



Journals, like people, have their ups and downs, stormy and calm times. Their age and maturity are measured not only in terms of years, but also in terms of periodicity, issues or volumes published. “Deeds and Days” is no exception. Approaching its centenary, having experienced periods of publishing boom and bust, having been published between one and four times a year, it has entered a period of maturity and, hopefully, of a moderate but constant periodicity. The 80th issue or volume¹ presented here is a kind of milestone, marking the change of times and its reflection in the journal.

The year 2023 will go down in history as the last year of exclusively human texts. And although most texts have been affected by production technologies – whether as recycled texts that were previously produced and then copied, or as scraps of quotations from other people’s thoughts or paraphrases – they have nevertheless been the products of the human mind and handwork. In fact, texts were the products of collective rather than individual labour, because, as Roland Barthes announced long ago, the author is dead. From now on, every time we open a recent text, we are doomed to doubt whether it is the product of natural or artificial intelligence. How to tell the difference, how to recognise the origin of a text? And what is it that most betrays a surrogate text, no matter how impeccably crafted, its content or language? Ideally, there should be a marker of the unnatural nature of the text, but will it appear, or will it be convenient for all text producers to acknowledge it? And if the text is to be produced by artificial intelligence, how will we know what previous texts have been used as a basis for its deep learning, what has been learnt and what has not? It is still acceptable if the level of abstraction is measurable, if the text produced is just a summary, but what if the coverage of its foundational texts is too big to be measurable? Moreover. How will the human

¹ Leonas Gudaitis, who re-established the journal “Deeds and Days,” referred to the issues as “volumes” because, according to him, it was “[t]he most complete encyclopaedic collection in the history of Lithuanian scientific works, comprising 30 thematic volumes” (Gudaitis 2006: 292).

language itself change over time? What will take root and what will disappear? Will we, who are living in the medium of such a language, still be able to reflect on it? In short, we are in for turbulent times ahead, and in 2023, “Deeds and Days” with its new AI-derived abstract tags, will hopefully be limited to these, while the journal will traditionally publish human texts.

Another important change in “Deeds and Days” is its transformation into a publication of the European University (more on the European University in issue 79). The broad coverage of the humanities and social sciences and the unique tripartite structure of the monographic part of the scientific articles related via a common theme, then the individual articles, and finally numerous and varied texts in other genres such as source publications, essays, memoirs, etc., have played a major role in this transformation (more on the journal’s publishing policy²). The monographic part and the possibility of special thematic issues were particularly attractive and useful for the partners of the European University Alliance Transform4Europe. In other words, the idea of a single link, a thread connecting the whole issue or volume. This idea was developed and fostered by the previous editors of “Deeds and Days,” professors Leonas Gudaitis and Egidijus Aleksandravičius, who used intellectual discussions, conferences and seminars to achieve this. The ideas voiced at such events, discussed, purified and smoothed out together, have been incorporated into the texts of the monographic parts, giving integrity and coherence to the entire publication. This is a very different tradition from the one that dominates the indexed, but inevitably fragmented, high-citation quartile publications, which do not spare attention to the individual articles, but not to the whole issue.

The changes in the editorial board and the texts published are also linked to the status of the European University Journal. The journal has previously had individual articles in other languages – English, Polish, French, German – as well as a special issue 73 on policy in the humanities and social sciences, which was written entirely in English. From 2024 onwards, there will be more such all-English issues, opening up the possibility for European University partners to publish their work jointly (in the monograph section) or individually (in the individual articles section). It should be added here that the journal will remain open to all who wish to publish in it, whatever the language of publication and whatever the topics it covers.

This volume is multi-thematic, multi-faceted, distinguished by a variety of perspectives and approaches, but essentially interdisciplinary. So what is it about? First of all, it is about a time that in one way or another changed the lives of all of us so far, about COVID-19, presented through the authentic and direct experience

² Internet access <<https://ejournals.vdu.lt/index.php/DiD/about>>.

of Auridas Gajauskas, a member of the Dresden Research Centre, and his insights into the processes that took place there, the relationship between the tester and the client, and the people's reactions to the tests. The situation of the pandemic is culturally made sense of by looking for links to the historical origins of resistance to the pandemic in Germany and the texts of Kurt Vonnegut. Historian Zigmas Vitkus's bird's-eye view of the adventurous literature about the American autochthones in Lithuanian from the 19th century to the present day is quite different, with a broad panoramic view. Simply put, it is a survey of books about Indians, presented in detail and closely linked to the diverse context of the time of their appearance. According to the author, it was "probably the only literary genre that was practised (playing "Indians"), and during the Soviet occupation it served as a window to the West (in this case, America)."³ The article is supplemented by a very detailed, though incomplete, bibliography of the books in question.

The scale of Gediminas Karoblis, a well-known anthropologist and phenomenologist of dance and movement, is considerably smaller, and the photographic lens of his research draws to the reader one article by Friedrich Schiller, analysed from the point of view of the influence of Immanuel Kant's ideas. The article takes as its starting point the search for a philosophical basis for the exaltation of the principle of perfection and the kinaesthetic beauty of the human being, which encompasses grace and dignity.

Literary scholar Indrė Žakevičienė reviews the unique four-volume "Young Music" edition, which reflects on the attitude of artists at the dawn of the Sąjūdis movement, meeting at the overlapping margins of the literary and musical fields. The overlapping of the fields, revealed through their intercritical forms, allows the author to see parallels between 4 Winds and "Young Music," drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's socio-criticism.

Philosopher Linartas Tuomas's article on the libidinal economy, an interdisciplinary area, which emerged at the intersection of economy, philosophy and psychoanalysis, discusses, at a purely theoretical level, the concept's ambivalence in the materialist tradition and its interaction with capitalism.

Juozas Kasputis, whose areas of interest include epistemology, social and political sciences and philosophy of science, presents a critical approach to the dominant narrative of European integration and proposes the notion of metaphor, founded by Umberto Eco, as an intellectual counterweight to the unreflective application of integrative models.

³ Vitkus, Zigmas. Lietuvoje išleistos literatūros apie Amerikos autochtonus apžvalga: nuo nuotykinų romanų iki dvasinio tobulėjimo lektūros. *Darbai ir dienos*, 2023, nr. 80, 31.

The text by another philosopher, Adas Diržys, stands out against the general background of interdisciplinary approaches to the objects of analysis by its disciplinary monolithic character and the same trajectories of reflection.

The last article is dedicated to the editor-in-chief of the reconstituted journal “Deeds and Days.” It is an essay by Danguolė Valančė, a long-time editor of the journal, about Leonas Gudaitis, who revived the journal and compiled an encyclopedic collection of 30 thematic volumes, unique in the history of Lithuanian scientific works, covering not only the humanities, but also the social sciences, and especially Lithuanian studies.

This volume traditionally chronicles the sixth international conference in memory of Leonidas Donskis, held against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine. Its participants debated the topic of Russia in Vilnius in September 2023 and sought to answer the question “Will Russia survive 2024?”, while the authors of the review – researchers at the Andrei Sakharov Centre for the Study of the Development of Democracy at Vytautas Magnus University – have tried to convey to the readers the key moments of the conference.

Volume 80 concludes with two texts on sad occasions – obituaries, which go far beyond this genre in terms of their scope and nature. Antanas Kulakauskas bows to Bronislovas Genzelis, a signatory of the Act of Restoration of Independence of Lithuania, a prominent public and political figure, a historian of philosophy and culture, a professor at Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University, one of the author’s of “Deeds and Days” and a member of the editorial board. Kulakauskas introduces the facts of his life, which may be unknown to many.

The obituary by Egidijus Aleksandravičius is dedicated to his friend and co-worker Mykolas Drunga, an erudite, philosopher, journalist, voice of Radio Free Europe and LTR, and, according to the obituary, a “man who became a historical figure,” among other things, the author of “Deeds and Days” and the journal’s English language editor. Both obituaries are a farewell, but also an introduction to the future work of researching and describing the biographies of these personalities.

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