

## Editorial

This is the last volume of the Geowissenschaftliche Reihe with the old editorial board. The Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. H.-P. Schultze, the Co-Editor, Prof. Dr. D. Stöffler, the Managing Editor, Prof. Dr. Gloria Arratia, and the Assistant Editor, Mrs. Petra Keßling, will leave. A new editorial board to be appointed, will take over. In the mean time, new manuscripts should be sent to Dr. D. Korn, curator for cephalopods, trilobites and the collections of Devonian fossils in the Institut für Paläontologie, Museum für Naturkunde.

In the Preface to the first volume (1998), I gave a short overview of the history of geoscience at the Humboldt University of Berlin. At that time I thought that it would be important to produce a series of contributions dealing with historical aspects of the development of geosciences at the Museum of Naturkunde. It was nice that Prof. G. Hoppe accepted the duty to record the history of geosciences in Berlin from prehistoric times to 1910. For the Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie (since 1994 Institut für Paläontologie), I wrote an account of the interval from 1910 to the present which appears in this volume. Several other historical accounts connected with geosciences at the Humboldt University, were also published as part of this series of contributions in the first seven issues of the journal. The tradition of geosciences at the Humboldt University is now well documented so that we consider that this duty has reached its end point. In the future these accounts can be transferred to journals that deal with historical aspects of geosciences. Thus, the next step will be to dedicate the space to scientific papers concerning different fields of paleontological research.

From the beginning, it was the goal to publish mainly in English and to attract papers from outside authors who had worked or were working on material housed in the museum. It is understandable that papers on the history of geosciences at the Humboldt University have to be written in German; nevertheless, we have also accepted papers on paleontological objects in German because the current instructions for authors permit that. Thus, only the theme volumes (# 2 on the excavations around Tendaguru, Tanzania, and # 5, a Festband for the 65th birthday of the Editor-in-Chief) contain more than 80% of papers in English. Only volume 5 contains more than 50% of external authors (only first authors counted). In the future it will be necessary to attract more outside authors and to increase the number of contributions written in English to gain the interest of the scientific community in the journal. It is disappointing that the publication of the journal by an internationally well-known publisher (Wiley) has no reflection in the distribution of the journal.

The exchange of the journal helps us to maintain a steady influx of journals into the library. In addition, the exchange gives our research work more visibility to the external scientific community.

The journal is now well established. I wish it a bright future in disseminating research carried out on specimens from our huge collections and in attracting reports on research done at other institutions to the department journals.

Hans-Peter Schultze