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Foreword

Yola Verhasselt

- 1 It is now a tradition for the Belgian National Committee of Geography to present a survey of Belgian geography every four years on the occasion of the Congress of the International Geographical Union. As such at the International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Paris in 1984 the book 'Geography in Belgium' (edited by J. Denis) was presented. In 1988 on the occasion of the IGC in Sydney 'Belgian Geographical Reviews' was published. It is composed of special issues of the three Belgian Geographical journals: *BEVAS/SOBEG* (1988/1) with 'Belgian physical geographers at home and in the world between 1950 and 1985' (edited by G. De Moor); *Revue Belge de Géographie* (1988/1-2) with 'Human Geography in Belgium: an epistemological survey with an extensive bibliography'; and *Bulletin de la Société Géographique de Liège* (1988, n°24) with 'Belgium, a geographical introduction to its regional diversity and its human richness' (edited by Ch. Christians and L. Daels). In 1996 at the IGC in The Hague the book 'Geographical Research in Belgium' (edited by J. Denis) was presented.
- 2 This year, in 2000, we have the privilege to present to the international geographical community the first issue of a new Belgian journal on geography, called BELGEO. It results from the merger of two previous Belgian geographical journals, the 'Tijdschrift van de Belgische Vereniging voor Aardrijkskundige Studies (BEVAS) - Bulletin de la Société Belge d'Etudes Géographiques (SOBEG)' and the 'Revue Belge de Géographie'.
- 3 This first issue has been prepared especially for this Congress. Therefore it is written entirely in English. This special issue is not a systematic bibliographical review of the Belgian geography. The papers are editorial or state-of-the-art or epistemological contributions. Topics are related to the main geographical research activities in Belgium and cover various subdisciplines of geography.
- 4 It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Belgian National Committee of Geography, I thank most sincerely all the contributors to this special issue, and particularly the two editors responsible for the new Journal, C. Kesteloot and C. Vandermotten.

AUTHOR

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