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SUMMARIES

John Dillon

Platonism and the World Crisis

Language: English

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Key words: world crisis, Platonism, ideal state

John Dillon (Trinity College, Dublin) argues, that Plato, and the tradition deriving from him, has a number of important things to say to the modern world, to which the modern world would do well to listen. Of course, Plato had no conception of the nature or complexity of the issues with which modern civilisation is currently faced, but nonetheless there are many useful insights which we may derive both from his own works – in particular his last great work, *The Laws* – and from those of certain of his followers, in particular Plotinus. The topics on which the paper focuses are just three, but they seem to represent the great bulk of what is wrong with modern western society, and what is inexorably putting intelligent life on this planet under mortal threat. They are the following: 1) The problem of the destruction of the environment and of waste disposal; 2) The problem of religious conflict and mutual intolerance and 3) The problem of the legitimation of authority and the limits of personal freedom.

John Dillon

The Origins of Platonists' Dogmatism

Language: English

ΣΧΟΛΗ Vol. I. 1 (2007), pages: 25-37

Key words: Old Academy, Speusippus, Xenocrates, dogmatism

John Dillon (Trinity College, Dublin) argues, that the exigencies of inter-school rivalry, initially between the Academy and the Peripatos, but then between later Platonists and both Stoics and Aristotelians, demanded that Platonism become more formalized than it was left by Plato himself, and that it was primarily Xenocrates, in a vast array of treatises, both general and particular, who provided the bones of this organized corpus of doctrine. Not that the Platonists were ever subject to anything like a monolithic orthodoxy. Platonic doctrine was not anything handed down centrally, from above; it was rather a self-regulating system, in which everyone knew what it meant, broadly, to be a Platonist (which could, in later times, embrace being a Pythagorean as well), and managed to stay within those parameters, while squabbling vigorously with each other, as well as with the other schools.

John Dillon

Monist and Dualist Tendencies in Platonism before Plotinus

Language: English

ΣΧΟΛΗ Vol. I. 1 (2007), pages: 38-50

Key words: monism, dualism, Old Academy, Middle Platonism

An article by John Dillon (Trinity College, Dublin) argues that the Platonism that Plotinus inherits – setting aside Ammonius Saccas, of whom we know all too little – is by the later second century distinctly dualist in tendency, and is able, especially in the case of Plutarch, to quote Plato to its purpose. Plato himself, though, as the author maintains, is, despite appearances to the contrary, what one might term a 'modified monist'. That is to say, he fully recognizes the degree of imperfection and evil in the world, and holds it to be ineradicable, but he does not in the last resort believe in a positive countervailing force to the Good or the One. What we have is simply a negative force, whether Indefinite Dyad, disorderly World-Soul, or Receptacle, which is an inevitable condition of their being a world at all, but which, as a side-effect of introducing diversity, generates various sorts of imperfection. It is this scenario that justifies his follower Hermodorus in declaring that Plato recognizes only a single first principle, and it to this sort of monism – if anything, in a more pronounced form – that Plotinus returns.

A Russian translation of this article is published in ΣΧΟΛΗ II. 1 (2008) 11-20.

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ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ РЕДАКТОРА

Данное электронное издание отличается от печатной версии журнала: опубликованные в ней переводы статьи Эрика Доддса «Парменид Платона и происхождение неоплатонического Единого» и фрагментов Нумения из Апамеи в исправленном и дополненном виде переизданы в специальном выпуске, посвященном Неопифагореизму (Том III, выпуск 1, 2009). В то же время электронная версия дополнена оригинальным английским вариантом статьи Джона Диллона «Монистические и дуалистические тенденции в платонизме до Плотина», опубликованной в русском переводе в ΣΧΟΛΗ II. 1 (2008) 11–20.

EDITORIAL NOTE

This electronic edition of the issue differs from the printed copy: a classical article by Eric R. Dodds, “The *Parmenides* of Plato and the Origin of the Neoplatonic 'One'” (*Classical Quarterly* 22 [1928]) in a Russian translation and the Fragments of Numenius of Apamea are now corrected and republished in the special issue of the journal (Vol. III, issue 1, 2009) dedicated to the Neopythagoreans. At the same time the issue is supplemented by an article by John Dillon, “Monist and Dualist Tendencies in Platonism before Plotinus”. A Russian translation of this article is published in ΣΧΟΛΗ II. 1 (2008) 11–20.

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ФИЛОСОФСКОЕ АНТИКОВЕДЕНИЕ И КЛАССИЧЕСКАЯ ТРАДИЦИЯ
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Первый выпуск нового журнала, посвященного изучению античности и классической традиции во всех ее разнообразных аспектах, подготовлен специально для участников первого семинара долгосрочного проекта «Преподавая античность. Фундаментальные ценности в изменяющемся мире», проведение которого оказалось возможным благодаря Программе поддержки высшего образования Института «Открытое общество» (Будапешт). Первый летний семинар (август 2007 г., Новосибирский научный центр) посвящен изучению классической философской традиции и традиции гуманитарного образования в контексте современных представлений о ценностях. Адрес электронной версии журнала: www.nsu.ru/classics/schole/ и www.elibraru.ru

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The first issue of the journal of ancient philosophy and the classical tradition is prepared for the first seminar of a long-term project “Teaching Classics. Fundamental Values in the Changing World”, generously sponsored by the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Institute (Budapest). The first summer meeting (August 2007), organized by Novosibirsk State University and the Institute of Philosophy and Law of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, is dedicated to study of the ancient philosophical tradition and the tradition of classical education in the context of contemporary concepts of values. These and other relevant publications are available on-line at the address: www.nsu.ru/classics/schole/ and www.elibraru.ru

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