, whom we have asked to accept the quality of members of the Initiative Committee; we have asked this also to the ones with less experience but considerable interest. [...] It is a great honor for us to have you join us at a scientific meeting which we hope shall contribute to the organizing of a limnological revival. As for the volume “*Introduction to the Branchiopoda*” [...] it shall prove a solid occasion for its publicity with the guests, and of course, we shall order one copy for the Biology Section. [...] Our Colleague, PhD. N. Barabaș, the Head of the Natural Sciences Museum in Bacău and our main partner in making this session possible, attaches his own best regards and wishes for scientific health and vigor for your family. With the best of regards, C. Măzăreanu Ph.D.”

Unfortunately, both in the invitation letter from the 18th of September (fig. 4) as well as in the letter above, there was no mention as to Claudiu Tudorancea's visit in Bacău during the fall of 2001 to talk with C. Măzăreanu and K. W. Batters about founding a SIL-affiliated Romanian Society of Limnology. It is a great pity, as those who received their invitations were denied the occasion of finding out who came up with the idea and sought support, especially with the limnologists in Bacău and Bucharest, to fulfill his dream. As a historian of science, convinced that the truth must be ranked higher than one's relations with his contemporaries, (see the motto of the present article) I have asked myself the question: was the omission of the author of this idea a mere omission or does it hide some desire of the signatories of the invitation to be considered the authors of the idea as well as the makers?

Furthermore I shall note chronologically the events, as they are known to me from the period of the General Assembly for the founding of the Society of Limnology (the 1st of November 2003) to the General Assembly for the presentation of the report made by the Ruling Council at the end of the 4 year mandate (the 12th of June 2004 – the 8th of November 2008):

• **1 Nov. 2003.** Founding of the 'Romanian Society of Limnology' during the 5th Scientific communications Session 'Ecology and the protecting of aquatic ecosystems' (Bacău, the 31st of October – the 1st of November 2003). During the founding meeting the following were discussed and presented:

1. *Ordinance for the Romanian Society of Limnology.*
2. *Electing the provisory committee that shall prepare the General Assembly for choosing the Ruling council and the Censor Commission.* The following were elected: M.T. Gomoiu, Gh. Brezeanu, Lotus Meșter, P. Gâstescu, N. Gâldean, Gh. Mustață, Cl. Tudorancea, V. Cristea, S. Godeanu, M. Staraș, C. Măzăreanu, K.W. Batters, I. Cărăus, E. Vamanu, N. Barabaș, Șt. Negrea and I. Miron (see Fig. 3).
3. *The date and place of the General Assembly;* to be settled at a later point by the Provisory Committee.
4. *Making and signing the list of the founding members.* The signatories were comprised of the 32 members of the initiative committee for the founding of the S. L. (see Fig. 5)
5. *Preparing the documents for the General Assembly of 2004.* On this matter, there was also a plan for 'editing

the Scientific Society's publications'.

- **the 22nd of April 2004.** *Letters from the Provisory Committee*, signed by C. Măzăreanu through which the members were notified that the Ministry of Justice has approved the denomination 'Society of Limnology' and that on the 11th-12th of June 2004 the *National Conference for Electing the leaders of the Society* shall take place (president, 2 vice-presidents, general secretary and editor, as well as 6 members). To this end, the members of the society shall turn in their candidatures until the 15th of May 2004, alongside a CV and a list of their main publications.

- **the 12th of June 2004.** *The General Assembly of the Society of Limnology* during the Scientific Session of Communications "Biology and enduring development" (Bacău the 11th –the 12th of June 2004). The 44 members of a total of 63 touched upon the following in the order of the day:

1. *General Information*: the founding date of the Society of Limnology (the 1st of November 2003); the Romanian Government's decree concerning associations and foundations (no. 26 from the 30th of January 2000); proof that the Ministry of Justice has accepted the denomination Society of Limnology (no. 23714 from the 27th of January 2004); the S.L. Headquarters: University of Bacău (Mărășești Road no. 157); S.L. Character: an exclusively professional society, apolitical, independent, nongovernmental, and nonprofit.

2. *Electing the Ruling Council*. 13 members were elected, out of which the first 5 held positions: Măzăreanu Constantin – president; Cristea Victor – vicepresident; Miron Ionel – vicepresident; Battes Klaus Werner – general secretary – treasurer; and Negrea Ștefan –editor; Brezeanu Gheorge, Găstescu Petre, Cărăuș Ion, Suciș Radu, Gâldean Nicolae, Telcean Ilie, Bănăduc Angela, and Battes Karina. In the Censor Committee, the following were elected: Godeanu Stoica Preda, Olariu Petru, and Ureche Dorel.

3. *Founding a scientific publication*. The General Assembly agreed with the proposal made by PhD. Marian Traian Gomoiu, to revive the periodical "*Hidrobiologia*" under the shield of the Society of Limnology and the Romanian Academy.

4. *Relationship with the International Society of Limnology (SIL)*. Nicolae Gâldean Ph.D. Romania's representative at SIL has turned in his documents and responsibility of the SL until a new representative is appointed (undemocratically, he shall be appointed, not elected by members of SL!)

- **the 3rd of Dec. 2004.** *Ruling Council of the SL*, meeting held at the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. The main problem discussed was the re-launching of the "*Hidrobiologia*" periodical within the Romanian Academy – a periodical that ended publication after 1989. The participants were: C. Măzăreanu; I. Miron; V. Cristea; K.W. Battes; Șt. Negrea; P. Găstescu; R. Suciș; I. Cărăuș; and Karina Battes; also present were M. T. Gomoiu, m.c. A.R and Dan Cogălniceanu, as secretary of the editorial staff of the "*Hidrobiologia*" periodical. (PhD. M.T. Gomoiu obtained a formal address (No. 1/the 14th of October, 2004) signed by PhD. Gh. Zarnea, the head of the Biological Sciences Department of the Romanian Academy, in accordance with which the periodical *Hydrobiologia* should be jointly published by the two organizations, the Romanian Society of Limnology (SL) and the Romanian Academy – *Note by C.T.*). The Society of Limnology was to insure financing. The periodical was to be published once a year at the Academy publishing house, under the aegis of the Society of Limnology and the Romanian Academy, with the subtitle: "*Romanian Journal of Limnology*". The editorial staff committee was established as well as the reviewing collective.

Next, the chief editor, PhD. Ștefan Negrea, finalized the organization and structure until the 20th of December 2004. The administrative lead is assured by SL which will make up a publishing fund. Other matters discussed were: editing an Info Bulletin on a yearly basis concerning the SL activity; establishing prof. K.W. Battes as the SL representative to conduct relations with the SIL leadership.

- **the 22nd of Dec. 2004.** The first SL issue of the "*Yearly Info Bulletin 2004*" appeared, prepared by the editorial collective made up of C. Măzăreanu, I. Cărăuș, Șt. Negrea, K.W. Battes, S. P. Godeanu, and Dan Cogălniceanu. On page 4 of the Bulletin (annex 3) there are three pieces under my and my colleague Dan Cogălniceanu's signatures; the editorial staff, "Main topics" and the Instructions for authors. The Editorial staff is the one established during the Leading Council session on the 3rd of December 2004:

- *Editor-in-Chief*: Ștefan Negrea

- *Assistant Editors-in-Chief*: Ioan Cărăuș, Stoica Godeanu, Marian Traian Gomoiu, Constantin Măzăreanu

- *Editorial Secretary*: Dan Cogălniceanu, Dorel Ureche

- *Editorial and Advisory Board*: a list of 28 proposals that shall be defined after all acceptance replies are received in writing.

Nine of the people on the list are limnologists of repute abroad. Six of them have replied to me in writing or over the telephone to indicate that they accept the honor offered them: Lazăr Botoșăneanu (Amsterdam); Regis Cereghino (Toulouse), editor in chief of "*Annales de Limnologie – International Journal of Limnology*" (wherein I am active as an assistant editor); Dan Danielopol (Mondsee, Austria); Henri Dumont (Ghent, Belgium), editor of the international periodical "*Hydrobiologia*" for 22 years; Francis Dov Por (Jerusalem), editor of the academic serial "*Fauna Palestina*" and Claudiu Tudorancea (Waterloo, Canada). Some of them have promised me papers, as soon as I shall announce that I have started preparations for the first issue. Otherwise, no SL member sent me edited papers as per the Bulletin instructions (which has been received by all, most assuredly), nor have they asked for supplementary information. None of the authors whose papers have been selected by me during the 4-5 Nov. 2005 session, to whom I have said in full session as well as personally that I am awaiting their manuscripts by mail to evaluate them and send

them to reviewers, have responded this request! All I needed were 6-7 papers with which to commence the editorial work, seconded by Dan Cogălniceanu and aided by the other members of the collective, in order to prepare the first issue of the new series of “*Hidrobiologia*”. While waiting for them D. C. and I have edited a set of rules, which apply to each paper received.

Procedure for Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Secretary (in three phases: what must be done when a manuscript is received for “*Hidrobiologia – Romanian Journal of Hydrobiology*”; when the two reviews are received; when the final version of the manuscript is received from the author).

- *Model letter (in English) to the author(s)* that has (have) sent a manuscript to the editorial staff (confirmation and “thank you” note).

- *Model letter to the reviewers (in English)* accompanied by a form called “*Referee Evaluation Sheet*” with 14 questions for him to answer for the evaluation of the manuscript, both to be transmitted with the manuscript by e-mail.

- *Model letter (in English) to the author(s)* accompanied by the reviews received from the reviewers (evidently without the names of the latter).

- *Model letter* (in Romanian and English, depending on the case) for the proposed members for the “Editorial and Advisory Board”. They were to be mailed immediately as we were sure that we had in our editorial portfolio 6-7 manuscripts and that the list of proposals was approved for the Advisory Board by the Leading Council of SL.

These rules are similar to those used by the periodical “*Annales de Limnologie - International Journal of Limnology*”, a publication rated by ISI.

- **the 11th of March 2005.** All the SL members received by way of e-mail a message from colleague Dorel Ureche through which they were asked for payment of their SL membership and they were also reminded to submit papers for the “*Hydrobiologia*” periodical.

- **the 20th of June 2005.** The first paper entered the portfolio of the expected “*Hidrobiologia*” periodical (unfortunately it was also the last as of May 1, 2010). It was entitled “Establishing the degree of eutrophication of the lakes on the Black Sea coastline” by S. Godeanu and L.D. Galatchi. I decided to proceed with editorial procedures once I have 7 manuscripts at my disposal.

- **the 5th of Nov. 2005.** *General Assembly of the Society of Limnology*, during the Scientific Communications Session 'Ecology and the protection of ecosystems' (Bacău, 4-5 November, 2005), dedicated to the memory of one of the founders and the first president of SL, Constantin Măzăreanu, deceased on the 21st of September 2005. A provisory president was chosen (K.W. Battes) and an executive secretary (D. Ureche); the annual account has been given (2005) and one point on the order of the day was related to the analysis of the situation of the periodical “*Hidrobiologia*” (“*Journal of Romanian Limnology*”). In the report I, as editor chief, reported that in the editorial portfolio, after one year from the founding of the editorial collective (Dec. 3, 2004), there was only one manuscript submitted for publication (S. Godeanu and L. D. Galatchi); I suggested that our limnologists, either do not wish to invest time and money towards the publication of their papers or that they do not trust their own strengths and are afraid of anonymous reviewers. The late Mr. C. Măzăreanu had thought of two solutions:

- The editorial staff of the periodical could select the necessary papers from the ones presented during the 2005 session and deposited for publication in the periodical of the University of Bacău (obviously with the approval of the Leading Committee and of the authors);

- Each member from the Editorial and Advisory Board was to commit to finding one paper for each of the issues of the periodical.

I ended with an appeal to the authors of six papers that I took notice of while they were being presented that they translate their papers into English and send them to me by e-mail. Unfortunately, no heed was paid, neither to C. Măzăreanu’s appeal nor to mine.

Also during the SL general Assembly from the 5th of November 2005 an issue of the 2005 Info Bulletin was given to those present, edited by K.W. Battes, S. P. Godeanu, I. Cărăuș, and Dorel Ureche. On page 6 (annex 5) the material concerning “*Hidrobiologia*” was published (Editorial Collective, Main Topics and Instructions for authors). This time as well I noticed the same lack of interest as to our society’s periodical: no positive answer, no received manuscripts from the SL members.

- **the 10th - the 11th of November 2006.** The annual session for Scientific Communications of the University in Bacău did not include the General Assembly of the Society of Limnology.

- **the 13th of December 2006.** By the authors’ request, a year and a half after receiving the first manuscript for “*Hidrobiologia*” I sent the paper to two referees (one from the Romania, another foreign). After review, the authors drafted the final version that I, as an associate editor, sent by e-mail to the chief editor of the journal “*Annales de Limnologie - International Journal of Limnology*” in France, which published it in the 4th issue of vol. 43 in 2007. If I had received 6-7 more SL papers, the first issue of *Hydrobiology* (new series) would have been published during 2007. I believe this would have been possible if the colleagues of the Leading Committee from Bacău had applied themselves to the first solution proposed by C. Măzăreanu (see above) and I had received the necessary papers for the issue.

- **the 29th of January 2007.** I received a letter by e-mail from my colleague D. Ureche in which he asked me to review and complete the instructions for the authors, as well as send him the model letter proposed to members for

the Editorial and Advisory Board. He asked to see the list of such things as “have in the course of time changed”. I had the model letter edited and copied ever since the 22nd of December 2005 (see the above) but I had not deemed it necessary to act so long as there were no papers for the reviewers to evaluate.

- **the 4-7 October 2007.** The first edition of the “Aquatic Biodiversity International Conference” took place in Sibiu, hosted by the “Lucian Blaga” University, the Brukenthal National Museum, the “Vasile Goldis” University and the University of Bacău (including the Society of Limnology). Having received the invitation somewhat late, I could not prepare a communication. Instead, I delegated my colleague, Stoica Godeanu, to represent me in case a general Assembly of the SL would be held and there were any talks of revitalizing the “*Hidrobiologia*” periodical. Upon returning, my colleague Godeanu assured me the matter of the periodical was not discussed in the program.

As we shall find out from the next part of the present article, the problem of the periodical was nevertheless raised, because Doru Bănăduc, the scientific secretary of the International Conference, has sent me articles for “*Hidrobiologia*” that were received at Bacău but did not get to me!

**The situation of The Society of Limnology four years after its foundation (2004-2008)
notes from the general assembly of 8th of november 2008, commented by Ștefan Negrea**

Between the 6th and the 8th of November 2008, at the University of Bacau, the works of the Scientific Communications Sessions “Ecology and the protection of ecosystems” were held. The program of this session ended with a General Assembly of the SL, in which Ph. D. student Oriana Irimia took part as a paying member and as my representative, because I could not attend these meetings for health reasons. We render bellow data from the report of the provisory president, PhD. K.W. Battes. It refers to the situation of the Society of Limnology, at the end of the first 4 year mandate of the Leading Committee, with its accomplishments and failures.

Record of the members. On the 22nd of December, there were 91 enlisted members (see the first Annual Info Bulletin) while the record shows that on the 8th of November 2008 there were 107 members. Of these 59% had signed on in 2003, 29% in 2004 and only 12% between the years 2005-2008. Along the way, two members died, 8 withdrew upon request and three left the country, the total number being reduced to 94 members. The new leadership, elected for the next four years was to analyze the causes of this loss of members and enact proper measures.

Raising funds. This problem has become more and more difficult. If between the years 2004-2005 the situation was “good”, in 2006 it became “weak” and between 2007 and 2008 “very weak”; of the 94 members, 53 have not paid their contribution. It is therefore, poignantly imposed that adequate measures are to be taken to convince the more forgetful members to pay their dues before they are excluded (after two years without paying, as per the proposal made by the general Assembly). These dues are necessary to cover the costs of the Society's site (creation and administration), as well as current expenses such as member ID Cards, info bulletins and the correspondence of the Society's members.

The “*Hidrobiologia*” periodical was one of the main objectives of the Leading Committee, but one that could not be realized due to various objective and subjective motives, as PhD. K.W. Battes expressed himself. Other names were proposed for the SL publication, such as the “*Theoretical and Practical Limnological Journal*” or “*Romanian Limnology Journal*”. Mr. Battes also relayed a message from Mr. Traian Gomoiu, an academic member and the president of the Limnology and Oceanography Board, who mentioned that the Biological Sciences Department of the Romanian Academy has shown its full support for a collaboration with SL, realized in the address made on the 14th of October 2004 and signed by the president of the department, member of the Romanian Academy Gh. Zarnea. Practically, it spoke of the publishing of a new series of the “*Hidrobiologia*” periodical under the common aegis of the SL and the Romanian Academy, initially a publication belonging to the latter. Afterwards, the papers were to be delivered to the Leading Council of the SL from whence the editor was to select those articles of an international caliber and publish them from the Academic publishing house; the funding for the publication was to be provided by the SL and other sources.

The discussion revealed that although the editor chief had received only one paper for publication in all these years, a fact which compelled Mr. Gomoiu to accuse the SL of a lack of commitment, there were another 9 or 10 papers submitted. Of these, 3 or 4 had been sent by Mr. Bănăduc from among those presented in 2007 at the International Conference for Aquatic Biodiversity in Sibiu. These had stopped at Bacău in the hands of the editorial secretary of the SL, without my being informed of the matter in my position of editor in chief. It was clear that after the death of our beloved SL president, C. Măzăreanu, communication within SL had become encumbered, and local, and there was no longer any communication to members of the Leading committee outside of University of Bacău. Within this context, the General Assembly of 2008 awaited the election of a new Committee, a new editorial collective and a new editor-in-chief.

The first proposal was Ioan Căraș (Bacău) for the duty of editor, a proposal made anew at the gentleman's offer, Dorel Ureche (Bacău), Mirela Cîmpean (Cluj), Erika Schneider (Germany) ‘for the international relations she possesses’ and Victor Surugiu (Iasi). In so far as the periodical's publication is concerned, it was decided that a study was to be carried out on the matter of keeping a collaboration with the Biological Sciences Department of the Romanian Academy as well as the possibility of publishing the periodical under the SL aegis.

During the talks on this matter, Mr. Godeanu maintained that he was “very upset at those responsible for the

publishing of the periodical, and that they ought to be held accountable” (more of the bafflegab! Mr. Godeanu is forgetting that he was himself a part of the editorial team, as an Assistant Director– Note by Ș.N.) to which Mr. Battes replied elegantly that he will assume responsibility in this case, admitting indirectly that he was the one responsible for detaining the manuscripts for “*Hidrobiologia*” in Bacău.

The proposals for the new SL Leading Committee were made by Mr. Godeanu: Angela Curtean-Bănăduc (Sibiu), Klaus Werner Battes (Bacău), Gabriela Paraschiv (Constanța and Tulcea), Marian Traian Gomoiu (the Romanian Academy), Karina Battes (Cluj), Ilie Telcean (Oradea), Mircea Nicoară (Iași), and Luiza Florea (Galați). To these, Mr. Battes added Dorel Ureche (Bacău) and Nicolae Crăciun (Bucharest). Because the SL General assembly did not meet at this time with a majority required for conducting elections, it was decided that an e-mail was to be sent with the text of the report, proposals for the Leading Committee, with the proposed editorial committee, and with a request that voting be completed within 15 days from the date of delivery.

In the General Assembly, there were other aspects discussed to do with the SL activity, especially organization. I shall enumerate a couple of the proposals made in the room: a special headquarters for the library due to host the large body of books donated by Godeanu; organizing a secretary's office and hiring a secretary and an accountant, both functions being proposed to some full time employees; making a national Index of limnologists; moving the Annual Info Bulletin to the virtual realm by way of placing it on the SL site (thus reducing the costs incurred by printing and distributing it); creating a virtual library, modeled after those already existing abroad, that ought to contain all the works of the SL members; organizing an annual session of the SL in Bacău (in Romanian) and annual international sessions in Sibiu (in English); a leading collective made up of youth.

One last remark: in the 31st of December 2009 report made by K.W. Battes, there is a final paragraph to do with optimizing the SL activities, from which I quote below:

- Collaborating with other *profile societies* (the Ichthyological Society and the Aquaculture Society), NGO's, academic institutions (universities, academies etc).
- Making *work groups* on different domains of activity that include specialists from different institutions and from academic and research backgrounds (both national and international), by employing grants under the aegis of the Society (a utopian proposal as long as the financial source is not specified – *Note by Ș.N.*).
- Publicizing some personalities with a remarkable activity within the domain: for this, the leadership of the SL proposed approval an award with the title of “**honorary member of the SL to PhD. Stefan Negrea** for his entire activity” (this proposal was made in writing by the Leading Committee and taken down in the 31st of December report of that same year).

CONCLUSIONS

On the 31st of December 2008, all the members of the Society of Limnology received by e-mail the “Report concerning the situation of the Society between 2004 and 2008”. This report, signed by K.W. Battes is comprised also of the proposals for founding a new editorial collective for the “*Hidrobiologia – Romanian Journal of Limnology*” periodical as well as the new leading team of the Society – proposals made at the general assembly from the 8th of November 2008. In the following, we shall be referring to these proposals that have otherwise suffered modifications, without saying explicitly who it was and from what position they made changes before the vote. (This is a profoundly undemocratic procedure, a practice most common before 1989). In order to emphasize the incriminating modifications, we shall, at first, write down the list of proposals for the editorial collective as it appeared in the 31st of December 2008 report.

“The Society of Limnology General Assembly proposes the reorganizing of the editorial team to produce the periodical:

- Editor in chief – PhD. Bănăduc Doru “Lucian Blaga” University – Sibiu;
- Assistant Editors - Professor. PhD. Godeanu Stoica and Professor PhD. Traian Gomoiu.
- “In addition, there is a proposal that the editorial collective be comprised of new members [...]: PhD. Cărăus Ioan (Bacău), Professor PhD. Misăilă Costică (Iasi); PhD. Surugiu Victor (Iași); Ph.D. student Cîmpean Mirela (Cluj-Napoca); Ph.D. student Stoica Ionut (Bacău); Professor PhD. Erika Schneider (Karlsruhe, Germany). We therefore hope that under the supervision of a new editorial board, the periodical will be published at the end of 2009”.

Here are the modifications: editor: Doru Bănăduc (which is very good thing) instead of Ioan Cărăus (with a lesser editorial experience); within the editorial collective Costică Misăilă and Stoica Ionut replace Dorel Ureche and Doru Bănăduc (new editor). In addition: Stoica Godeanu and Marian Traian Gomoiu – which is very good. There is however the question of whether the signatories of the report can make or accept any further modification since there has already been a General Assembly. What was its point? Why is this assembly being spoken for?

Let us analyze now, the components of the Leading Council of SL as it appears in the 31st of December 2008 report:

“Seeing as at the General Assembly of the Society of Limnology from the 8th of November 2008 did not have a majority meeting required for elections, we hereby forward for analysis the proposals for the new Leading Council of the Society:

- President: Professor, PhD. Battes Klaus Werner (University of Bacău).

- Vice-presidents: Lecturer, PhD. Curtean-Bănăduc Angela, (“Lucian Blaga” University – Sibiu) and lecturer, PhD. Nicoară Mircea (“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University– Iasi);
- Secretary of the treasury: lecturer, PhD. Ureche Dorel (University of Bacău);
- Editor: PhD. Bănăduc Doru “Lucian Blaga” University – Sibiu);
- Members of the Council: CP I, PhD. Năvodaru Ion. (Tulcea), Reader, PhD. Momeu Laura (Cluj-Napoca), lecturer, PhD. Paraschiv Gabriela (Constanta), PhD. Crăciun Nicolai (Bucharest), lecturer, PhD. Telcean Ilie (Oradea), lecturer, PhD. Petrovici Milca (Timisoara), teaching instructor, PhD. Battes Karina (Cluj-Napoca); teaching instructor, PhD. student Stefan Cecilia (Galati);
- *Members of the Censor* Committee: Professor Ciolac Andrei (Galati); PhD. Olariu Petru (Bacău); Reader, PhD. Pricope Ferdinand (Bacău).”

The modifications made in the report after the proposals of the General Assembly consist of eliminating 2 names (Luiza Florea and Marian Traian Gomoiu) and adding another 6 (Ion Năvodaru, Milca Petrovici, Cecilia Șerban, Andrei Ciolac, Petru Olariu, and Ferdinand Pricope). The changes appear to indicate a preference for young limnologists from among university teaching instructors and lecturers, while the number of the elder, experienced members is reduced and the number of limnologists of national and international repute is modest. It seems inexplicable to us that there were no proposals in the Council for esteemed limnologists from the high profile Institutes of the Academy, the Universities and the National Museum of Natural History “Grigore Antipa”, all of them from Bucharest. This gives the impression that the Society of Limnology is moving from a national organization to a provincial one.

In contrast, the limnologists from the “Lucian Blaga” University in Sibiu, with help from around the country and around the world, managed to organize, in 2007 and 2009, two International Conferences dedicated to aquatic biodiversity. They managed to publish some of the works presented in profile volumes and, as the articles they received were too numerous, they managed to guide others - edited to international standards – towards Romanian and other periodicals. It is possible that Sibiu, for now the headquarters of the editorial board of the “*Hidrobiologia – Romanian Journal of Limnology*” will become the host for the entire SL. We believe that by working to international standards, with humility and without bureaucracy, as it is done in Sibiu, we shall be able to have in Romania that Society of Limnology desired by all. We also believe that the atmosphere of a European Cultural Capital (a title awarded Sibiu in 2007) is precisely what our Society needs to flourish and yield desired fruit. For now, after the failure to organize the SL General Assembly in the last day of the second International Conference in Sibiu dedicated to aquatic biodiversity (October 9-11, 2009), when only the secretary, Dorel Ureche, attended the meeting on behalf of the leading council there is silence. Several members of the SL were present as guests of the conference but not for the SL General Assembly.

On that occasion, two Romanian limnologists, Professor Nicolae Botnariuc, member of the Romanian Academy and Ph.D. Ștefan Negrea were honored in public upon celebrating 95 and 80 years of age, receiving as *momentos*, plaques “for excellence within the field of aquatic biodiversity” on behalf of the “Aquatic Biodiversity International Conference, Sibiu, Romania, 2009”. This moment – a surprise for the honored – opened the conference, and was presided over by the representative of the Romanian Academy, Ph.D. Marian Traian Gomoiu.

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