



If academic journals are allowed to display some signs of their editor's creativity, then this 70th volume of *Deeds and Days* can be viewed as signifying the end of one editor's labors. The next volume scheduled for the summer of 2019 will furnish a different example of the way tradition and novelty can come to terms. In any case, the last thirteen years saw the preparation and release of 25 volumes. The 70th was destined to be 25th in the same editor's-in-chief *curriculum vitae*. There is another symbolically remarkable thing. The first in that sequence – the 46th volume of *Deeds and Days* – was devoted to *Milosziana*, and this last one is devoted to the echos of Simonas Daukantas. To me, as a historian and as an editor, Milosz and Daukantas are two pillars of classical Lithuanian culture. But this fact, like the numbers mentioned above, is no result of Pythagorean magic. These things are all accidents, coincidences, daily plays of chance.

When I began my editorial work I allowed myself, in my introduction to volume 46, to speak of a new page in the unending history of *Deeds and Days*:

To take up editing this journal after Leonas Gudaitis is a real intellectual challenge. First, there arises the wish to continue in the direction that this editor had embarked upon. Then one is seized by sadness when one realizes that some things are impossible – for example, to carry on directly with what the editor had started. Only later did we decide to seek a balance between a commitment to tradition and the temptations of novelty. A novelty the desire for which arises not so much out of an inner need as out of an unavoidable necessity.¹

The objective novelty was a tactical step backward: from four volumes per year to one volume per half-year, together with a renunciation of colored inserts and of other sophisticated features that Leonas Gudaitis had introduced. On the other hand, my thought was that *multidisciplinarity* and *interdisciplinarity* were more important:

¹ Aleksandravičius E. Naujas puslapis nesibaigiančioje istorijoje. *Darbai ir dienos*, t. 46, 7.

Gudaitis's *Deeds and Days* were problematic and interdisciplinary in nature, i.e., the whole issue became a thematic collection. The new editor's journal features an obligatory first part – *Articles* – not all related to just one problem. The second constantly recurring part is a *monographic* section that keeps up the earlier interdisciplinary tradition of *Deeds and Days*. As before, *Reviews* and *Chronicle* remain permanent sections of the journal. The new editorial board begins its work carefully and circumspectly.²

The loyal reader is asked to testify how much this promise was fulfilled. As for myself, I would say that *Chronicle* sinfully failed to survive but its place was taken by *Discoveries*. Interdisciplinarity and the creation of a monographic part (most often interdisciplinary too) directed towards an important problem or two were always central to our academic plan. Sometimes the editorial board itself initiated academic discussions, organized seminars, and patiently provoked answers to questions often avoided (*How much Gulag is there in us?*). The quest to dig deeper, to understand, and to find explanations pulled in social science texts as well in the conviction stimulated by Vytautas Kavolis that sociology and political science are most useful when they become part of the humanities.

The 70th volume now released to the readers' attention and court is a proper proof of editorial tradition. The collection of articles is marshalled by philological disciplines, while the monographic part of *Daukantiana* looks through the windows of the historians' and literary scholars' workshops at the Lithuanian humanities' past, in which the art of literature melded together with historical scholarship. This is not only a tribute to Simonas Daukantas but also raises the hope that Lithuanian history will again on occasion be told in the way that it was recounted with dignity in the 19th century. It's also a cause for joy that just as in the 46th volume it was possible in the 70th to publish more than one review article.

Let us hope that the entire contents did not turn out to be an overly romantic and sentimental good-bye uttered by the old editorship. And let us wish for our future the very best "deeds and days" ever!

Egidijus Aleksandravičius
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² *Ibid.*, 8.