

Foreword

A change has been made to *Diogenes'* editorial board. Since 1 March 2005, following a decision of the General Assembly of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences, scientific and editorial responsibility for the journal has been undertaken by Maurice Aymard and Luca Maria Scarantino, respectively Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of CIPSH.

This change of editorship has been implemented in a spirit of continuity with the intent of the journal's founders in the early 1950s. These latter had laid down the style, objectives and orientations that should characterize *Diogenes*, and the passage of time has simply confirmed their appropriateness and capacity to stimulate productive intellectual debate. There is therefore no intention to depart from these founding principles.

Diogenes has a distinctive character as a learned journal. At once transdisciplinary and intercultural, according to Roger Caillois' intention, it must observe and give space to new ideas emerging from the world of research. But it must also distil their problematic issues, in order that these may be addressed through various disciplinary and cultural perspectives. Reconciling the multiplicity of points of view with the necessary synthesis to be drawn from them is *Diogenes'* basic mission. Its task is less that of devoting succeeding numbers of the journal to varying themes arising out of the different human and social sciences than to identify the concerns and problems common to these disciplines and approaches and study them through complementary methodologies. This task has become all the more necessary and difficult in today's world where we are experiencing both a spectacular increase in the speed by which information, ideas and people circulate (not to mention capital and commodities), together with an insistent affirmation, in the name of identity assertion, of cultural differences that are claimed to bear the key to those identities. And all this against a background of progressive redefinition of the balance between the great regions and civilizations of the world. This shift confronts our disciplines with a significant challenge. Many, if not all, are today facing new problems which call into question their former orthodoxies and elude any unilateral approach. *Diogenes* has the vocation and imperatively the ambition to rebuild an intellectual unity encompassing the common ground where disciplines intersect and which its task will be to identify. And to gain a hearing for this deliberation, it will also need to address itself to a broader public than that of specialists alone: one which includes all cultivated readers wherever they may be found, as they become ever more numerous throughout the world. As well as its French-language edition, *Diogenes* already has editions

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in English, Spanish and Arabic, along with an anthology in Chinese. Our hope is that this list will be broadened even further in the coming years.

To fulfil this mission, *Diogenes* could not rely exclusively on the skills of its editorial team. To become a true journal of reference in the field of the human sciences in their broadest sense, it must be able to call upon the support of a network of specialists able to elicit the attention of the editors, but also that of readers, in relation to new questions, initiatives and ideas, to new fields of research, authors and texts capable, through their quality, of generating a high level of interest amongst an international public that is knowledgeable and open to new thinking in all disciplines. An editorial committee strongly international in composition has therefore been established. Its role will be to maintain the liaison between the editors, based in Paris, and the different geocultural, disciplinary and institutional centres where research is being generated. Thanks to the commitment and free availability of a number of colleagues, the scientific committee of the journal has been considerably broadened. Also, *Diogenes* can still count on the network of the great international federations that make up the International Council of Philosophy and Social Sciences (CIPSH) and which represent a wide variety of points of observation across the world of research. The co-operative links maintained with UNESCO, which represent one of the *raisons d'être* for our journal, will be maintained and consolidated.

In this newly focused enterprise, *Diogenes* is not starting from scratch. The work accomplished by Paola Costa Giovangigli over the period just past bears ample witness to this. The quality of her professional engagement with the journal, to the editorship of which she succeeded Jean d'Ormesson and of which she has been the body and soul, has left a strong mark on its style and content. Her talent and her passion for excellence have ensured the international reputation of *Diogenes*. In this work she has been very ably supported by a dedicated management team (R. Hamayon, M. Aymard, J. Bingen, D. Diène and Ph. Sénéchal) and has had the benefit of the inestimable assistance of Mr Emo Lessi, responsible for the technical quality of each issue.

As this first new number is being passed to the publishers, we wish to thank all those who have contributed to its preparation, motivated solely by their devotion to the study of the human and social sciences: Frances Albernaz, Nicole G. Albert, Dominique Arnouil, Janet Arnulf, Emmanuelle Auroi, Christian Caduc, Catherine Champniers, Marcelo Dascal, Jean-Luc De Paepe, Isabelle Etcharry, Ali Kazancigil, Peter McCormick, Daniel Nicolas, Jean d'Ormesson, Betty Rojzman, David A. Wells and Zhou Yunfan.