

## EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

This is the 200th issue of *Logique et Analyse*, the 50th volume, and therefore we can celebrate the existence of the journal for fifty years or half a century. The very first issue has been published in January 1958, and it is quite interesting to recall its table of contents: Arne Naess, “La validité des normes fondamentales” (“The validity of fundamental norms”), Ch. Perelman, “L’argument pragmatique” (“The pragmatic argument”), J. H. Johnstone, “Systèmes formels et systèmes ontologiques” (“Formal systems and ontological systems”) and A. Bayart, “La correction de la logique modale du premier et second ordre S5” (“Soundness of the modal logic of first and second order S5”). The introduction to this very first issue ended with these words: “Formalisation, argumentation, stratégies, analyse, voici donc bien des voies ouvertes, au moment où ce périodique nouveau s’assigne comme objectif de les rassembler et de les confronter.” (“Formalisation, argumentation, strategies, analysis, these are the topics to explore, at the very moment this new journal sets itself as its goal to bring these topics together and to confront them.”) Although the topics have changed — how could it be otherwise? — the spirit has remained the same.

Right from the start, *Logique et Analyse* was the official journal of the *Centre National de Recherches de Logique — Nationaal Centrum voor Navorsingen in de Logica* (CNRL-NCNL), i.e., the *National Centre for Research in Logic*, which was founded a couple of years before, viz. in 1955 — the official date is 21 May 1955 — by Philippe Devaux, Joseph Dopp, Robert Feys, Maximilien Freson, Chaïm Perelman, Leo Apostel, and Franz Crahay. Between 1955 and 1958 an internal bulletin was published for members only. In 1958 the decision was taken to have a journal that should (re)present the activities of the *Centre* to the outside world. Since then much has happened. The journal was published at its regular pace — March, June, September and December, as it still is today — and became internationally known, which was reflected by the submission of papers from logicians and philosophers worldwide and by the range of subscribers, covering the entire world.

However, it must also be said that the journal has gone through a more difficult moment. Due to practical and related matters, the journal, at its worst moment, had accumulated a backlog of about two and a half years. It has taken us quite some time, but at the beginning of 2006 the backlog was reduced to zero and since then, issues have appeared at the regular pace

we knew before. In a curious way, this effort to reduce the backlog has produced some interesting results. As editor I invited several colleagues to put together special issues to have additional material (obeying the standard process of refereeing, of course), and this led to issues such as “Logic in Australia” and “Logic in South-America”, that can still be considered as excellent presentations of the state of the logico-philosophical art in those countries at that particular moment. I was inspired, I have to admit, by a similar idea of Kluwer Academic who did the same thing for philosophy of science.

Apart from the journal itself, much has happened on the electronic front as well. As is pretty inevitable, we have our own website (<http://www.vub.ac.be/CLWF/L&A/>), where new issues are announced and the table of contents of recently published issues can be consulted. In addition, starting 2008, we plan to put the entire archive of *Logique et Analyse* on the Internet, accessible for free (with a five-year gap in order to respect our subscribers). We are looking into the possibility to let subscribers to the journal also have access to the electronic version of recent issues. The website of the journal is part of a larger network of sites, including the official site of the *Centre* itself (<http://www.logic-center.be/ncnl.html>), where links can be found to such sites as <http://www.logic-center.be/logici.html>, that offers a complete list of all researchers in the areas of logic, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of science, and, more broadly, analytical philosophy in Belgium, or <http://www.logic-center.be/cahiers/cahiersnl.html>, a series of booklets and books to be seen as a companion series to this journal. Of course, links can be found here to all university research centres in Belgium, doing work in logic and philosophy of science.

In March 2006, when the backlog was reduced to nil, we immediately made an application to the *Institute for Scientific Information* (ISI) for accepting our journal in their listings. As long as we were facing the backlog, an application was futile, as the ISI makes perfectly clear on its website. At the moment I am writing this introduction, no news is to be reported, neither good nor bad. However, the *European Science Foundation* (ESF) has taken the initiative to develop a European “counterpart” to the ISI listings, and, although the process is definitely not yet in its final stages, this journal is doing well in the preliminary rankings.

Of course, a journal is as good as the quality of the material that is being published. That requires authors from all over the world to submit their material to us. *Logique et Analyse* continues to invite logicians, philosophers of science, philosophers of language and (analytical) philosophers worldwide to submit their papers to us. We do our very best to keep the refereeing process as short as possible. In addition, the editorial board will consider any proposal for special issues and will continue to invite researchers to put together issues centered around particular topics. After fifty years, *Logique*

*et Analyse* is alive and well and the editorial board hopes that the logic community worldwide will continue to guarantee and further improve its health.

Jean Paul Van Bendegem