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## REVIEWS

### ***“A FRUITFUL WORLD VIEW AND SPLASH OF THOUGHT”***

#### ***(bibliographic review)***

The philosophical knowledge world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is characterized by sheer complexity as is evident from a fleeting glance at the topics of new books on philosophical sciences recently added to the shelves of the Tyumen University Information and Library Center. Here one can find works of great minds combining the intellectual achievements of the Western and Oriental cultures, and works by the masters, which not that long ago determined the image of the Soviet science of philosophy. Writings of unjustly forgotten scientists are being rediscovered in our age, and publications by a new generation of thinkers are exposing to inspection the heritage of their scientific tutors.

Among historical and philosophical books the monograph by Elena Smagina “Manichaeism according to early sources” [1] undoubtedly stands out. Manichaeism as a world view appeared in the territory of Babylonia, Assyria and the present-day Iran in high antiquity. It influenced the formation of both Christianity and Islam. The advantage of this extraordinary book is consistent reconstruction of the school of thought and logic of Mani and his followers, containing interpretation of the universe issues from the viewpoint of philosophy and theology. The author relies upon new translations of the ancient Coptic texts.

The interrelation of history and philosophy is also visible in the reprint edition of the book by Henry Aiken “History and the Medieval world view system” [2]. The author, investigating the Middle Ages theological system, makes an attempt to reveal the essence of contradictions between two endeavors of pontifical Rome, namely, the idea of withdrawing from the world and striving to attain power over the world.

Touching upon questions of philosophy development in our country, the monograph by Prof. Aleksey Pavlov under the title “Philosophy in the University of Moscow”, published in the Neva river city, should not be left unnoticed [3]. Aleksey Therentievich tried to give a brief insight into the history of philosophy teaching in Moscow University from the origin of the oldest higher education institution in Russia in January 1755 until the present day, i.e. from the times of Mikhail Lomonosov and the first Russian teacher of Philosophy Dmitry Anichkov, who worked at the University from 1762-1788, up to the description of the activities of the Faculty of Philosophy of Moscow State University, headed by Professor Vladimir Mironov.

A variety of books is devoted to the essence and nature of philosophical knowledge. Amongst the writings of national philosophy great scholars, in the first place a work of fundamental research by Theodor Oiserman, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, “Philosophical ambivalence” comes under notice [4]. It is commonly known that the name “ambivalence” contains two notions, namely

“dualism” and “power”. The author makes use of this term, unfolding the “fruitful discrepancy of the philosophical, historical and socio-political views of Jean Jacques Rousseau, describing the philosophies of Kant and Hegel, philosophical ways of thinking according to Friedrich Nietzsche. It is interesting that in the author’s opinion, ambivalence becomes apparent thorough investigating the materialist conception of history and the communist doctrine of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Of particular interest is another work. The paper under consideration is a reprint edition of the book by René Guénon “Sketches of traditions and metaphysics” [5]. The French philosopher and mathematician René Jean Marie Joseph Guénon (1886-1951) and the Islamic Sheikh Abd al-Wahid Yahya are in fact one and the same person. In the West he is known as a philosopher-metaphysician and in the East, after he accepted Islam in 1912, as a “Cairene hermit” who put forward his theory that “in the West social changes are considered as beneficial whereas for the East the most important things are stability and permanency”. In the book of this extraordinary thinker it is possible to find interpretation of the science of numbers and letters as well as explanation as to why the author identifies the Sun with gold and arithmetic and the Moon with silver and grammar.

Another point of interest is a collection of the philosophical and epistolary heritage of Henri Bergson (1859-1941), a Nobel Prize winner in Literature and a full member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of France. The collection is entitled “Consciousness and Life” [6]. The book by the philosopher, man of letters and diplomat includes extracts from his philosophical writings “Mind-energy”, “Thinking in time” and also his memoirs “My mission” about the author’s activity in Spain and in the USA during World War I. It is worth noting that these works are published for the first time in Russian translation as well as the theoretical presentation on “rhythm conveying the meaning of a written phrase”.

“It is better to die of extremes than of despair”, declares the author of the collection of philosophical essays Jean Baudrillard (1929-2007) in his book “The Transparency of Evil” [7]. Knowledge of literary and philosophical sketches written by the Post-Modernist Guru, the father of the Simulacra Theory, under the original titles “Theorem of the Accursed Share”, “The Hell of the Same”, “Stimulation and Rejection”, etc., generated particular interest in the personality of Jean Baudrillard himself and his viewpoints on reality.

It is generally admitted that truth is born of arguments. It is also common knowledge that the notion of “scandal” in philosophy means that thinkers have no unity of views on one or another issue. The collection of articles by the scientist and philosopher from the Ural, namely Dmitriy Pivovarov, under the title “The synthetic paradigm in Philosophy” [8] is devoted to searching for ways to achieve synthesis of views and avoid contradictions among thinkers.

Philosophy is interrelated with both social and natural sciences. The evidence for that is another outstanding new publication. What is meant here is the work entitled “Vigorous activity and innovations” edited by Professor Mikhail Karpenko [9]. According to this honorable professor — “homo sapiens (man of reason) is replaced by homo cognitiuus, i.e. “man of cognition”. The subject matter of the mentioned above paper represents an attempt by contemporary thinkers to examine

the human factor as the basis of society's modernization in compliance with contemporary requirements.

One of the greatest philosophers of the time being is the rightfully considered academician Ivan Timofeevich Frolov (1929-1999). Among the acquisitions in philosophy now on the shelves of the Tyumen University Information and Library Center is his fundamental work "Necessitarianism (determinism) and teleology" [10]. This research paper deals with the correlation of causality and reasonability when achieving harmony in animated nature.

These writings represent just a sample of the new philosophical publications that have enriched the University library. More detailed information is available via the electronic database of new acquisitions at <http://www.tmnlib.ru/Default.aspx/EIResources/NewBooks>.

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