

For Croatian Philosophical Heritage

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After 38 years in print, the journal *Prilozi za istraživanje hrvatske filozofske baštine*, published by the Institute of Philosophy in Zagreb, continued as of the beginning of 2013 with a new editorial board, fresh editorial organisation and with the support of distinguished advisory editors, according to the programme confirmed by the Scientific Council of the Institute of Philosophy on the occasion of the election of the editor-in-chief.

I take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the journal's former editorial staff headed by: the founder and first editor, Vladimir Filipović (1975–1983) and his successors: Franjo Zenko (1984), Erna Banić-Pajnić (1985–1987), Damir Barbarić (1988–1990) and Ljerka Schiffler (1991–2012). My special thanks are due to Ljerka Schiffler, who selflessly devoted herself to the editing of the journal and enjoyed the longest mandate – as many as 22 years. Owing to the zeal and enthusiasm of the former editors and increasing collaboration, the journal has established itself as an essential resource for scholars of Croatian philosophical heritage in its European context, as a unique journal with such coverage in the world, and as a space of collaboration of all those dedicated to the advancement of the research of Croatian philosophical heritage as a profession.

With regard to the works of Croatian philosophers from Hermannus of Dalmatia in the twelfth century to the present, many a research path has been paved, many an achievement accomplished, and many a study most thoroughly presented – on the pages of this very journal. However, many questions are still open and await future research. We are merely standing at the opening of a new research and editorial chapter, in the new social and political circumstances, with a fresh impetus given by the new staff.

The interim period, final year of the former editorial board and the start of the newly elected one, was marked by three far-sighted decisions:

1. The journal will be published twice a year in electronic and printed form;
2. In addition to Croatian, the journal will publish articles in English, German, French and Italian;
3. The editorial board will include members from abroad, with distinguished international scholars as advisory editors.

I am indebted to all those who participated in the shaping of these decisions as well as to those who have accepted to contribute to the editorial work either as members or consultants. The editorial staff deeply appreciates the experience of the former members and enthusiasm of those newly elected. The journal is honoured to have among its consultants the following international authors: Ugo Baldini, Paul Richard Blum, Robert Halleux, Gerhard Heinzmann, Tomáš Nejeschleba, Efthymios Nicolaidis and Dinko Šokčević, and equally so from Croatia the scholars Stjepan Ćosić, Ivan Kordić, Darko Novaković, Franjo Šanjek, Stanislav Tuksar and *ex officio* Ljerka Schiffler. In so doing, the journal aims to make an important step towards international readership and its establishment on the international scene, primarily in the academic data bases, a continuous and painstaking goal which lies ahead of this editorial staff.

The journal will make no changes in terms of structure, and each volume will feature articles, documents, professional news, essay reviews and reviews.

The original articles published in the journal to date have mainly focused on a single work of a particular Croatian philosopher. Such an approach seems inevitable when examining an unstudied text. The articles are often based on comparative approach, and rarely on the study of the sources and reception of Croatian philosophers. The journal aims to continue with this editorial policy, but will also welcome contributions providing different synthetic surveys of Croatian philosophical heritage – comprehensive, by centuries, by disciplines or by thematic coverage.

In making the selection of submissions over the years, the journal has developed a strong commitment to interdisciplinary topics, and will continue to do so by publishing original contributions from the broad philosophical field and affiliated disciplines: history of science, sociology of science, history of theology, history of education, philology and lexicography.

The journal also welcomes contributions dealing with ‘institutional’ history of the philosophical life in Croatia and among the Croats, with emphasis on universities and journals, but other forms of the philosophers’ gathering through history: from Dominican school in the Renaissance Dubrovnik to the network of Franciscan schools in the Panonian Plain by the end of the eighteenth century, from *Hrvatska straža* to *Praxis*.

The journal will continue to publish sources of the Croatian philosophical heritage: descriptions of recently-found manuscripts, descriptions of rare printed editions, transcriptions of texts, correspondence of philosophical significance, catalogues of special library collections, inventories of archival collections of Croatian philosophers, special bibliographies of Croatian philosophers, bibliographies of philosophical articles in the oldest Croatian journals, bibliographies

of philosophical editions of Croatian publishers, reports on the availability of Croatian philosophers in digital libraries. My aim is to offer a more systematic, ongoing and wider-ranging approach which, with the help of valuable research tools and contributions, will enhance the infrastructure necessary for the study of Croatian philosophical heritage.

Last but certainly not least, since it greatly contributes to its mission, the journal offers a systematic coverage of the scientific production on Croatian philosophical heritage in Croatia and beyond, through essay reviews, reviews and commentaries on books, journals, conferences, exhibitions and other events.

Having this in mind, this editorial is an open call for the authors to continue collaboration or to submit their contributions for the first time, an equal welcome to the experts whose life's work has been dedicated to the meticulous study of manuscripts and rare books, but also to the young researchers making their first bold steps. It is also an invitation to the publishers in Croatia and beyond to provide us with regular review copies of their editions which, in part or on the whole, concern Croatian philosophical heritage.

When Franjo Marković, the first professor of philosophy at the University in Zagreb after its re-establishment in 1874, in his inaugural speech as rector delivered on 19 October 1881, described Croatian philosophers from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century as coming from "the other side of Velebit", that is, from Dalmatia, he concluded this address with a sentence which *mutatis mutandis* may refer to every new generation of the researchers of Croatian philosophical heritage:

"The outlined portraits of our philosophers from the other side of Velebit (read: from Dalmatia) from the past centuries provide us who today re-embark upon the research in the field of philosophy in Croatia with a magnificent task."¹

With the new editorial staff at its wheel, this journal is determined to follow Marković's appeal for the study of philosophy as a 'magnificent task' with just as equal zeal today.

Zagreb, 1 February 2013

¹ *Filosofijske struke pisci hrvatskoga roda s onkraj Velebita u stoljećih XV. do XVIII.: Rektorski govor Dr. Franje Markovića prigodom instalacije dne 19. listopada 1881.* (U Zagrebu: Tisak Lav.[oslava] Hartmana i družbe, 1882), p. 16: »Nam danas, dočim iz nova počimamo filozofijsku radnju hrvatskoga naroda, podaju nacrtani prošlovjekovni naši prekovelebitski filozofijski pisci krasnu zadaću.«

