

To our Readers and Authors

Presenting just another issue of the journal the philosophers from Slav countries „ΣΟΦΙΑ” to the Readers, it feels like the right time to give a moment’s consideration to the initiative that we started a couple of years ago. To the way it is being accomplished, as well as to whether it makes sense and whether its continuation is possible. On this occasion it is worth to recall that the journal itself was only part of the realization of the intentions and plans that we had five years ago. At that time, during the final stage of the conference on the topic of European Models of Tolerance that was taking place in Rzeszów on May 27–29, 1999, the representatives assembled from several countries came up not only with the idea of establishing a philosophical journal, but also with the idea of convening an association and even a movement that would unite the philosophers of Slav countries. It should be mentioned that such attempts had been performed in the years that followed; moreover, many of our colleagues have not only joined the newly formed Association of the Philosophers of Slav Countries, but we have also convened a provisional Committee that had to affirm the legal status of the newly formed organization as well as to launch organizational activities and regular work. The foundation of „ΣΟΦΙΑ” had to be one of these tasks. It had to become an official journal of the emerging association that would enable the publication of philosophical texts devoted to the philosophy in the Slav countries or else analytic texts and own theoretical proposals. The inspiration and organization of international conferences on philosophy were also among the tasks of the Association. What has, then, been accomplished of the tasks that had been set by the participants of that meeting, what has not been done, and what should possibly be done in the future?

One might say while reviewing the formulated tasks that the tasks were not excessively inordinate and, as such, they were accomplishable. There is no doubt about it. Even though the attainment of any objective is always determined both by the circumstances and by the participants’ determination for their attainment. It should be stated that, at least so far, we have not experienced any lack of such determination. The journal is a fact; a conference in Odessa and

three conferences in Rzeszów have taken place since the time of the first conference. There also took place a conference in Nałęczów, organized by the University of Lublin. A subsequent conference is to be held in Rzeszów in 2005. Besides that, philosophers from Poland took part in two conferences in Ostrog (Ukraine) and in two conferences in Drohobycz, as well as in Banska Bystrica in the Slovak Republic. This cooperation resulted in several book publications. The Round Table of the Philosophers of Slav Countries has become a traditional or, more properly, an institutional event. Of course, the list of events and results, the participants and the authors of which happen to be philosophers from various Slav countries, is not complete. Things seem to be running their normal course, albeit too slowly and not so intensively. Even though this is the case, everyone has the awareness that this is not the single project that the philosophers who are interested in the initiative in question take part in. For everyone has his own commitments and participates in various enterprises.

The weakest point of the aforementioned activities is undoubtedly the lack of accomplishment insofar as the idea of convening an association linking organizationally the philosophers of Slav countries might be concerned. Special significance to this initiative was given by prof. Marat Wiernikow from Odessa as well as by prof. Rudolf Mirski from Lvov. Even though some organizational attempts in that direction have been made, there emerged certain legal obstacles. This issue requires consideration and, if the initiative gets full support, it requires such formulation of the status of the association that it would enable its registration according to the law of the country of registration, and at the same time would permit full participation in this association for citizens of other countries. Problems of legal character arise when we strive to impose the organizational structure of the association on various countries. An interesting initiative of convening a Slav Institute was presented at the conference in Boguchwała in 2002 by dr Stefan Król (Warsaw). This initiative seems to be equally interesting. This kind of Institute could be affiliated as an institution of the Association or as an Institute in academic structures. However, either of these undertakings requires not only persons who are willing to work but in the first place, material support. Thus, it requires the patronage either of the government or of other organizations that hold respective financial resources and are ready to assign them for that kind of goals. Or it may even require the creation of a foundation. However, the persons who are ready to undertake these tasks do not have that kind of financial resources. Following the guiding principle that there are no unrealizable things in this world, however, I hold the view that this proposal is at least worthy of being given yet further consideration. Though, I would also like to point out that the philosophers of our cultural area are acting much more productively outside of organizational frames rather than within them. The problem can perhaps be more limited to the engagement of

particular persons in that kind of activities and taking on the duty of the initiation and realization of definite projects rather than just appointing and organizing. One more time it may turn out that, in our activities, ideas and culture are more important than organizational forms and civilization. The latter in my opinion cannot be however lost from view.

I therefore ask my Honorable Colleagues Philosophers of Slav Countries to take part in a discussion on the issues indicated here and in a joint discourse on the possibilities of further action. The discourse will itself be a contribution to the realization of the idea which in the cultures of our linguistic area has a much longer tradition than the initiative undertaken here. I therefore invite everyone concerned to take part in the discussion. Your opinions will be published in the subsequent issues of our Journal.

Editor-in-chief „ΣΟΦΙΑ”

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