

NEW BOOKS

Vladimír Bakoš. *Question of the Nation in Slovak Thought.* Bratislava: Vydavateľstvo SAV 1999, 191 p. (in English).

The subject of the book is the process of differentiation in the national-political thought in modern Slovakia. Against the intellectual and sociocultural background of that period it examines various conceptions of nation and forms of nationalism. It focuses on several key issues, such as the conflict between conservative and progressive nationalists, T. G. Masaryk's idea of the status of the Slovak nation, various conceptions of Czechoslovak unity, Christian nationalism as the ideology of the so called Slovak state during World War II, as well as the fundamentally different conceptions of nation, characteristic of the period between the two world wars. The author's main interest is in the various and often conflicting ideas of the status of Slovak nation, which are examined in the context of national emancipation and ongoing modernization. He argues, that the intellectual differentiation, divergent cultural streams and orientations, and even the deep polarization of contemporary Slovak society have been predetermined by its past developments, which therefore deserve scientific as well as public attention.

Ján Šulavík. *Metafilozofické implikácie psychoterapie* (Metaphilosophical Implications of Psychotherapy). Second edition. Bratislava: Album, 2001, 203 pp. (in Slovak).

From its beginning psychotherapy was inspired by and developed many impulses available in philosophy in its more than 2000 years of development. Academic philosophy ignored the development of psychotherapy in general and did not seriously examine its achievements. The psychotherapists responded in two ways: Some of them did not take philosophy and its practices as an academic discipline, but rather as a "diagnosis", and were ready to accept philosophers as their patients. Others did their philosophical "work" in psychotherapy on their own, but their attempts to make the philosophical community perceptive to the problems of mental health were in vain. The first explicit philosophical reflections on psychotherapy appeared as late as in the 1980s along with the philosophical counselling of philosophical practice. The author tries to examine the inner relationships between philosophy and psychotherapy in a more detailed manner, pointing at the same time to the therapeutic potential of philosophy. According to the author, a "psychology of philosophy" is implicit in psychotherapy. In his view, the contemporary achievements in psychotherapy call for a change in our understanding of philosophy.

Miroslav Marcelli. *Príklad Barthes.* (Barthes: An Example). Bratislava: Kalligram 2001, 317 p. (in Slovak).

In the Slovak intellectual milieu the book fills a gap in the knowledge of French structuralism by presenting the life and work of one of its most remarkable representatives. In his Preface the author says, that his book is to be seen as an attempt at a dialogue with the French philosopher, which should enable us to go even beyond the limits of his philosophy and his last contributions in this field.

The first part of the book turns about the concept of amplification, which, approached in its rhetoric, semantic and aesthetic contexts, should serve as a means to encompass all the activities Barthes' was devoted to in various phases of his intellectual development. It points to the invariant traits present in Barthes' thought and work. Moreover, amplification should make it possible to shed light on that type of interpretation, which is based on inflexion. The second part of the book shows the amplification "at work"—Barthes' passing from History through Systems to Texts, the latter three being the products of it.

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