

To philosophers of Slav countries

A philosophical conference was held between the 27th - 29th of May 1999 in Rzeszow, organized by the Institute of Philosophy of WSP in Rzeszow in association with the Kiev-Mohylan Academy and the Department of Philosophy and Sociology of UMCS in Lublin. Its theme was „European Models of Tolerance”. During the panel talk on the topic of „Slav Nations at the Threshold of the Third Millennium: Together or Separately”, prof. Marat Vernikov (Ukraine) proposed the initiation of activities leading to the creation of the Movement for Philosophers from Slavic Countries. The initiative was upheld by prof. Rudolf Mirski (Ukraine). The suggestion was met with applause from the philosophers gathered from Byelorussia, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Russia and Ukraine. Eventually, during a meeting after the conference, an idea emerged to create a journal for philosophers from Slav countries under the title „ΣΟΦΙΑ”. Professor Andrzej L. Zachariasz was put in charge of the organizational activities leading to the creation of this journal. As a result of these efforts and thanks to a friendly acceptance of this initiative by His Magnificence Rector of WSP in Rzeszow professor Włodzimierz Bonusiak, we can now present you its first issue.

What sort of journal should „ΣΟΦΙΑ” be? To whom and for what purposes should it serve as a journal of the philosophers from Slav countries? We want it to be the first journal that, being at the disposal of thinkers of every Slav country, gives them a chance of publishing outside their own national philosophic circles. A chance at the mutual presentation of their own accomplishments and their Slav national philosophical output as well as a chance at presenting their own philosophical standpoints. In other words, it should be a journal promoting national philosophical groups in the circle of Slav nations' cultures. Thus, „ΣΟΦΙΑ” wants to be a journal of the philosophers from Slav countries and wants to serve their interests and needs.

The editorial board of the journal is therefore open to the acceptance of article submissions that raise the problems of philosophy in the countries of this cultural area and especially to those that present original solutions to philosophical problems. We believe that this exchange of ideas will not only lead to

closer acquaintance, but that it will also be a factor inspiring the formation of new ideas, especially the idea of mutual Slav nations coexistence in the face of the processes of civilizational and cultural globalization.

The first issue of the Journal for Philosophers from Slav countries „ΣΟΦΙΑ” is appearing not only in the first year of a new century, but also of a new millennium. In past centuries, mankind had already entered a path of accelerating the process of development. This development carries with it not only great expectations but also threats. How will the world look, including the civilizational and cultural shape of Slav countries at the end of this, still new today, century and, even more so, at the end of or at the beginning of the next, fourth millennium, we cannot foresee. However, we would like this new millennium, as well as the following one, to be formed with the significant, wise and thoughtful participation of Slav nations. We also hope that this millennium and the following one will not be a time of Slav nations' cultural division or the formation of hostile or opposing civilizations.

Let this century as well as the millennium be a time for mutual enrichment of national cultures, enrichment through mutual inspirations from own and other nations' traditions. It would be a great waste to Slav nations, whose own history and national identity derive from the traditions of common origins, if in the molding of the culture of the future there would be a lack of mutual intellectual inspiration. It so happens, that people act as they think. The ideals are formulated in the realm of ideas and the ideals set the objectives for activities. Again it's philosophy that was a factor in determining the development of European culture. For this reason, the philosophers and philosophy cannot be absent from the shaping of our national cultures. It is in philosophy that the rationalization of the reality, in which we have to exist and create, takes place. Therefore, let us exist in the world wisely and let us create rationally. Let us create a world in which the variety of different systems of values and thoughts serves the mutual enrichment of our nations and the improvement of man.

The Editor