

NEW BOOKS

Teodor Münz. *Listy filozofom.* (Letters to Philosophers). Bratislava: Kalligram, 2002, 205 p. (In Slovak).

In his epistolary book the Slovak philosopher tries to pursue an imaginary dialogue with several well-known philosophers from past and present. In his letters to them he tries to come to terms with problems, which, as he says, were a constant challenge for him and which, regardless of his prolific philosophical work, often remained unsolved. Although the philosophers concerned range from Plato to K. R. Popper and the Slovak philosopher and aesthetician Marian Váross, who died in 1988, and the problems approached vary strongly, the core of the book is to be seen in the problem of religion and religious experience. It appears in five of his ten letters (to Voltaire, to L. Feuerbach, to F. Nietzsche—two letters—and to T. de Chardin) as the main subject and is implicit in almost all the remaining ones (to Plato, to A. Schweitzer, to K. R. Popper—two letters—and to M. Váross). Among other problems (the standards of social justice, human moral dilemmas, the human predicament, the nature and status of our knowledge and truth), for T. Münz the following question seems to be the most relevant: How and to what extent can traditional religious belief (as well as its modern interpretations) help us in our search for the meaning of life and to what extent is this belief a presupposition of a truly moral life?

The book as a whole betrays much of the personal involvement and sincerity of the philosopher, for whom philosophy is not a purely academic discipline, but rather a matter of personal experience.

George Kampis, Ladislav Kvasz, Michael Stöltzner (Eds.). *Appraising Lakatos Mathematics, Methodology, and the Man.* Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002, XIV + 382 p. (In English).

Imre Lakatos (1922–1974) was one of the protagonists in shaping the “new philosophy of science”. His main theme of locating rationality within the scientific process appears even more compelling today, after many historical case studies have revealed the cultural and societal elements within scientific practices. The book emerged from two workshops, which were held in Vienna, on 12–14 September 1997, and Budapest, on 30–31 October 1997. Its first section, *In Defence of Scientific Rationality*, includes papers discussing Lakatos’ criticism of Popper, Kuhn and Feyerabend, as well as his Hegelian background. The second section, *Underway to a Philosophy of Contemporary Mathematics*, is devoted to the discussion of topics in contemporary mathematics (topology, mathematical physics), philosophy of mathematics, mathematics education and mathematical heuristics from the Lakatosian point of view. In the third section, *Life and Politics*, Lakatos’ life in Hungary, his relationship to G. Lukács, and his political reawakening are discussed (including shocking facts about his political involvement during and immediately after World War II). The fourth section presents the reconstruction of Lakatos’ lost Hungarian doctoral dissertation and the list of his Hungarian papers published between 1946 and 1956.

Lubica Hábová

HUMAN AFFAIRS

A Postdisciplinary Journal for Humanities & Social Sciences

Mission and Scope Statement

Human Affairs (founded in 1990) is a postdisciplinary and international journal for humanities and social sciences published in English by the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia. It aims to bring together contributions from all traditional and non-traditional fields of humanities and social sciences which relate to crucial contemporary human affairs. The underlying editorial strategy is to advance human self-understanding and communication via publishing innovative theoretical, interpretative, critical and historical contributions transcending traditional disciplinary and cultural frontiers. By publishing original and theoretical articles, empirical studies and their interpretations, reviews and notes of domestic authors, *Human Affairs* serves the mission of fostering multicultural and international conversation concerning the whole range of human and social issues.

Submissions

Manuscripts should be submitted in English or alternatively in Slovak or Czech (for translation into English) in an electronic version on the floppy disc or sent as E-mail attachment to humanaffairs@humanaffairs.sk. Only Microsoft Word 6.0 (or higher) or rich text (rtf) formats will be accepted. Please check for and eliminate all viruses before sending. Authors submitting manuscripts to the journal should not simultaneously submit them to another journal. The manuscript should be in its final form when submitted.

Form of Manuscript

Article manuscripts should not exceed 25 pages, including endnotes and references, that is 6,250 words or 45,000 characters including letters and spaces altogether. Review articles should not exceed 5 pages (1,250 words or 9,000 characters altogether).

Please do not use footnotes. Endnotes with works cited should follow the main text. References to works cited in the text should be used as follows: (Rorty 1979, 25–6). Please arrange all works cited in an alphabetical order at the end of the text as follows: **Rorty, R.** *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979. **Rorty, R.** Hilary Putnam and the Relativist Menace. *Journal of Philosophy* 90, 443–461, 1993. **Rorty, R.** Daniel Dennett on Intrinsicality. In B. Dahlbom (Ed.). *Dennett and His Critics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.

Illustrations, figures, diagrams, tables, photographs and the like should be attached separately following works cited while their incorporation into the text should be clearly indicated.

Page 1 of the submitted manuscript should contain only the title and an abstract of 100-150 words. Page 2 of the submitted manuscript should contain only the basic publishable information of the author, including his/her/their academic degrees, current position and affiliation, address(es) and e-mail address(es), and up to 5 titles of main published works of each author.

The managing editor will acknowledge (possibly via E-mail) the author within 10 days of the receipt of the manuscript submitted. Manuscripts are first screened by the Editors for initial acceptance decision. Those contributions fitting the scope of the journal are further reviewed by at least two independent (possibly international) reviewers. The editors, with advice of the editorial board and other peer reviewers will make final decision about every manuscript submitted and will inform the author within 3 months. Authors will see proofs before publication and are sent 25 offprints plus one copy of the journal on publication. Manuscripts are not returned.

**Call for Papers
for a special issue
on
IMAGE VERSUS TEXT?**

The whole of modern culture has been based on texts which themselves have been taken as images of the world. Now it seems that we have reached the point in which it is difficult to distinguish between reality and its images. The contemporary "culture industry" is so powerful in creating images that are so inviting that we might be exchanging "virtual" reality for "authentic" reality. But can the technology of images supplant textual culture? What is the future of texts and images?

HUMAN AFFAIRS
invites submissions of papers for its next issue
VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1, JUNE 2005

devoted to an exploration of the above topic. Contributions drawing on all fields of the humanities and the social sciences, but also transcending them, are welcome focusing primarily (though not exclusively) on issues such as:

- Self-image and images of the other
- Image and power
- Hyperreality and simulacra
- Body languages
- Visual arts and media
- The visible and invisible
- Television and popular culture
- Film and video culture
- The possibilities of photography
- Cyberspace, internet and virtual reality
- Conceptual thought and imaginative thought

Submission Guidelines

Please follow the guidelines for submissions as stated on the cover or the website of HUMAN AFFAIRS.

Abstracts due: June 15, 2004 (in English, Slovak, Czech)

Manuscripts due: December 15, 2004 (in English, Slovak, Czech)

All information and communications concerning submissions should be addressed to the Editorial Office.

Address of the Editorial Office:

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & BIOLOGICAL COMMUNICATION

Slovak Academy of Sciences, Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, SLOVAKIA

Tel: 00421-2-54 77 56 83, Fax: 00421-2-54 77 34 42, E-mail: humanaffairs@humanaffairs.sk

Website: www.humanaffairs.sk