

sciences. This first facet is, then, associated with a clear-cut ethical approach. The main ethical stance deployed in the volume is a personalistic ethics. It underlines that a human person as a special value must be a starting point and a criterion of discernment of all moral actions. Therefore, the majority of entries draw upon the categories of ethical personalism taken as from philosophy as from the Catholic moral theology. The whole, finally, tends to highlight an importance of the integrally understood human life. Hence, *the Encyclopaedia* aspires to be a clear contribution to building up the culture of life, formulated and so strongly defended by late John Paul II.

The authors of *the Encyclopaedia* are aware that next editions of that must deal with further challenges. It will be essential to broaden the number of entries taking into account new advances in the realm of biomedical sciences. It will also be necessary to invite more philosophers and bioethicists who formally do not belong to the Catholic environment but, nevertheless, share important premises of the personalistic approach and the culture of life. Moreover, it seems that a next edition, preserving a personalistic character, should also move more decisively towards a dialogue with other bioethical positions.

*The Encyclopaedia of Bioethics* is a useful handbook which can help enormously in dealing with almost everyday doubts concerning biomedical issues which are constantly delivered to us by mass media and often occupy the first pages of newspapers. It is a book for everyone who has a great reverence for a person and his/her life.

Grzegorz HOŁUB

**Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, Volume VI, Lublin 2005, 980 pages.**

The sixth volume of the *Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* [Powszechna Encyklopedia Filozofii] was published in 2005 by the St. Thomas Aquinas Society in Poland (a section of *Società Internazionale Tommaso d'Aquino*) attached to the Department of Metaphysics at the Catholic University in Lublin. This impressive edition of 980 pages, subsidized by KBN (the State Committee for Scientific Research), contains entries beginning with the letters Kr-Mc.

The *Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* has appeared in Lublin since 2000. It is the first encyclopaedia of philosophy in the history of Polish academic activity and the fifth such publication world-wide. The initiator and continuator of this pioneering enterprise, Fr. Mieczysław Albert Krąpiec O.P., is the president of the Academic Committee of the Encyclopaedia and the author of the entries on realistic philosophy. The Committee also includes Professor Abelardo Lobato O.P., Professor Andrzej Maryniarczyk SDB, Editor-in-chief, Professor Piotr Jaroszyński, Professor Henryk Kiereś and Professor Zofia J. Zdybicka USJK.

The aim of the Encyclopaedia is to present the achievements of man's philosophical thought from its origins to the present day, the achievements necessary for the complete development of classic culture, that is science, ethics, art or

religion. The entire Encyclopaedia is planned to appear in eight volumes, one volume per year. Each volume contains ca. 500 entries. The entries included in the sixth volume have been written by 381 contributors – experts from nearly every academic centre in Poland. They have been joined by several scholars from abroad, among others Richard Swinburne.

Beside the entries on the problems formulated within the European philosophy, such as the extensively discussed „creationism”, „culture”, „matter”, „Lwow-Warsaw School”, „logos”, „Lublin school of philosophy”, the sixth volume of the Encyclopaedia covers the philosophy of China (5 entries), India (28 entries), Japan (3 entries) and other countries of the Far East (Vietnam, Burma). The Arabian and Jewish philosophies are not presented here in any great detail. 40 entries deal with the philosophers from the neighbouring countries while ca. 50 entries describe some better or less known Polish philosophers. The exceptional place is given here to one of the greatest Polish philosophers, Fr. M. A. Krapiec O.P. Ca. 47 entries, including „liberum arbitrium” discussing the problem of free will, deal with philosophical anthropology. Political philosophy is covered in 40 entries, some of them as up-to-date as „liberalism” and „machiavellianism”. 14 entries present philosophers dealing with aesthetics, 29 discuss the philosophy of religion, 19 – epistemology. Logic alone is covered in 48 entries. Polish logicians are held here in high esteem. The related subjects are epistemology (19 entries) and the theory of cognition (21 entries). Compared to other fields of philosophy, ethics is modestly presented here – as few as 9 entries.

The authors have ensured to include the names of the ancient and medieval philosophers as well as the representatives of modern scholasticism and transcendental philosophy (including some well-known Jesuits) and historians of philosophy.

The Encyclopaedia appears in the city of Lublin, a meeting place of the Latin and Byzantine civilisations. This is reflected in the comprehensive character of the work. Not only does it present European philosophy, but also introduces Western readers to the philosophical thought of the East. The vast scope of all the volumes of the Encyclopaedia guarantees it a leading position among philosophical publications in Poland and in the world.

All questions and comments concerning the Universal Encyclopaedia of Philosophy may be directed to the editorial staff at the following address:

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