

FIFTY YEARS AGO ...

In 1942, only one issue of the *International Hydrographic Review* was published, in August. An article, by Commander Henri BENCKER (IHB) reported on the work carried out in order to achieve a standardization in maritime geographical terminology and presented a first list of terms concerning the ocean and the emerged land. Some extracts of the reported chronology are given below:

"Following the 7th International Geographical Congress convened in Berlin in 1899, the Wiesbaden Commission, presided over by the Prince of Monaco, adopted for the nomenclature in oceanography of the sub-oceanic forms, the terms and definitions chosen by Dr. SUPAN in his bathymetric chart (v. Petermanns Mitteilungen 1899 and 1903 "Terminologie der wichtigsten unterseeischen Bodenforme"). This choice was ratified by the 8th International Geographical Congress at Washington in 1904. (German terms due to Dr. SUPAN; English terms to Dr. Hugh Robert MILL; translated by Professor THOULET and reproduced in Bulletin No. 21 of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 25 December 1904).

In 1910, the French Committee established the French terminology to be employed on the 2nd edition (1912) of the "Carte Générale Bathymétrique des Océans" (ref. Publication du Cabinet Scientifique de S.A.S. le Prince de Monaco, fasc. II, Paris, 1912). In the same year, Professor RAMOS DA COSTA, in his "Noções Geraes de Oceanographia" supplied the equivalent Portuguese terms. Receiving the proposals of Dr. Dantin CERECEDA in his "Nomenclatura Española de las formas del modelado submarino", Dr. Rafael de BUEN Y LOZANO gave, in 1923 in his pamphlet "Modelado Submarino" the equivalent terms in Spanish reproduced from his "Tratado de Oceanografía", Madrid, 1924.

The Italian terms for the sub-oceanic nomenclature, based on those which were given in the *Annali Idrografici* Vol. IV (1903-04) have been submitted to the various Conferences and, in particular, to the Congress of Genoa in 1924 by Professor G. RICCHIERI, according to his work on the "Terminologia Geografica Italiana dei fondi oceanici" (*Riv. Geogr. Ital.* 1906 and 1908 and the *Rivista Marittima* 1924) and adopted the same year by the Italian Committee at Milan, presided over by Captain Luigi TONTA, subsequently Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau (*Rivista Marittima*, January 1926).

In 1925, the 11th International Geographical Congress at Cairo invited the various nations to reply favorably to the invitation of the International Hydrographic Bureau for the Maritime Geographical Nomenclature, adopted in the various languages, which should correspond as nearly as possible to a common series of clearly defined primary and secondary forms. The results of his investigation by the International Hydrographic Bureau were analysed in an article by Rear Admiral A.P. NIBLACK, Director of this Bureau, published in the "Hydrographic Review", Vol. V, No. 2, Monaco, November 1928, p. 9, with various observations and comments. This served as a basis in the preparation of the table of designations published in January 1932 by this Bureau as No. 22 C of its Special Publications (with corrections in March 1938 and February 1939) furnishing a complete list of the terms adopted for the designation of the submarine relief by 30 Maritime States.

In September 1936, the assembly of the International Association of Physical Oceanography at Edinburg took up this question of the Nomenclature and appointed a Committee of Experts on Oceanography and Hydrography to study the Criteria and the Denomination of the Majors Divisions of the Ocean Bottom. This Committee submitted a Report in 1940 which was the subject of Scientific Publication No. 8 of the Association of Physical Oceanography and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, University of Liverpool, 1940. This Report was submitted to the Assembly at Washington, in September 1940*.