

Introduction to the issue

The current issue of *Argument: Biannual Philosophical Journal* contains thirteen articles — either related to the leading subject: *Philosophy of science from the perspective of humanities*, or being an output of the cyclic conference: “Anniversaries. Perspectives on Analytic: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Phenomenology”. The subject area of the conference corresponds with the problems discussed in the issue. Such conferences are intended chiefly as an opportunity for reflection on the timeliness of the twentieth-century’s two most significant philosophical projects: analytical and phenomenological.

Some of the articles published in the volume stem from the phenomenological-hermeneutic tradition, whereas others are from the broadly conceived tradition of analytical philosophy. The first tradition is represented by papers provided by Agnieszka Wesołowska, Albert Piette, and Małgorzata Cieliczko, while the proposals of Adam Nowaczyk, Paweł Pruski, Paulina Seidler, Przemysław Spryszak, Renata Trela, Grzegorz Trela, Tyler Tritten, Jan Wawrzyniak, and Zbigniew Wolak may be classified as belonging to the second great tradition of the twentieth century. The spontaneously set proportions seem to reflect some general statistical trends observable in world philosophical press as related to the manifestation of the above traditions.

Certainly, any presentation of a complete picture, or even an outline, of the philosophy of science as perceived from the humanistic perspective is out of the question here, especially in view of the systematic enrichment of the humanistic reflection on science as observed for several decades. The articles gathered in the volume provide the reader with interesting samples of the said multitude of approaches and methodological pluralism prevailing in the humanities.

The volume is opened by the article *Ajdukiewicz o stosowalności czystej logiki* [Ajdukiewicz about the applicability of pure logic to philosophical issues] by Adam Nowaczyk, a disciple of one of the most outstanding philosophers of the past century, a continuer of the still vivid tradition of the Lvov-Warsaw School.

Andrzej Nowaczyk proves through his elegant argumentation that there are no easy (obvious?) ways of application of formal logic methods to discussing — much less solving — philosophical problems. In his publication, Tyler Tritten in article *Per posterius: Hume and Peirce on miracles and the boundaries of the scientific game* provides a response to David Hume's argument against the plausibility of miracles, as found in Section 10 of his *An enquiry concerning human understanding*, by means of Charles Sanders Peirce's method of retrodution, hypothetical inference, and abduction, as it is explicated and applied in his article entitled *A Neglected Argument for the reality of God*, rather than focusing primarily on Peirce's explicit reaction to Hume in regard to miracles, as found in *Hume on Miracles*. Grzegorz Trela's text *Nauka i wartościowanie — uwagi o kondycji filozoficznej refleksji nad nauką* [Science and valuation — remarks about the condition of philosophical reflection on science] is an attempt at a more general look at the twentieth-century philosophical reflection on science conceived as persistent trials to eliminate the non-eliminateable, *i.e.* valuations. Each concept of knowledge assumes a form of its valuation. Przemysław Spryszak (*Definicja qualiów — przyczynek do filozofii logicznej* [The definition of *qualia* — a contribution to logical philosophy]) takes up traditional metaphysical questions perceived from the perspective of newer analytical tendencies related to the issues of cognitive science with one of its main problems, *i.e.* *qualia*. The article is another example of an analytical work in the style of logical philosophy — the metaphilosophical project once postulated by Jerzy Perzanowski. Jan Wawrzyniak in article *Austin i Quine o rozróżnieniu analitycznej/syntetycznej* [Austin and Quine on the analytic/synthetic distinction] presents the author's interpretation of the distinction which is canonical for analytical philosophy: analytical *vs.* synthetic. The issue has been taken up by authors of such calibre as Willard Van Orman Quine, Rudolf Carnap, John Austin, and Hilary Putnam; it has acquired various interpretations and explanations of possible approaches to the title controversy. The author of the article presents his understanding of the problem and its solution. A similar objective, in its basic idea, motivates Hubert Bożek (*Teoria wielości rzeczywistości Leona Chwistka. Rys krytyczny* [The theory of the multiple realities of realities by Leon Chwistek. Critical overview]) and Paweł Pruski (*Między determinizmem a prawdopodobieństwem. Analiza poglądów Jana Łukasiewicza* [Between determinism and probability. An analysis of Jan Łukasiewicz's views]), who present a reconstruction of views of, respectively: Leon Chwistek and Jan Łukasiewicz. Renata Trela in article *Radykalny konwencjonalizm współcześnie* [Contemporary interpretation of radical conventionalism] demonstrates, that a radical conventionalism is useful due to shows the difficulties that have to be tackled by each philosophical approach assuming a social constructivism or related notion. Paulina Seidler (*Definicje przedmiotu teoretycznego* [Definitions of theoretical entities]) takes up a difficult and important methodological

issue: the status of theoretical subjects. The aim of the article is to review and systematise the problems related to the issue. Zbigniew Wolak in article *Problemy logiczne i terminologiczne w argumentacji filozoficznej* [The logical and terminological problems in philosophical arguments] ponders, in an analytical way, over the conceptual difficulties that are encountered by those who try to articulate precisely any notions of religious provenance — in particular the notion of ‘God’ is essential for this subject area.

The group of articles stemming from the phenomenological tradition begins with the article *Existential anthropology: what could it be? An interpretation of Heidegger* by Albert Piette, as based on an interpretation of the work of Martin Heidegger. The article offers a shift away from social and cultural anthropology, which explores sociocultural aspects, and also from general anthropology, which aims to summarise all dimensions of human being. Agnieszka Wesołowska in article *Husserl’s transcendental phenomenology and the project of science* reflects on the traditional methodological dilemma of Husserl’s phenomenology, as perceived from a newer, contemporary perspective. Finally, Małgorzata Cieliczko (*Przeciw empatii — Sartre i Gombrowicz, czyli jak filozofia i literatura wyprzedzają koncepcje naukowe* [Against the empathy — Sartre and Gombrowicz i.e. how philosophy and literature are ahead of science]) presents an intriguing perspective where works of literature, cited by way of example, often precede the results worked out by natural sciences, i.e. they are precursory in relation to these results. Ryszard Mirek’s article *Application of natural deduction in Renaissance geometry* does not concern the issues of contemporary philosophy, but rather the rarely taken up problems of Renaissance conceptions of geometry and their applications in artistic activity. Using contemporary logic instruments, the author demonstrates, on the one hand, the liveliness of those remote problems, and, on the other hand, the analytical usefulness of logic instruments.

The issue also includes a preview of a larger whole: a Polish translation of René Descartes’ *Geometry*, preceded with the translators’ preface. Besides, an extensive and profound introduction to the translated text (*Metafizyka ruchu w Geometrii Kartezjusza* [Metaphysics of motion in the *Geometry* of Descartes]) by Piotr Błaszczyk and Kazimierz Mrówka is published as an annex.

Moreover, you will find our regular or recurrent columns in the issue, such as book reviews and book notes as well as tributes to those who have recently passed away. In the her book reviews, Katarzyna Haremska discusses Artur Szutta’s book *Nieposłuszeństwo obywatelskie* [Civil disobedience]; Joanna Pierzga comments on a conversational interview with distinguished Polish philosopher Jan Woleński entitled *Wierzę w to, co potrafię zrozumieć* [I believe in what I can understand]. Renata Trela, in her review of Witkacy’s recently issued minor and dispersed philosophical works [*Pisma filozoficzne*], complements the image of this unusual figure, important for the culture of the twenty-year period

between the Wars or even of the whole past century. Magdalena Kłeczek introduces a portrait of the still intriguing Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (Witkacy), reviewing the most extensive so far biographic essay devoted to this outstanding author developed by Janusz Degler. In another write-up, Magdalena Kłeczek in a review of the book by Maciej Zaremba-Bielawski, *Higieniści. Z dziejów eugeniki* [Hygienists. From the history of eugenics], refers to the phenomenon of 'hygienists', *i.e.* the process of selecting individuals — systematically elaborated in the most economically developed countries in the twentieth century — as motivated by various ideological projects.

We also include an obituary of two eminent Polish professors of philosophy: Barbara Stanosz and Andrzej Grzegorzczuk. Finally, there is a conference report and two conferences announcements.

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