

Introduction

The present issue of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy is dedicated to the conference Truth, Fiction, and Literature, A Philosophical Perspective with Peter Lamarque and Stein Haugom Olsen held in December 2022 and organized as part of the research project Aesthetic Education through Narrative Art and Its Value for the Humanities, funded by the Croatian scientific foundation (<https://aetna.uniri.hr/>). The conference was honoring the immense impact that Peter Lamarque and Stein Haugom Olsen, in their individual and joint writings, had on literary aesthetics and contemporary philosophy of literature. The conference intended to mark the twenty-eight anniversary of their book Truth, Fiction, and Literature, A Philosophical Perspective; we wanted to celebrate its outstanding and unsurmountable impact on all philosophical theories of fiction, literature, aesthetic cognitivism and other topics in literary aesthetics developed since its publication in 1994. As the conference organizers, we are deeply thankful to Peter Lamarque and Stein Haugom Olsen for their participation at the conference and for delivering immensely inspiring keynote lectures. Our gratitude extends to all the conference participants and the Croatian Journal of Philosophy for dedicating this issue to it.

Since 2024 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of Truth, Fiction, and Literature, A Philosophical Perspective, this issue of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy is yet another way to honor the amazing achievement of Peter Lamarque and Stein Haugom Olsen. In many ways, they set the foundations for the development of the analytic philosophy of literature, enabling us to appreciate why literature is a form of art and providing us with philosophical tools to evaluate it as an art form in its own right. Their collaboration in this book not only established new grounds for how philosophers and literary scholars thought of literature and approached it, but remains, to this day, one of the most fruitful examples of successful interdisciplinary collaboration. The fact that their book has, for thirty years now, been so inspiring to philosophers, literary scholars and literary theorists shows how original and insightful it is. It is certainly not an exaggeration to say that it is one of the most important books ever published in domain of narrative art and it is hard to find a contemporary scholar working on literature who does not engage with ideas developed in this outstanding book. We hope that this issue of Croatian Journal of Philosophy will inspire further interest in these topics. We are grateful to all the authors and reviewers for their contributions.

The papers presented here address some key concerns of the Truth, Fiction and Literature. In the opening paper, Peter Lamarque defends his particular account of literary interpretation, according to which it is a mistake to rely on theories developed by philosophers of language to understand any given work. Instead, he argues, interpretation should be concerned with value, rather than with meaning, it should not focus on individual sentences but on whole works, and it should not be obsessed with authorial intention but should rather focus on the protocols of reading. Antonia Heigl discusses some of the ways in which literary works of art can be cognitively valuable. Her analysis is grounded in her comparative exploration of differences in conceptualization of the literary work of art developed by Roman Ingarden on the one hand, and Lamarque and Olsen on the other. Alex Obrigewitsch in his paper explores the notion of lyricism and offers an interesting approach to lyric poetry, analyzing the relation between lyricism and language of poetry. Elisa Paganini explores how Lamarque and Olsen's notion of appreciation relates to the discussion about the interaction of ethical and aesthetic value in a work of art, and defends the claim that an immoral perspective of a work of art can enhance its aesthetic value. Stelios Virvidakis and Antonia Kosena discuss the cognitive value of those works of literature that are self-referential, i.e. those in which literary writing refers to and reflects on literature itself. Their discussion is placed at the intersection of aesthetic cognitivism and debates related to the relation between literature and philosophy. Nellie Wieland explores a difference between fiction and literature and argues that a norm of literary fiction is to compel the reader to form beliefs about the world as it is. Rafe McGregor and Reece Burns discuss Richard Rorty's notions of writing vs. righting and bring them in connection to Stephen King's views about writing, in order to argue for the value of social science as part of the intellectual activity of writing and the practice of fiction to that intellectual activity. In the final paper, Dorit Barchana-Lorand challenges Lamarque and Olsen's account of literary interpretation and its connection to the society's values, by offering an analysis of the literary censorship which reveals that, in certain instances, a society's nature can be better comprehended by examining the works it seeks to eliminate and denounce.

In addition to these original papers, this issue of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy contains a review by Ema Luna Lalić and Iris Vidmar Jovanović of the recently published Philosophy of Fiction: Imagination and Cognition, edited by Patrik Engisch and Julia Langkau.

IRIS VIDMAR JOVANOVIĆ,
MARIO SLUGAN
and DAVID GRČKI