

## FROM THE EDITOR

THE PAST THAT HAS OPENED UP HORIZONS



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This volume of *Deeds and Days* is truly special – it marks the 30th anniversary of the journal, which was revived in 1995. Founded in 1930 at Vytautas Magnus University by Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius as a periodical publication on literary studies, *Deeds and Days* was published until 1940, with nine volumes released during that period.

When it reappeared in 1995, the journal emerged as a fundamentally different publication, displaying a significantly expanded thematic scope. It was designed as a journal to highlight research results in the humanities and related social sciences, presenting the humanitarian community of Vytautas Magnus University and Lithuania, their work, and cultural life. It was no longer a collection of individual articles, but a clearly structured, thematic publication. Its frequency also changed: between 1996 and 1998, it was published twice a year, and between 1999 and 2005, it came out four times a year, accompanied by separate booklets containing reprints of individual articles and color illustrations.

For Professor Leonas Gudaitis, the journal's founder, creator, and driving force, who was also head of the Department of Lithuanian Literature at the time, this was his predominant work, requiring creativity and discipline. During his term as editor, Leonas Gudaitis published 36 volumes that covered all disciplines of the humanities, thus showcasing the latest trends in research and publishing the most interesting and dynamic works of scholars. In addition, a chronicle of community life and other informative or polemical columns were presented at the end of each volume. Leonas Gudaitis not only publicized the articles he received, but also suggested their themes himself, initiating their discovery and including collections of the latest works from individual scientific communities in thematic issues. This publishing approach not only brought together the people of the then newly established departments, research centers, and institutes of Vytautas Magnus University, but also shaped the format of *Deeds and Days*, mirroring the work of an initiative-driven publishing house that generates orders.

Since the fall of 2006, when historian Professor Egidijus Aleksandravičius took over as editor-in-chief, the journal's structure and layout have changed, and it has returned to a biannual publication pattern. However, alongside the individual articles on various topics sent to the editorial board, the journal has preserved a segment for articles on the same or similar topics labeled as the monographic section due to its resemblance to a book structure. In addition, the part of texts other than scientific articles expanded significantly. We also witness a greater diversity in terms of genre representation, ranging from publications of archival documents to interviews with well-known scholars and debates on topical issues. This section is important as a connecting link for emerging academic communities, not only reflecting their activities but also encouraging discussion and cooperation.

This structure has been maintained to this day, which is a distinctive feature of *Deeds and Days*. Another important feature that distinguishes the journal from other contemporary Lithuanian academic journals is its broad coverage of two fields of science: the humanities and social sciences. Most scientific journals focus not on scientific directions, but on scientific branches or sub-branches. In other words, most journals are narrowly specialized, delving deeply into the problems of a specific branch of science at the expense of presenting a broader picture of the field.

However, there are exceptional cases when *Deeds and Days* departs from the three-part structure (a section of monographic and other academic genre texts consisting of individual articles on various topics related to a specific theme) and instead limits itself to two sections: monographic and other related genres. Such volumes are called special volumes because they are devoted to a specific topic or problem (e.g., volume 73 was dedicated to problematic issues of evaluation in the humanities and social sciences) or to a branch of science presenting its *status quo*. This is precisely what volume 84, devoted to philosophy, is about. Like any other collection of philosophical articles, this monographic part of the journal does not cover the diversity of trends and styles in contemporary philosophy. It publishes the works of lecturers and researchers currently working at Vytautas Magnus University, as well as doctoral students continuing their studies here, all of whom conduct research in the core areas of practical philosophy.

Philosophers teaching practical philosophy in Vytautas Magnus University programs would first describe it as focusing on the concept of humanity, its development and diversity, and society's orientations while facing contemporary challenges. For example, Jokūbas Andrijauskas' article "Two Interpretations of the Concept of the *Übermensch* in Friedrich Nietzsche's Philosophy" presents an analysis of the concept of the superhuman, which reveals the tension between radical criticism of humanity and a practical vision of education that allows us to rethink the limits and possibilities of humanity. Tatjana Aleknienė's article "The Golden

Statue of the Soul: Plato, Plotinus, and John Chrysostom,” presents interesting and rarely remembered aspects of the formation of the image of the soul – sculpturality and the radiance of noble materials, exploring the similarities between Platonic, Neoplatonic, and Christian imagery. Gintautas Mažeikis’s text “Multiple Symbolic Worlds and Philosophical Diplomacy” reveals the diversity of symbolic worlds and shifts the focus of practical philosophy to the field of public dialogue, recognition, and practical diplomacy, offering a hermeneutic alternative to both normative moralism and political simplifications. At the intersection of literature and philosophy lies Adas Diržys’ article “Weird Horror: Aspects of Genre-Philosophy,” which philosophically reflects on the connections between strangeness and horror found in horror literature, showing not only their diversity but also the transformative, culturally significant power of strangeness that breaks down types and boundaries. Kęstutis Mosakas’ article “Life Extension and the Badness of Death: Deprivationist Assessment and Its Limits” considers the issues of life extension and death in the context of the relationship between individual welfare, technological progress, and social justice. It shows that even at first glance, individual choices inevitably have broader practical and moral implications. Finally, Monika Višnevskā’s article “Rethinking the Human Subject through Judith Butler’s Concept of Vulnerability” that examines the relationship between social vulnerability and the changing concept of the subject, shows the openness of the subject to the environment that is characteristic of contemporary feminist philosophy: the subject is constantly changing and fundamentally vulnerable, but vulnerability is by no means a negative trait in this line of thinking.

Among the texts published in the section of other genres, the interview with Jason Ānanda Josephson Storm, a renowned contemporary philosopher and one of the founders of the concept of metamodernism, stands out. The inaugural speech of Professor Ineta Dabašinskienė, Rector of Vytautas Magnus University, discusses, among other issues, the responsibilities of the university and the academic world to society. Also found here are the reflections of two lecturers from the Department of Philosophy at Vytautas Magnus University: Gediminas Karoblis’ interesting phenomenological insights into bodily memory, the interaction of bodies and cultural sedimentation in dance movements, and Tomas Kavaliauskas’ insightful look at Arvydas Šliogeris’ philosophy as the creation of a poetic philosophical culture (echoing Richard Rorty’s concept). This section also includes two reviews of recently published monographs by members of the Philosophy Department and a brief overview of the annual international conference dedicated to Leonidas Donskis.

Together, these texts invite readers to understand philosophy not only as a set of theoretical reflections but also as an activity that helps to navigate the multitude

of human-created concepts, showing that an ethical and, at the same time, creative attitude could be instrumental in surviving the complex situations of today's world.

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