

RECENSIONES / BOOK REVIEWS / RECENZJE

Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (Volume V, Lublin 2004)

The fifth volume of the *Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* [Powszechna Encyklopedia Filozofii] has been edited in September 2004 by the St. Thomas Aquinas Society in Poland (Section of *Società Internazionale Tommaso d'Aquino*) under the auspices of the Department of Metaphysics at the Catholic University in Lublin. The grand volume of 934 pages contains entries beginning with the letters Iq-J-Ko.

The Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy [UEP] has been out since 2000 in Lublin. It is the first philosophical encyclopaedia in the whole history of Polish academic activity, and the fifth such publication world-wide.

Fr. Mieczysław Albert Maria Krapiec, O.P. has been an initiator and a continuator of this enterprise. He is the president of the Academic Committee of the Encyclopaedia and mainly the author of the most important entries concerning realistic metaphysics. Professor Andrzej Maryniarczyk, S.D.B. is its editor-in-chief.

The entries are scientifically described by the best philosophers from the different philosophical centres in Poland and abroad (Spain, Italy, Germany, France, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia, Estonia). The Encyclopaedia has been dedicated to the Polish Nation and presented solemnly to the still living Pope John Paul II.

The objective of the Encyclopaedia is to present the literary output of philosophical thought from its very beginning to the present time, and thus to provide a foundation for promoting classical culture in its precious parts, science, ethics, art, and religion. The whole Encyclopaedia should, as planned, appear in eight volumes, one volume per year. The first volume (entries A-B) was published in 2000; the second (C-D) in 2001; the third (E-F-Gn) in 2002; the fourth (Go-H-Iq) in 2003.

Besides entries concerning the problems mostly discussed in European countries, e. g. „existence”, „essence”, „language”, „human rights” etc., we find in the fifth volume also biographies of the most influential personalities, such as Descartes, Kant, as well as the most popular and widespread modern philosophical currents, e. g. Cartesianism, Kantianism, and the Vienna Circle. Polish philosophers are presented in the UEP in more than 70 entries. They are both ancient, such as Jan Isner, Jan of Głogów, Jan of Ziębice, M. Kopernik, and modern, such as S. Jaśkowski, T.M. Kotarbiński, J. Kalinowski, S. Kamiński, K. Kłósak and many more.

The reader will probably get for the first time more detailed information about the philosophers living in Balkan countries (e. g. in Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia) and also in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Rumania, as well as interesting but little known literary output from these countries. Many entries concern philosophical anthropology. To them belong for example, „Self”, „Existential Is”. Some entries describe themes very important for the theory of knowing or epistemology, e. g. cognitivism, conceptualism, constructionism, constructivism, conventionalism, contextualism, etc. We find also in the Encyclopaedia some entries concerning much discussed and actual grave problems, e. g. cloning, the death penalty, lying, ethical codex, consumerism.

The Encyclopaedia appears in Lublin, a city where two civilisations, Latin and Byzantine, meet. Because of this fact, the UEP depicts not only the European contours of philosophy (stressing in it Polish literary output), but also exotic forms of the philosophical thought. In the fifth volume of the UEP a reader can acquaint himself, among other things, with Japanese philosophy and with the islamic, both ancient and modern. He can get to know the Hindu, Chinese, Korean, Jewish and Arab philosophers. Because of the vast panorama of themes and problems presented and described in the UEP, we may rightly have a high opinion of it and rank it at the top of Polish and even world-wide philosophical literary output.

All who take an interest in the particularities connected with the UEP may call or write to the editorial staff under the following address:

Redakcja PLF, Katedra Metafizyki KUL,
Al. Racławickie 14; 20-950 LUBLIN;
www.ptta.w.pl; e-mail: tomasak@kul.lublin.pl
tel./fax. (081)445 43 88;

Stanisław ZIEMIAŃSKI

Stanisław KOWALCZYK, *Filozofia pochylona nad człowiekiem*
[*Philosophy Leaning Towards Man*], Lublin 2004, Towarzystwo Naukowe KUL,
ss. 747.

Jubilees induce one to reflect, to look back. It is a good opportunity to make some summaries, one ponders over the achievements of the past. It is also a good moment to express one's appreciation and gratitude. Such an expression of appreciation and a form of gratitude is the book *Philosophy Leaning Towards Man*, dedicated to Rev. Stanisław Kowalczyk, a professor of philosophy on the occasion of forty years of his scientific work at the Catholic University of Lublin and the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

This joint publication, dedicated to Prof. Kowalczyk and edited by Edward Balawajder, Arkadiusz Jabłoński and Jan Szymczyk, comprises numerous studies by his associates, colleagues and students. The whole work is themati-