

## INTRODUCTION

In this second issue of "Philosophica" on "Aesthetic Values", edited jointly by the Seminaries of Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art of the Universities of Cracow and Ghent, more specific problems are discussed and some concrete analyses are presented. In our own article "Laughing Matters or Comoedia Naturalis" we try to show that comicality is intrinsically bound up with our human predicament: the "deduction" of comicality is outlined and some consequences of this approach are indicated. In Krystyna Wilkozevska's "On the Experience of the Tragic" the ontological and aesthetic issues concerning the status of the category, value or phenomenon are discussed and illustrated by the examples of Oedipus and Hamlet. The other contributions are more specific in nature: they are concerned with problems pertaining to different arts and in general they are tentative and relativistic in their conclusions. In "Esthetic Values in the Theatre" J. Van Schoor investigates the multitude of theatre models and the concomitant aesthetic issues involved. Great stress is laid on the complexity and poly-interpretability of the art of the theatre. In "Wertsetzung als Implikation der Erzählhaltung — Bemerkungen zur Judendarstellung in Jurek Beckers Romanen" Heidi M. Müller deals with a very specific literary problem: how and in what manner content and value — "Wertsetzung" — can be conditioned by aesthetic-structural procedures such as the attitude of the authorial instance — Erzählhaltung —. The issue is analysed in detail by the example of Jurek Beckers novels. In "La notion de "valeur esthétique" dans l'esthétique structurale de Jan Mukarovsky. Application au poème 56 de Catulle" Freddy Decreus first situates Mukarovsky as a structuralist and then tests the applicability of his approach to classical literature. In "Le critique moderne et la lyrique médiévale des troubadours provençaux" Marc M. Vuylsteke treats the issue of criteria of appreciation and the relativity of taste. He tries to show that it would be wrong to judge the well-known uniformity, monotony

and lack of sincerity of the poetry in question with our -- diametrically opposed -- standards : in this way no true appreciation can be reached. And he offers an alternative that explains up to a certain point the characteristics mentioned. In "The Aesthetic Value of Architecture" Marc Poriau deals with the problem of the meaning of architecture and concludes that in the last analysis appreciation is relative to moral standards, whereas the specific aesthetic value of architecture depends on the multitude and complexity of the interpretations architectural metaphors suggest. The illustration of the relativity and thorough historicity of taste is the theme of the paper "Le jugement de goût : critères, évaluations, exemples" by Pierre Somville. Such relativity may even lead to new aesthetic values and categories, such as psycho-pathological art and the art of children, as new objects of appreciation. On a more general level and systematically exposed, our co-editor introduces such a new value, namely art "in statu nascendi" or "ars in crudo". The value is analysed in detail and its importance is shown.

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