

## Foreword

The open-access peer-reviewed journal *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* (*ABHPS*) has been published for two years by now. During this time, the journal has found its place in the field of the history and philosophy of science. At the same time, the editorial policy of the journal has gradually evolved and has been elaborated in detail, from issue to issue. Moreover, since the publication of the first edition on the history and philosophy of science in 2011 (the special issue of the *Baltic Journal of European Studies* dedicated to the 24<sup>th</sup> Baltic Conference on the History of Science), compiled and edited by the same editorial team, we can look back on four years of being in the field.

We hope that *ABHPS* has acquired a specific role for Baltic historians and philosophers of science. The scope of our journal is somewhat unexpectedly wide, especially compared to other journals operating in the field of either history or philosophy of science, including history of social sciences, humanities, technology and medicine. But it has also a specific relation to Baltic research. We are committed to publishing papers addressing the interesting developments of history of science in the Baltic region, many of which are not known to the Anglophone reader. Therefore, we sometimes publish papers that address issues which have already been brought forward in German, Russian or sometimes in the native languages of the Baltic States. As far as philosophy of science is concerned, we are always happy to publish the works of philosophers of the Baltic countries, and by no means wish to impose limits on the approach chosen. Our editorial office tries to maintain the proportional balance of articles into philosophy of science and those into history of science, which has sometimes proved rather challenging. The journal sees as one of its purposes an attempt to bring these two seemingly distinct fields—history and philosophy of science—closer together. This endeavor could be observed in the contributions by Diederick Raven and Peeter Mürsepp in our previous issues and is represented by the paper by Joseph Agassi in the current issue.

The journal has what could be called a double mission: first, to advance research in the field in general and, second, to keep the academic community updated with what is happening in Baltic research today. We see it as our mission to enhance the level of Baltic academic research in different areas of history and philosophy of science and promote international cooperation between scholars of different regions working in the respective fields. The editorial office of the journal favors papers of more exploratory approach, instead of those giving mere descriptive overview of the current state of study in one or another subfield or issue. In addition, the journal sees its role as a mediator between Baltic researchers in a stricter sense and the English-speaking audience in general.

*ABHPS* primarily intends to publish articles corresponding to the requirements of a research paper on various aspects of the history and philosophy of natural and social sciences. The journal values first of all articles of academic merit with a novel element, such as new insights, concepts, approaches, angles, or hypotheses, also facts yet unknown, and thus contribute to the previous knowledge of the topic under study. Decisions regarding the submissions' acceptability for publication are made strictly by the editors on the basis

of the reviewers' opinions. As a rule, an article submitted for publication in the journal will be sent to at least two reviewers (sometimes three, four or more) and in cases in which reviewers' opinions diverge, we always request additional reviews from other reviewers. Usually the same practice has been used in the cases of invited authors as well as in the case of the specific types of short communications.

The journal continues to publish selected short communications, such as short survey papers, overviews, conference proceedings, book reviews and others. There are two principally different types of short communications. First, short survey papers, scientific overviews, which are shorter than full articles, but pursue the same goals and have a similar purpose of presenting new information or new insights on facts already known. As a rule, there has to be some kind of scientific novelty in publications like these. This kind of papers are also reviewed in the same manner as longer articles, which form the bulk of the journal. The second category of short communications is conference overviews, book reviews and other content of purely informative manner (such as, e.g., special anniversary notices, chronicles of academic life, etc.). We believe that every journal of scientific nature has an obligation to disseminate this kind of information. It is also quite understandable that such contributions usually do not require reviewing. However, the decision regarding whether a short communication paper is acceptable for publication and will be subjected to peer review (as a rule such papers do) remains with the editorial office.

We do not encourage, nor restrain our authors from adding illustrations to their articles. So far, the use of illustrations has been very liberal and has depended solely on the authors' best judgment. We have not suggested authors to add illustrations where it would seem appropriate, nor have we made any attempts to limit the number of illustrations, even in cases where it has been overly large compared to other articles published in the same issue. However, the editorial office may change this policy in the future.

Due to the strict, but (as we believe) fair attitude of our reviewers the rejection rate of *ABHPS* has been as high as almost 40 per cent so far. This was largely achieved due to the fact that the first issue of the journal received a number of articles that do not fit the journal's profile. We would like to thank our authors for their patience during the sometimes rather lengthy peer-review process. Once again, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the members of the journal's editorial board and the wider academic community who have rendered assistance in finding competent reviewers. This time we would like to give our thanks also to the anonymous reviewers. Thanks to your contribution, the journal has managed to keep sufficient academic standards. We would also like to give our special thanks to **Heldur Sander**, who has successfully promoted our journal in the Estonian press of Sweden and the US. Currently, the journal is financed by the Estonian Association for the History and Philosophy of Science and the Tallinn University of Technology. We are very grateful for the private donations we have received from Latvia, thanks to the efforts of our editorial team member Dr. **Alida Zigmunde**. However, the enlargement of financial resources remains one of the top priorities of the editor-in-chief and the managing editor in the near future. In this regard all constructive ideas are welcome.

*On behalf of the editorial office,  
Peeter Müürsepp and Mait Talts*