

## 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis*

Our journal celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence! The task of continuing edition of our journal throughout that time was not simple and periodically it has been impossible due to political reasons. ANE was many times redefining its role and goals, but since its start in 1928 it was always edited in the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology. At present, ANE is in the hands of the fourth generation of its members but also of two other Polish scientific institutions.

For the first half of its existence the journal was named “*Acta Biologiae Experimentalis*” and was one of four publications of the Nencki Institute. Its founder in 1928 and Editor till WWII was Kazimierz Białaszewicz, head of the Department of Physiology of the Institute. ABE has been issued yearly and was publishing “articles of Polish scientists from areas of physiology, physiological chemistry of plants and animals, experimental morphology, ethology (comparative psychology) and related areas” (from the description of the Nencki Institute, 1927). The majority of papers were published in Polish, with French or German abstracts, but some of them were published in English, French or German.

Thirteen volumes containing 277 papers were published before WWII and sold to or exchanged with more than one hundred of scientific institutions from all countries of Europe and also USA, Mexico, Australia, Japan and China. Among these institutions were as famous as the University of California, Berkeley, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Smithsonian Institution, National Academy of Sciences USA, University of Cambridge, Harvard University, Heidelberg University, Scripps Institution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Stazione Zoologica Napoli, Institute Pasteur, University of Sorbonne, University of Pennsylvania or Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories. The printout of the last issue was totally destroyed during WWII, when first during German siege of Warsaw in 1939 the Nencki Institute was bombarded and then the salvaged remnants of its huge library were lost in fire in 1942.

In the area of neurobiology, the pre-war ABE published early papers L. Lubińska and J. Konorski (later distinguished professors of our Institute) on the action of strychnine on neuromuscular preparation, L. Lubińska on the influence of magnesium on nerve excitability, W.Z. Tychowski (University of Lvov) on the electrophysiological and behavioral results of electrical stimulation of the cerebellar cortex and on the effects of transection of splanchnic nerves on hyperglycemia, L. Papierbuch (Nencki Institute) on spatial memory in frogs, H. Jawłowski (Wilno University) on functions of the central nervous system in insect *Lithobium* and O. Krauze (Nencki Institute) on the behavior of earthworms.

For the time of WWII all activities of the Nencki Institute stopped, many of its members were killed or died, while others emigrated. After WWII the Institute was reborn in 1946 and the first volume of ABE (No 14, printed in Amsterdam) was published in 1947. Its first post-war Editor was Włodzimierz Niemierko, head of the Nencki's Department of Biochemistry. Due to severe post-war hardships and progressing isolation of Eastern Europe only three volumes of ABE were issued till 1952. Then the editorial process was stopped for the period of transfer of the Institute from Lodz to Warsaw and also due to political pressures of the Stalinist era. J. Konorski was one of the main goals of attack, as a pupil of I.P. Pavlov who differed with him on several issues and published in the West.

After the political thaw in 1956 the Editor of ABE became Mieczysław Bogucki, a hydrobiologist and ethologist. Starting from the volume 17 of that year ABE appeared regularly. Only papers in “congress languages” were accepted and very quickly English became the only language of the journal. What more, ABE became a fully peer-reviewed quarterly with an international board of Editors that publishes manuscripts submitted by authors from all over the world. This won the journal a much broader readership worldwide and it started to be exchanged again with many libraries and institutions.

In 1962 M. Bogucki died and Jerzy Konorski, an eminent neurophysiologist working at the Nencki since before WWII, was nominated the new Editor of ABE with Stefan Brutkowski as the Managing Editor. When Brutkowski died in accident in 1966 this function has been assigned to Bogusław Żernicki (formally from 1968). Starting from the volume 22 of 1962 ABE became quarterly (previously – yearly) and the new Editors declared that ABE “will publish original papers on physiology and anatomy of the central nervous system, particularly on the physiology of higher nervous activity, animal behaviour and related disciplines.” In spite of that declaration, occasional papers on protozoology might still have been found in subsequent issues.

In 1968 the color of the ABE cover was changed from white to dark brown and in 1970 the name of the journal was changed to *Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis* to align it with its narrower field of publication. In 1973 Jerzy Konorski died and Bogusław Żernicki became the ANE Editor-in-Chief. In the following years ANE flourished, publishing papers of many internationally known neurophysiologists and neuroanatomists, alongside papers of Konorski’s “school” and other Polish neurobiologists (see below). Almost all present professors of the Nencki published their first papers in ANE. Some of our colleagues after emigration from Poland became eminent scientists abroad.

Introduction of Martial Law in 1981 started a very bad decade in Polish science. Political tensions were high, financing low, hardships of everyday life increased, the majority of scientific contacts were cut and influx of young scientists stopped. This resulted in a stale of Polish scientific life and scarcity of scientific papers to be published. ANE started to be in a big trouble.

In 1990 B. Żernicki stepped down as the ANE Editor-in-Chief and its deputy, Andrzej Wróbel was nominated to that post. The printing format and cover of ANE changed. From WWII till 1989 our journal was published by state-owned Polish Scientific Publishers. In 1990 Nencki Institute became the publisher of ANE and in 2002 ownership was split between the Nencki Institute and Polish Neuroscience Society. In 1991, just after the Polish political system finally changed, ANE was close to losing the impact factor and to be written off from the ISI “Neuroscience” list. Andrzej Wróbel did not give up and managed to mobilize distinguished friends of the Nencki Institute who wrote numerous letters to ISI, petitioning for giving ANE a chance. We are deeply indebted to all of them for their help at that time. After two years of striving, ANE was saved. It started appearing regularly and its IF grew.

In 2002 A. Wróbel stepped down as the Editor-in-Chief (remaining one of ANE Editors) and I took that responsibility from him starting from the issue 62/2. In 2003 the color of the cover changed again to green. Our last years were marked with a constant struggle for increasing the quality of manuscripts and print, securing financial support, modernizing the scope of our publication and increasing its volume. Successes in those tasks must be ascribed to our Referees, Board and Editors. On this occasion I would like to offer special thanks for their long, diligent and largely unaccounted work to Jennifer Cook, our English Language Editor and Małgorzata Gałysz, the present Managing Editor of ANE.

At present ANE became a truly international publication, receiving manuscripts from all over the world. It covers all aspects of neuroscience: from molecular and cellular neurobiology of the nervous system, through electrophysiology, brain imaging, functional and comparative neuroanatomy, development and evolution of the nervous system, ethology, behavior and neuropsychology and also brain aging, pathology, neuroinformatics and modeling. It publishes also abstracts of important neuroscience conferences, like European Brain and Behaviour Society (EBBS) or Polish Neuroscience Society (PTBUN) meetings. Chronicle of the Polish Neuroscience Society marks important events in Polish neuroscience and honors our passed friends and colleagues.

ANE is indexed by all major biological and medical bases and its printed version is subscribed by Libraries from over 20 countries. Recently the electronic version is becoming the more important. PDFs of papers pub-

lished in ANE after 2000 are already freely available on-line (<http://www.ane.pl/>) and about 6000 PDFs are being taken from ANE base each month. At present we are in the process of digitalization of back issues, hoping that soon all papers published in ANE since 1970 (about 1900 papers) will be available on-line. We plan future steps to increase ANE impact. In the same time we thank all our Authors and friends for their support, hoping for continuation of those relations in the future.

Kris Turlejski

Eminent foreign scientists that published in Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis

A.J.A. Aguayo, E.A. Asratyan, E. Alleva, D.Z. Alkon, K. Akert, D. Albe-Fessard, P.M.A. Balaban, G. Bignami, M.A. Brazier, J.F. Brennan, F.R. Brush, J. Bures, P. Buser, G. Buzsaki, C.N. Chambers, A. Chaudhuri, I. Divac, R.W. Doty, D. Fessard, D.C. Gajdusek, G. Gerstein, C. Gottesmann, E. Grastyan, A. Gramsberger, J. Hamori, J.B. Hellige, J.H. Kaas, S. Lindström, M. P.L. Marchiafava, N. Miller, M. Mishkin, L. Mitrani, J. Mogensen, A. Morrison, W.J. Nauta, J.L. Olds, C.E. Olmstead, D.S. Olton, T.N. Oniani, J.B. Overmier, G. Pepeu, K.H. Pribram, E. Pöppel, T. Radil-Weiss, A.I. Roitbak, S. Rossignol, H.E. Roswold, G. Santibañez, N.R. Saunders, P.V. Simonov, B.F. Skinner, D.R.S. Snyder, J.M.S. Sprague, E. Stellar, M. Steriade, H.L. Teuber, H. Ursin, J.P. Villablanca, L.L. Voronin, G. Vrbova, W.J. Wilson, H.M. Wiśniewski.

Eminent Polish neuroscientists that published in ANE

Z. Afelt, S. Brutkowski, W. Budohoska, H. Chorążyna, J. Dąbrowska, J. Dobrzański, J. Dobrzańska, C. Dobrzecka, B. Dreher, T. Górską, B. Harutiunian-Kozak, E. Jankowska, W.A. Karczewski, A. Kosmal, W. Kozak, J. Kreiner, A. Markowska, W. Ławicka, I. Łukaszewska, O. Narkiewicz, S. Niemierko, B. Oderfeld-Nowak, G. Rajkowska, A. Romaniuk, B. Sadowski, R.L.S. Solomon, S. Sołtysik, J. Stępień, L. Stępień, R. Tarnecki, A. Trzebski, W. Wyrwicka, A.W. Zbrożyna, B. Żernicki.

We refrained from listing Polish authors that are still active in Poland.