

Foreword

The idea to establish a new journal dealing with a wide range of issues in the field of the history and philosophy of science with specific (but not exclusive!) focus of attention on the history of science of the Baltic States and all the Baltic Rim countries emerged during the compilation of the special issue of the *Baltic Journal of European Studies (BJES)*, dedicated to the 24th International Baltic Conference on the History of Science. The conference was held in October 2010 at the Tallinn University of Technology and the selection of the articles written on the basis of the conference presentations was published, after additional peer review, in June 2011 as a special issue of the already existing academic journal (*BJES*, vol. 1, no. 1[9]). Interestingly, this particular journal issue with its different focus attracted heightened attention of both the conference participants as well as these researchers who did not attend the conference and thus could not publish in this issue of special selection.

At the beginning of 2012 the board of the Estonian Association for the History and Philosophy of Science came out with an initiative to establish a new journal named *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum*. This idea was welcomed by the Latvian and Lithuanian associations and the academic organisations of other countries working in the field of the history and philosophy of science. Thus this special issue of the *Baltic Journal of European Studies* could be regarded as a predecessor to *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum*. For this reason, and this reason alone, the first issue of *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* is publishing a longer review of its forerunner by Mall Kulasalu (see current issue pages 122–128).

Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum sees its mission in offering publishing opportunities for both Baltic and non-Baltic scholars working in the field of the history and philosophy of science. Over the years much has been done in the study of the Baltic history of science by Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian researchers. However, a vast majority of the books and articles on those issues have been published either in their respective national languages or in Russian. Therefore, the new journal intends to create an international forum for scholars of this area, and give them an opportunity to present the results of their studies to the international audience. At the same time the journal is open to contributions from scholars of other countries to promote the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and experience of scientific investigations worldwide. Some of the areas under the specific scope of *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* (namely, philosophy of science) are international by their very nature already.

The journal tries to promote international cooperation between the scholars of different countries working in the field of the history and philosophy of science in every possible way. In any case, the rich legacy of the research in the fields of the

history and philosophy of science deserves to be better known in the Anglophone world.

The editors of *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* believe that the new journal will give an additional incentive to the enhancement of the quality and geographic reach of the traditional Baltic conferences on the history of science by offering a high-quality forum for the best outcome of these meetings. Thus, already the second issue of the new journal will feature the selected papers presented at the 25th International Baltic Conference on the History of Science, held in October 2012 in Vilnius.

The journal *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* primarily intends to publish high-quality articles corresponding to the requirements of a research paper on various aspects of the history of natural science and social science. To ensure the quality of contributions, the journal's Editorial Office follows unconditional and strict international peer-review process, which applies also to invited authors. Whichever the case, the Editorial Board will be consulted with in regard of all such decisions.

The main four contributions to the first issue of our journal form a typical section of contributions we continuously will be expecting from our authors. Both of our main fields, the history and the philosophy of science, are represented. Most importantly, however, the topics analysed do introduce important new approaches to both fields.

The journal also publishes selected short communications, such as short historical overviews, historical accounts of the activities of scientific institutions, conference proceedings, book reviews and others. The current issue contains some examples of the types of short communications expected by the editors of *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum*. However, the final word remains with the Editorial Office and short communications may be subjected to peer review if the editors find it necessary.

We truly hope that in addition to scholars from the Baltic States, our colleagues from the Nordic countries (especially Finland), Germany, Poland and Russia will find the new journal a serious and reliable cooperation partner. As far as the philosophy and methodology of science and science studies are concerned, we set no limits whatsoever expecting high-level contributions from all over the world.

Last but not least, it is our privilege to thank the many outstanding colleagues who have shown enthusiasm concerning the launch of the new journal and especially the people who have agreed to act as Editorial Board members. We would also like to express our gratitude to the contributors of the first issue for their courage to publish in a journal yet unknown in the scientific community.

*On behalf of the Editorial Office,
Peeter Mürsepp and Mait Talts*