

EDITORIAL

As newly appointed editor-in-chief of *Photo Interprétation/European Journal of Applied Remote Sensing*, I would like to give a few historical hints and some information about the expected development of the journal.

When it was founded in 1962 by photogeologists, the journal was entirely devoted to the illustration of interpreted aerial photographs in different disciplines. An international audience was expected : consequently, three languages were accepted for publication : English, French and Spanish, and for each paper extended summaries were given in the 2 languages not chosen for the main text.

This new and original journal was well received, although some critics were also formulated. For example, the geographer André Meynier recognized the good presentation of the journal and the quality of printed photographs, but regretted the high price of the journal (an annual amount of 100 French francs for about 50 interpreted photographs) and wrote « The most serious criticism comes due to the fact that for each photograph a single interpretation key is chosen : geobotany for the first, tectonics for the second, economy for the third, cadastral pattern for the fourth. The geographer cannot be satisfied with such selection ». The possible use of aerial photographs for a holistic approach of earth ecosystems has been proposed by Carl Troll as soon as 1939, laying the foundations of landscape ecology (cf. Clos-Arceuduc, 1967). But in 1974 Georges Bertrand could still write : « Nothing is more familiar to the geographer as the dynamics of Earth landscapes spatial patterns. Nothing is more ignored in geographical methods as the global analysis of these landscapes » (cited in G. & G. Bertrand, 2002). However aerial photography, relieved by remote sensing imagery, became progressively the necessary and unrivalled tools for environmental monitoring at multiple scales, from local to continental or global, and can be considered as the « microscope » suggested by de Rosnay (1975) for a global vision. Beyond academical research, the implementation of applied interdisciplinary research is still required to solve practical problems of Earth resources management and landscape or urban planning, and this is one of the reasons justifying the permanence of an applied journal like *Photo Interprétation*.

Certainly remote sensing techniques have considerably evolved since half a century. The launch of the first earth-observing experimenting satellite ERTS-1 (known later as Landsat-1) in 1972 has been followed by many other successful launches and the increasing use of satellite imagery led to the use of « remote sensing » to qualify the science and art of obtaining information about an object, area, or phenomenon through the analysis of data acquired by a device that is not in contact with the object, area, or phenomenon under investigation. Facing the rapid evolution of data acquisition, *Photo Interprétation* journal was subjected to important changes in the 80's (Debaine, 1989), and the subtitle « Images aériennes et spatiales » has been added. Satellite images have been more and more used (cf. statistics and tables published by Leterrier, 1989). The journal published

also special issues, focused either on a satellite (i.e. SPOT-1, 1987) or on a specific topic (i.e. remote sensing in geology, 2007 or aerial and spatial archeology, 2010).

The future of *Photo Interprétation* journal registers in continuity with previous editors-in-chief efforts, taking into account the continuous decline of French scientific publications. Consequently the journal accepts papers in English (research papers with extended summary in French) and the name has been changed to *Photo Interprétation/ European Journal of Applied Remote Sensing*. However our purpose is to support a notable proportion of papers in French. The French speaking community of remote sensing scientists relies several thousands of members in the world, and our challenge is to demonstrate that, through strict selection of peer-reviewed papers, it is possible to publish in French and get international visibility and satisfactory citation index. This should be achieved through indexation of the journal in SCOPUS (Elsevier), the largest international bibliographical database ; a request has been formulated and indexation should be effective in 2016. To increase the audience of published papers, it is planned to move some archived issues (cf. <http://eska-publishing.com/>) to open access database HAL <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/> ; only recent papers will remain accessible through paid access or subscription to the journal.

The journal will publish research papers (about 10 pages), scientific or technical notes (4 to 8 pages), book reviews, Ph. D. thesis abstracts, congress announcements and any other actual information useful for the remote sensing scientific community. State of the art papers either methodological or bibliographical will be welcome, as well as papers reporting the use of remote sensing in earth's resources management and land use planning.

It is planned to publish special issues, either following a congress or workshop, or focused on a special topic. Call for papers will be issued in 2016, after identifying a small number of highest priority challenge topics in applied remote sensing.

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