

EDITORIAL

Comenius, Science and Theology

March 2005, the month of Annunciation – which is translated in Romanian – ‘The Good News’, marks the birthday of the quarterly European Journal of Science and Theology, a journal created, we may say, in the good tradition of Johann Amos Comenius’s idea of Pansofia.

The whole of the world meant for Comenius God-Man-Nature. EJST will try to present a similar integrated triadic view, God-Man-Science, which is incorporating reason and experience, spiritual revelation and moral values. All these, side by side, are considered a necessary basis for knowledge, understanding and wisdom. With other words, in the spirit of this view, our main intention is to promote, stimulate and publish important topics, which are combining and integrating knowledge coming both from the field of science and theology.

Consequently, one of the journal aims is to serve the theological community with information provided and arranged to help them better understand the new scientific discoveries and studies that may be connected by their relevance to their own field or in associated fields. On the other hand, the interested scientists may find here new insights or a more profound attempt of understanding the results of their research work. EJST will also reflect ethical, environmental and societal implications of the work performed by scientists and technologists, intending to contribute actively to European and international debates on these issues.

Another point of the European Journal of Science and Theology is to foster the exchange of ideas among the many disciplines involved in the process of the restoration and conservation of religious artefacts. The journal will present updates of scientific and applied technical research in different fields connected to the conservation and restoration but also wants to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology between the factors interested in this activity.

One of the main presumptions of Johann Comenius was universal peace, friendship and cooperation among nations. Accordingly, the journal will encourage the intercultural and transnational cooperation, reinforcing the European dimension of the dialogue between, not only Science and Theology, but also between diverse traditions, cultures and regional identities, which are nevertheless rooted in a common history of European development. We will try to achieve this by a double way exchange with national journals working in the field or in related areas. Therefore, EJST will publish, in certain cases, English translated versions of some important articles that have already appeared in the author’s native language. On the other hand, it will be allowed, on special request, the appearance of translated versions of the original articles published

by EJST in national or regional journals that we co-operate with. In the same context, regular or special issues of the European Journal of Science & Theology will be dedicated to the works presented at different specific meetings occurring all around Europe.

The Comenius's work also concerned the reform of education, being one of the founding fathers of modern education. Europe has recognised his merits in the field by developing an EU programme named after the great scholar, as a reminder of Europe's rich educational heritage. In this context, the European Journal of Science & Theology will also provide students and newcomers in the field of Science & Theology, a basic tool with which to learn its fundamental and possible applied aspects.

We intend to accomplish our tasks by ensuring a fast processing of the papers sent for publication. This would not be possible without the strong support and enthusiasm of a dedicated Editorial Board and group of referees formed from both scientists and theologians. This highly professional team will provide prompt, detailed and rigorous assessment of the submitted articles resulting in rapid editorial decisions and significantly improved manuscripts.

However, in order to attend the excellence in the field, EJST needs regular input from its readers, their active participation in its development, welcoming advices, criticism and suggestions. We also very welcome contributors and will be most grateful to those interested in rising to the challenge and providing us with their insights on various topics.

For this, hopefully successful beginning, special thanks must to be addressed to the sponsor who generously supported the creation of the journal. We also must to acknowledge here the friendly aid granted by Professor Maria Gavrilescu, the Managing Editor of the 'Environmental Engineering & Management Journal', during the preparation of this first number of EJST. Nevertheless, the moral support and the encouragements given by many persons, among which in the front lines are the ESSSAT members, has to be gratefully recognised.

I end the first Editorial with the sense of a great responsibility that I felt from the very beginning of my activity in the field of Science and Theology, and which lays on the shoulders of all those implied in such a work: 'Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.' (Mathew 5.19)

Dr. Iulian Rusu