

EDITORIAL

Sine justitia nula liberta

One year later than expected, EJST has received its first impact factor from ISI Thomson Reuters, 0.6. The delay was due to my miscommunication with the editors from ISI and I assume the entire responsibility for this fact. However, one must notice that that Scopus has released its impact factor since 2009.

It is a higher value than I expected and this obliges me and our editorial team to larger efforts in the future in order to keep the place that we succeeded to touch with so many struggles. In fact, I am happy now that '*Science & Theology*' has become an international academically recognised research field which gather from year to year more and more persons interested on it.

Some statistic data about EJST will give you a more detailed picture of what we succeeded to achieve. According to Scopus the number of the articles coming from international co-operations and cites per document have increasingly grown in the last three years, while self-cites have decreased. Due to a hard work done during the editing process of the received materials the numbers of non citable documents remained under 5%.

Once again, according to Scopus, the European Journal of Science and Theology is ranked the 11th among the 161 journals from the Religious Studies category (SCImago), while among the 1638 journals from Art & Humanities category – EJST is ranked in the first 20%.

What was even more surprising for me is the fact that among the 348 journals from Engineering (miscellaneous) category – EJST is ranked the 226th, before many more prestigious scientific journals. This result is coming mostly from the 'Restoration and Conservation' part of our journal.

I also think that is relevant to mention here that the articles having that largest number of citations deal with environmental problems.

The internet traffic of our web site has almost doubled each year, the interest of the readers outside Romania also increasing. It also worth mentioning that in 2011, among the first seven countries accessing EJST's site four have an important/predominant Muslim component.

Due to the number of articles we have received for publication, many of them being rejected on quite minor grounds because were largely exceeding the four issues capacity that we have now, I decided to pass starting with 2013 at six issues per year. However, one must also take into account that there is a very sharp line between the quality/number of accepted articles and the financial subsistence of a publication, proved by the evolution of the impact factors of some developing journals.

As you already know and you will continue to see from our issues, the journal was involved in organising several international conferences. I must mention here, among other institutions, our co-operation with the Romanian Academy and with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies.

In the last decade, the scholars and publishers from Romania have made tremendous efforts in order to raise the level of scientific publications. As result there are now in our country 52 ISI journals, including some who also deal with theological/religion aspects. In this working effervescence, is curious to notice that the promotion conditions of the scholars from the Theology field of higher education do not take into account the ISI publications. Instead they ask, as a special request, up to three articles published in journals *abroad*, without any mention of their scientific quality [1]. I know that there are very recent proposals in the Theology Commission of the National Council for Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates to change these criteria and we hope that this will be for good.

As one may notice, a number of articles published in EJST dealt with the Political sciences. However, despite the fact that we have a turmoil political atmosphere in Romania, the papers do not have a polemic character. The only one I observed to be more involved in the political fight from the Romanian political scene is 'The measurement of population and sources of error: the 2011 census in Romania' by Adrian Neteu [2]. Apart of the fact, that shortly describes the argue between politicians concerning the census in 2011, the paper mentions the value of 19 millions persons as being the population of Romania. This figure was on a great debate during this summer's events and without a correct value was difficult to make a young democracy, as it is in Romania, keep going - *sine justitia nula liberta* (without justice there is no liberty). One must also notice that the article was sent for publication at the beginning of May, when almost nobody was interested on the subject.

The Latin term *justitia* means justice, equity, fairness, impartiality. Unfortunately, it was always a difference between this term and the institution of Justice, and obviously the larger the difference between the term and the institution's activity the more restricted is the liberty of the people. A difference will always exist because as you know 'the justice is blind' and the magistrates and politicians have to do their best in order to open its eyes.

During the last two years, since the editor Alice-Antonela Rusu has died, a lot of editing and translation work at EJST was made by my elder daughter Ana Rusu which is actually student at the section of Universal literature of the University 'Al. I. Cuza' from Iasi. She also helped me with good advices at the right moments. I have not the signs or the intention to die but I think that is appropriate for her to take the position of her mother in the Editorial Board of EJST. I also hope that sometime she will continue my work at the journal.

This is also an act of justice since "man, though he be in honor, abideth not; he is like the beasts that perish" (Psalm 49.12) [3]. "Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to

dwel.” (Psalm 49.14) Because “you know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed...” (Psalm 69.19-27) And in psalm 69, King’s David plight ends with a decision: “may they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous” (Psalm 69.28) and this is what I am doing.

In 2001 I went for the first time in Rome. Hearing about this, a friend told me: “You are going to Rome? You MUST to see *Gladiator!*” And he was right.

Since then, I saw the movie several times and I think is a master piece as all the movies made by Sir Ridley Scott with Russell Crowe. Personally, I had many times in my life, but mostly in the last ten years, the same feeling of continuous and useless fight as a gladiator.

In one of the beginning scenes, Commodus, the son of the Imperator, has a dramatic argue with his father: “You wrote to me once listing the four virtues: wisdom, justice, fortitude and temperance. When I read it I knew that I have none of them. But I have other virtues Father. Ambition – this can be a virtue when it thrives us to excel. Resourcefulness, courage, perhaps not on the battle field but there are many forms of courage; devotion, to my family, to You. But none of my virtues was on Your list! Even, as You didn’t wanted me as a son.” [...] “What is with me You hate so much?” “Commodus, you are going too far”, replies the Imperator. “All I ever wanted was the levelty, Cesar...Father”, says again Commodus. “Commodus”, says kneeling the Imperator, “your faults as a son, is my failure as a father...” And in response, Commodus kills his Father...

If in twenty four years I was not able to persuade the closest person I had, that my way is the right one, her faults are a proof of my failure in front God.

As usual, I take this opportunity in order to wish you for all your support, *Happy winter holidays* along with all the best in 2013 but *sine justitia nula liberta*.

Dr. Iulian Rusu

References

- [1] ***, Monitorul Oficial, **180(334)** (2012) 6-7.
- [2] A. Netedu, Eur. J. Sci. Theol., **8(3)** (2012) 83.
- [3] I. Rusu, Eur. J. Sci. Theol., **7(4)** (2011) 1.