

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.

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Stanisław KOWALCZYK, *Filozofia pochylona nad człowiekiem*
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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-

cally organized into three parts. The first part contains texts that raise anthropological issues, the second – social issues, and the third – issues concentrated around the relation between God and religion. This organization perfectly reflects the spectrum of the interests of Prof. Kowalczyk.

As a philosopher, he grew up in the Thomistic tradition. However, he quickly began to look at the solutions of existential Thomism. It was then that he directed his attention to Augustinian philosophy. He also took up numerous socio-political problems. With time, he devoted a great deal of attention to the dialogue with contemporary thought, especially personalistic. At that time, the spectrum of his philosophical interests crystallizes. Kowalczyk is a philosopher who exhibits wide interests and considerable academic achievements. He published thirty six books and autonomous printed matter, more than two hundred academic articles, and he is also the author of nearly one hundred entries in dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Furthermore, he published more than eighty academic articles for the general public and nearly fifty philosophical reviews. He also cooperates with numerous journals, in which his works appear on a regular basis. Kowalczyk is also a supervisor of fourteen doctoral dissertations and one hundred and forty-three master theses.

Philosophy Leaning Towards Man is a collective publication, to which almost fifty authors have contributed; therefore it seems justifiable to introduce only a selection of them. One article from each part of the book, believed to touch upon especially up-to-date and vital issues, will be discussed in more detail. The first one proposed here was written by Tomasz Czernik, a professor of sociology, and is entitled *The Depersonalization of Work*. It presents the change in the attitude in the relation between man and his work. Czernik very accurately indicates the subsequent stages of this process; he writes about the depersonalization and desacralization of the world. As a result of these changes as well as rapid technological progress, a new approach towards the work market and work itself was formed – which, as a consequence, very quickly led to its dehumanization. The author compares these transformations with the social teaching of Church. He shows how consecutive popes in their apostolic documents quickly reacted to the alarming changes. In the social teaching, from Leo XIII to John Paul II, the Church lays particular emphasis on the need for a humanistic understanding of work. It highlights its importance and value for the normal development of man. Dealing with the work issues in our times, we cannot forget about the progressing globalization process and its influence. Czernik in his article deals with this issue and encourages a critical look at the transformations taking place. Reading this article, one can find a lot of valuable advices and pertinent postulates.

The next article to be discussed is entitled *The Axiological Basis of Social Market Economy*, by Stanisław Fel, a professor of sociology. In his work, he discusses the maior ways of the contemporary understanding of the social market economy. By referring to the main concepts of it's creators he wants to show which of these interpretations is closest to the original assumptions. He presents three approaches through which one might understand this issue. The first is the neoliberal spirit. The characteristic feature of this standpoint he argues is the postulate of the free market economy, which will – according to its

supporters – spontaneously and most effectively satisfy the needs of all society members. Representatives of the second standpoint, in contrast, ascribe a great role in the market economy to the state. Desiring to create a welfare state, they create in practice an overprotective welfare state, which results in heavy tax burdens and an almost total monopolization of the social sector through state structures. Supporters of the third standpoint are somewhere between the first and the second, drawing on both. They appreciate the value of the free market economy, at the same time point to the need for thoughtful state interference. Fel concludes that state institutions are supposed to enable and coordinate the activity of individual units, but they cannot replace it. He also discusses the historical development of the very idea of the social market economy, while at the same time indicating its basic values. The article accurately presents the issues under discussion and aptly renders its complexity.

At this point, the article by Jerzy Misiurek, *Protection of the Natural Environment in John Paul II's Teaching* will be presented. The issues concerning environmental protection are presently a very important and popular topic; no wonder then that John Paul II also expressed his opinion about this subject. The author of the article presents the problems connected with concern for environment against a background of papal encyclicals. Uncontrolled and ill-considered exploitation of land resources is above all a betrayal of the Creator's conception, as well as lack of responsibility for future generations. The development of contemporary societies cannot be based on the collection of goods, especially when it means a loss for future generations. Analyzing the current situation, the Pope strongly emphasized the need for education for greater responsibility in using material goods, since mere actions on a short-term basis will not be sufficient. Human concern for the environment is also an ethical task which should not be evaded by anyone, since only joint activities can guarantee success.

The book *Philosophy Leaning Towards Man*, owing to the number of texts written by outstanding authors as well as a rich spectrum of issues touched upon, belongs to significant publications on philosophical market. And thanks to the cross-sectional presentation of the topic under discussion, it constitutes a valuable philosophical resource of information as well as interpretation.

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