

Foreword

The current issue marks the beginning of the second year of publishing the relatively young open-access journal *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* (ABHPS). We are quite confident that, despite its young age, the journal has already found its place among other journals and has acquired a special role for those members of the Baltic scientific community who take special interest in the history and philosophy of science. The editorial policy of the journal has also been evolved and elaborated during this relatively short period, mainly owing to the editor-in-chief's and managing editor's rather long-term experience in publishing other peer-reviewed journals and collections of research articles, especially the *Baltic Journal of European Studies* (BJES) since 2007. It seems appropriate to emphasise that the journal has been financed almost solely by the Estonian Association for the History and Philosophy of Science and the Tallinn University of Technology; also, we are very grateful for the private donations we have received from Latvia. We would also like to point out that preparing a journal for publication is one among the editors' many professional responsibilities (which include also teaching at the university).

The journal has what could be called a double mission: first, to advance research in the field and, second, to keep the academic community updated with what is happening in research today. The former represents an ambition 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. This is the "normal" role of an academic journal in research and development activities—to publish the best outcomes of research carried out by individual scholars. The editorial office of the journal has set a goal of moving away from descriptive research "tradition", which has been quite typical for many science historians of the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), and replace it with a more exploratory approach. The creation of the journal was inspired by the fact that over the past decades, remarkable research in the field of history and philosophy of science has been carried out in the Baltic Rim countries (incl. also Nordic countries, Poland, Germany and Russia) and this legacy deserves to be known by the global scientific community. Therefore, the journal sees its role as a "mediator" between Baltic researchers in a stricter sense and the English-speaking audience in general.

Our editorial office tries to maintain the principal balance between the philosophy of science and the history of science proper. Sometimes this is not an easy task, but we try to guarantee that in average at least quarter of the articles published in ABHPS are dedicated to the philosophy of science. During the journal's brief existence we have already received a significant number of papers related only very remotely to the announced scope of the journal. The topics of those articles have been usually bordering on the field of history and philosophy of science, ranging from various historical issues to religious philosophy, art policy, specific questions of the methodology of social sciences and even beyond. However, we have taken a clear position that the material published in ABHPS should have direct linkage to the sphere of history or philosophy of science in its proper sense. Nevertheless, we do not want to rule out the possibility of publishing the best of such articles in the future, but only if they possess real scientific value and have direct significance for history and philosophy of science as such.

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 judgement. We have not suggested authors to add illustrations where it has seemed 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, if necessary.

Decisions regarding the submissions' acceptability for publication are made strictly by the editors on the basis of the reviewers' opinions. Such strict and unconditional international double- (or sometimes even triple- and quadruple-) reviewing could be implemented also for invited authors as well as in the case of short communications of informative nature. The search for competent reviewers has been sometimes extremely challenging, especially when it comes to specific local historical issues. Therefore, we are especially grateful to the Latvian and Lithuanian members of the journal's editorial office and board (our colleagues from Latvian and Lithuanian associations for the history and philosophy of science) who have assisted us in finding competent reviewers for specific papers on the history of science in Latvia and Lithuania. In addition to the Baltic countries, we have managed to find competent reviewers from Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Ukraine, Belarus, Germany, France, Russia, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The journal continues to publish selected short communications, such as short survey papers, overviews, conference proceedings, book reviews and others. 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 have reserved a right to publish material of polemical nature from time to time for the sake of exchanging ideas, insights, opinions, critical points of view, etc. In this issue this applies, for example, to the position paper by Professor Juozas Algimantas Krikštopaitis, President of the Lithuanian Association on the History and Philosophy of Science.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the members of the journal's Editorial Board and the wider scientific community who have rendered assistance in finding competent reviewers, and/or have given other advice. We would also like to give our special thanks to Dr. **Alida Zigmunde** for her assistance in disseminating the journal among scholars in Latvia as well as to Professor **Juozas Algimantas Krikštopaitis**, Dr. **Birute Railienė** and **Jaana Eigi**, who have managed to gain some publicity for the new journal by publishing articles in Lithuania and Estonia, and **Kait Tamm** for her excellent language and technical editing. The experience with the past three issues of *ABHPS* clearly show how fruitful the cooperation with Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Associations on the History and Philosophy of Science could actually be. We have also managed to establish good working relations with the editors of other journals such as *Studies in the History of Biology* (St. Petersburg), *Sociology of Science and Technology* (St. Petersburg), *Problemos* (Vilnius), *Studia Philosophica Estonica* (Tartu), and similar associations in Finland and elsewhere.

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