

Dear readers,

Let me introduce the first international edition of our journal, Aither International Issue 2010.

Aither is a journal devoted to European philosophical traditions, as they were constituted and formulated in their classic form of Greek and Latin writings. The journal is primarily designed for the study of philosophical texts in their original form from ancient Greece to the early Modern Times (Latin). As well as for analysis, commentary and interpretation of these texts, the magazine is open to the broadest studies of cultural backgrounds and contexts, that may in any way help to clarify or reinterpret Greek and Latin philosophical thought. Reviews are also welcome, as well as polemical articles and critical reflections on the topic. The publisher of the journal Aither is the Philosophical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Aither has been published bi-annually since 2009. The International Issue will be issued once every two years. Therefore, every fourth issue of Aither is international. The Aither International Issue publishes articles in English, German and French.

For more information, see the section for authors.

The first international issue is dedicated to the Attic tragedy and Greek archaic thought. Tragic authors are now generally regarded as the necessary basis for an alternative or classical philosophical theories of Plato and Aristotle. In any case, they represent to us contemporary common sense, on the basis of which it were possible to formulate such unique philosophical positions. Increasingly, however, the works of tragic thinkers are interpreted directly as philosophical texts, expressing an autonomous philosophical position. Articles in our number are showing that the tragic writers have great intellectual potential also for today's philosophical debate, and that they were prominent figures of ancient discussions. Furthermore, it appears that the topic of tragic thought or tragic philosophy affects a wider group of thinkers, than just tragic poets from Athens. Lastly, it turns out that the inclusion of tragic texts in philosophical literature requires some reflection on the concept of philosophy in general. Such a new reflection on the traditional reading of the text of the poem of Parmenides – the highly respected epistemologist of the tradition – offers the first paper, which in accordance with the main focus of number suggests an ethical reading of Parmenides.

As a virtual magazine, we invite you on the first journey into the world of classic thought. We hope that you will

enjoy it and that our magazine will become for you a reliable and perhaps even a permanent and freely available guide for the future. Therefore, in awareness of the lack of such a specifically oriented electronic journal, we chose the name of the fifth element. Quintessence is unavailable for our physical world, but acts as its persistent framework which can be taken into account at all times and used to better understand the world and ourselves. We hope that some of the brilliance of Aither you will see in our magazine.