

## Foreword

It is a pleasure to introduce another regular issue of our journal. *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* has successfully completed its third year. The main content of the journal has found its pertinent focus and the publication has become known to many colleagues in the field of philosophy and history of science all over the world as well as many people beyond our discipline. With the efforts of the whole editorial team and board we have managed to keep a reasonable balance between papers on philosophy and history of science, on the one hand, and papers of international grasp and concentrating on the Baltic region, on the other.

In each and every issue, we have had the chance to publish papers authored by the most influential people in the discipline. The current one is no exception in that respect. As Editor-in-Chief, I am especially happy that Nicholas Maxwell chose our journal to present what seems to be an exhaustive response to the most significant critiques his conception of aim-oriented empiricism has ever received. A similar general conclusion of an interesting chapter in the methodology of science can be found in the article by Alexander Pechenkin, who enlightens the reader on certain misrepresentation and overestimation concerning the methodological approach by Ilya Prigogine. The paper by Fátima Masot-Conde offers an original insight into Albert Einstein's understanding of quantum mechanics. Some of the author's claims may be disputed and, probably, will stimulate scholarly dispute. The editorial team gladly encourages and welcomes other viewpoints on the issue. The paper by Rein Undusk is perhaps similar in respect of its originality and novelty, although it addresses a totally different topic. The last of the longer articles, written by Timo Salminen, provides interesting data about the communication of archaeologists in the Baltic region during the difficult times of WWII.

There is nothing to do, however, about the sad undertone running through this particular issue of our journal. We lost two of our outstanding Editorial Board members last July. One of the co-founders of the journal and an active collaborator, Rein Vihalemm, died in a tragic and unfortunate boat accident while dealing with his beloved hobby, fishing. The same month, Éva Vámos died as a result of a severe illness very shortly after our first loss. In addition to these sad news, the international community of the philosophers of science is mourning

one of its most outstanding members of all times, Jaakko Hintikka, who died in August shortly after the end of the World Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science in Helsinki, where he still was an active participant. It was absolutely necessary move to publish a longer obituary to Jaakko Hintikka in our journal because one of his most well-known and successful disciples, Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen, is our Editorial Board member. This obituary will appear in the next issue of *Acta Baltica*. The current issue includes obituaries to Rein Vihalemm and Éva Vámos. In addition, Leo Näpinen, the best specialist on the topic, has written a very good short overview of the core achievements of Rein Vihalemm in philosophy of science. Rein Vihalemm's last manuscript, prepared to be presented at the Helsinki Congress, in which he was prevented from participating due to the tragic accident, will be published in our next issue as well. Last but not least, an interesting contribution by our Latvian colleague Juris Salaks will appear in the section of Short Communications.

In conclusion and as a special emphasis, I am forwarding my special thanks to Mr. Mait Talts, who did an excellent job as the executive editor of the first five issues of the journal. Without Mait's efforts, *Acta Baltica* could never have been launched in such a successful manner. My special thanks also go to Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen for the continuing financial support to the journal from the budget of his Chair.

*Peeter Müürsepp*