

70 Years of the Journal Wood Industry

Dear readers, contributors and friends of the journal *Wood Industry (Drvena industrija)*!

The journal *Wood Industry* has been a witness to the relentless flow of time. This year, we mark the 70th anniversary of continuous publishing of the journal. Knowing how much work, time and financial resources are required to release each journal issue in paper form or online, the 70th anniversary of the journal is the opportunity to acknowledge all those who have invested for years their knowledge, effort, devotion and financial resources and kept the continuity of the journal even at times when it seemed impossible.

Wood Industry is an internationally recognized scientific journal that has been published without interruption under the same name since 1950. It is now the occasion to make a brief historical review, focusing on the description of the journal development over the last 20 years, since Prof. Hrvoje Turkulin, then Editor-in-Chief of the journal, wrote a comprehensive journal chronology on the occasion of the journal 50th anniversary.

Historical review

In recent history, the journal had several important years. One of them was 1990 when the Department of Wood Technology of the Faculty of Forestry took over the journal publishing from the Technical Center for Wood. This was the year when the seventeen-year period when the journal was led by Prof. Stanislav Bađun, a renowned scientist, professor and expert, fully committed to the journal and woodworking technology, came to an end. Prof. Marijan Brežnjak led the journal from 1990 to 1991, after that the role of the Editor-in-Chief was taken over by Prof. Božidar Petrić. The beginning of the journal publishing at the Faculty of Forestry and the years of the Croatian War of Independence were a difficult period for the survival of the journal. We have witnessed the creation of the Republic of Croatia and the victorious end of the War of Independence. The journal also won and survived. The year 1995 was also important as the journal got a completely new design of the cover and technical editing of texts. The cover of each journal issue showed a specific wood species, and this issue contained an article on the basic characteristics and use of that wood species. Prof. Hrvoje Turkulin took over the role of the Editor-in-Chief in 1997. In the years to come, the quality of the journal was substantially improved, the Editorial Board was expanded to include foreign renowned scientists, bibliographic data were published bilingually, the number of papers of foreign authors was increased and the international recognition of the journal was achieved mainly due to the outstanding scientific work of Prof. Hrvoje Turkulin. A new crisis period for the journal started in 2002 due to the lack of financial resources, publishing delays and extremely low number of papers. During 2003, the Editorial Council of the journal, led by Prof. Ivica Grbac, made a turn in the policy of the journal and suggested that the members of the Editorial Board should be younger scientists of the Department of Wood Technology. Assist. Prof. Ružica Beljo Lučić was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief and Stjepan Pervan, Ph.D. as the Technical Editor. In May 2003, the following scientists of the Department of Wood Technology were appointed as members of the new Editorial Board: Mladen Brezović, Denis Jelačić, Vlatka Jirouš-Rajković, Darko Motik, Stjepan Pervan, Silvana Prekrat, Stjepan Risović, Tomislav Sinković, Ksenija Šegotić and Jelena Trajković. The foreign members of the Editorial Board were nominated in 2004 and 2005, partly from the previous composition and partly new renowned foreign scientists were appointed as members of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board faced a great challenge of keeping the continuity of the journal.

The Chairman of the Editorial Council, thanks to good relationship with businessmen from the Wood Technology and Forestry sector, found solutions to provide financial stability of the journal. At the very beginning of its activity, the new Editorial Board was equipped with all the necessary IT equipment and, having no financial problems, it could be dedicated to the consolidation and development of the journal. The lack of papers was still a major obstacle for providing regular publishing of the journal. The Editor-in-Chief and members of the Editorial Board encouraged the scientists from the Department of Wood Technology to write and publish scientific papers in the journal, and thanks to international scientific cooperation and personal acquaintances, they succeeded to provide high-quality papers of foreign authors. It should be stressed that scientists from Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and other countries, with whom good international cooperation has been developed, have contributed significantly to the stabilization of the journal, both as authors and reviewers.

Thanks to the excellent cooperation with the Technical Editor, Stjepan Pervan, and Assistant Technical Editor, Zlatko Bihar, as well as members of the Editorial Board, the Editor-in-Chief has consistently worked to establish regular publishing of the journal as the first and most important precondition for being listed in the relevant journal databases, and for getting financial support from the competent ministry.

Already in 2006, the Publishing Committee of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports rated the journal as excellent and classified it among 10 % of the best journals in the field of Biotechnical Sciences. When the portal of the Croatian scientific journals, called Hrčak, was launched in 2006, the journal *Wood Industry* was immediately listed providing open access to all published articles since 2005. In 2009, the online edition of the journal was also registered with the reference No. ISSN 1847-1153.

When regular publishing of the journal was fully provided during 2007, requests for listing the journal were sent to several relevant world databases. Due to professional advancement criteria, our scientists considered that the most important was the requirement for listing the journal into the *Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Exp)* database, at that time owned by Thomson Reuters. In the same year 2007, it was confirmed that the journal content was entered into *EBSCO Publishing* database, and the entry into the databases of *DOAJ*, *EMBIology*, *Geobase*, *Paperchem* and *Scopus* was confirmed in 2008. The editors of Thomson Reuters monitored the journal for two years, during which we were extremely concerned about timely publishing of the journal and the quality of the review process. We were also in constant correspondence with Thomson Reuters, assuring them of the quality and importance of the journal *Wood Industry* for wood technology science and wood sector in Croatia, but also on a broader scale. Our associates from many European countries have sent letters of recommendation for the inclusion of the journal into the database.

Finally, in 2010 the Editorial Board of the journal and the scientists of the Department of Wood Technology received a wonderful news – the journal *Wood Industry* was listed into the database of *Science Citation Index Expanded Materials Science Citation Index* that made part of the *Web of Science* database! All papers published in the journal since 2008 were listed in the database and the journal already appeared in the list of the *Journal Citation Report* for 2010 in the category *Materials science, paper & woods* with the impact factor 0.146. It was a significant turning point for the scientific journal *Wood Industry*. Since then, the number of papers received has grown rapidly, and the

journal has become interesting not only for Croatian, but also for European and world scientists. The number of published papers has been increasing, and what was extremely important, the financial support from the Ministry competent for science and higher education has also grown. From the initial slightly more than 7,000 kuna in 2003, the support of the competent Ministry has reached the amount of 146,738 kuna in 2018.

Prof. I. Grbac has implemented the publishing policy and provided financial stability to the journal until the end of 2015, when Prof. Vladimir Jambreković became the Chairman of the Editorial Council of the journal. In the same year, the members of the current Editorial Board were appointed and foreign members of the Editorial Board were appointed in October 2016.

Prof. Vladimir Jambreković was the Chairman of the Editorial Council until September 2018, when the role of the Chairman was again taken over by Prof. Ivica Grbac. In October 2018, Assoc. Prof. Zoran Vlaović took over the role of the Technical Editor after Prof. Stjepan Pervan. As, due to the large number of papers for publishing, editorial work has become very demanding, Assist. Prof. Josip Miklečić was appointed as Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief.

The journal survived thanks to the work and effort of the Editorial Board and all scientists of the Department of Wood Technology, but also due to the financial support and donations received during the last twenty years from the Faculty of Forestry and scientists of the Department of Wood Technology, the ministry responsible for science and high education, Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers, the company Hrvatske šume d.o.o. (Croatian Forests Ltd.), Croatian Forestry Society, the company Exportdrvo d.d., the County of Zagreb and companies from the wood sector such as: Tvin d.d., Spin Valis d.d., Hrast Strizivojna d.o.o., PPS Galeković – Tvornica parketa, Belišće d.d., Finvestcorp d.o.o., Bernarda d.o.o. and Drvodjelac d.o.o.

In the last 20 years, the Editorial Board collaborated with several printing companies, depending on the choice of public procurement, but it was mostly the printing company Denona d.d., whose employees, and especially Mrs. Ljiljana Zlatić, greatly contributed to the quality of the journal due to the high level of expertise in the preparation and printing of the journal.

The journal in the last 20 years in numbers

In the period from 1999 to 2018, 40 issues of the journal were published with a total of 5,640 pages, i.e. 282 pages per issue on average. The average number of pages in an issue in the period from 1998 to 2010 was 230, which is significantly less than in the period from 2011 to 2018, when the number was approximately 360 published pages. In the last 20 years, 493 scientific and professional papers have been published, i.e. about 6 papers per issue on average. In the same period, a total of 324 professional contributions were published, with an average of four contributions per issue. The tendency of the number of published contributions has fallen since 1999 to date. On the other hand, the number of scientific and professional papers published per journal issue has risen continuously since 1999, from 3 to 4 in 2008, followed by 5 to 7 papers in the period from 2008 to 2011, 8 to 9 in the period from 2011 to 2014, and since then 9 to 11 papers. Despite the increased number of received papers, the Editorial Board decided not to increase the number of published articles but rather to keep the criteria of high quality. Out of 493 papers published in the last 20 years, 304 were original scientific papers, 56 were review papers, 75 were previous announcements and 58 professional papers. Considering authors' country of origin, most published papers, 311, were of foreign authors, 55 papers were the result of collaboration between foreign and Croatian authors, and 127 papers were written by Croatian authors. There was a total of 1483 authors (some of the authors repeatedly), of which 982 were foreign authors from more than 40 countries. The papers of the authors coming from the following countries were published in the journal: Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Chile, Egypt, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Canada, Kenya, China, South Correa, Kosovo, Costa Rica,

Lithuania, Hungary, Macedonia, Nigeria, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, USA, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine.

In the period up to 2009, the papers of Croatian authors prevailed in the journal, but after listing the journal in *SCI-Exp* and *Scopus*, the papers of foreign authors were published more frequently. Since 2014, Turkish scientists have become particularly active, so their papers prevailed in many journal issues, while the number of papers of Croatian authors has been decreasing from year to year.

The journal today

For many years, the journal was released five to seven times a year in 2000 copies, and since the Faculty of Forestry became the publisher, the journal has been released quarterly in 700 copies. Today, the journal papers are mostly published in English and very rarely in Croatian. However, the editorial staff never ceased to cultivate professional terminology in Croatian, so the titles, summaries, keywords, picture and table captions in all papers are still translated and published in the Croatian language. The excellent cooperation with the Croatian language editor, Zlata Babić, prof., and the English language editor, Maja Zajsek-Vrhovac, prof., contributed to achieving high quality texts and continuously improving the professional terminology in the field of wood technology.

The journal is currently indexed in the *Web of Science Core Collection databases (SCI-Exp)*, *Scopus*, *CAB Abstracts*, *Compendium*, *Environment Index*, *Veterinary Science Database*, *Geobase*, *DOAJ*. The impact factor has grown year after year with small variations, and the highest journal impact factor - 0.712 (Q3) was recorded on the list of the *Journal Citation Report* in 2016, while that of *SCImago Journal Rank* was 0.352 (Q2).

The journal *Wood Industry* was the main and relevant witness to the development of wood processing technology in the Republic of Croatia and beyond. Today, the journal is the witness of inexhaustible ideas of scientists and it sets boundaries of wood knowledge as a material with unlimited application possibilities. It provides opportunities for the development of new technologies and builds bridges to other areas of science by creating new knowledge, new values and new areas of wood application with special emphasis on its ecological viability. In the past, the main role of the journal was to link theory and practice, while today, the goal is to link research and innovation!

I would like to thank all the readers, contributors, authors and especially our diligent reviewers for the trust and support they continuously provide to the Editorial Board of the journal *Wood Industry* and thus enable the continuation of the development of one of the oldest scientific journals in the field of wood technology in this area.

Today, "we have achieved the goal set long ago: that Croatian scientists do not have to publish their papers in prestigious foreign journals but have the possibility to publish them in a prestigious Croatian journal that is read and demanded abroad". This was the goal set on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the journal *Wood Industry* by Prof. Turkulin. I hope the Croatian scientists will use this achievement abundantly and present the results of their research to the world science and profession in the journal *Wood Industry*.

And at the end of this Editorial, I especially want to thank Prof. Ivica Grbac, the Chairman of the Editorial Council and Prof. Stjepan Pervan, the longtime Technical Editor, as well as the Administrative Assistant of the journal, Mrs. Dubravka Cvetan, for a successful and extremely professional cooperation during many years of joint work, during which we implemented the recommendation of the first Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Dr. Stjepan Frančišković, who said "that in constructive work, obstacles and victims must not discourage us, but rather be the incentive for more persistent action".

Prof. Ružica Beljo Lučić
Editor-in-Chief