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# Summaries

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## Summaries

Witold Marciszewski

### **Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz and the Polish debate on universals**

When discussing Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz's role in philosophy, it is worthwhile recalling his participation in scholarly controversies. It was characteristic of his open mind that his taking part in debates was motivated by a vivid interest in various ways of thinking. Ajdukiewicz's intellectual force consisted, so to speak, in his ability of not to understand. This ability has brought him success in some important debates, concerning i.a. the classical logical concept of *contradiction* and the debate on universals raised in modern Poland with the nominalistic program of Stanisław Leśniewski and Tadeusz Kotarbiński. In this latter debate Ajdukiewicz shows that when one says that individuals exist, the word „exist” refers to something different than in the statement that universals exist. In other words, the functor „is” has a different category in the definition of an individual from that appearing in the definition of a universal; hence there must be two different senses of the word „exist”.

Marek Rosiak

### **On some ontic categories (From the problems of predication)**

The problems investigated in the paper concern mainly the question: What do components of the predicative sentence „*A* is *b*” refer to? The following particular issues are considered: the Aristotelian distinction between particularity and ontic self-sufficiency; the interpretation of different kinds of predication based on that distinction; a debate on different standpoints in the controversy concerning the nature of the predicate referent, in particular a contemporary version of nominalism called *The Resemblance Theory of Universals* (with the related problems of the ontic status of the

relation of temporal existence in general and different kinds of this relation; and finally different dimensions of the complexity of a thing. A former version of the paper was published in English in *The Proceedings of The Second German-Polish Workshop on Logic and Logical Philosophy* (Nicolaus Copernicus University Press, Toruń 1998).

Marek Łagosz

**On some misunderstandings concerning existence**

The author presents in the paper several related «logical» meanings of the category of existence. He discusses some views held by Frege, Russell, Leśniewski, and Quine. The aim of the discussion is to show the insufficiency of those views for philosophical discourse. The criticism goes in two main directions: immanent direction and transcendent direction. Firstly, the author indicates some internal inconsistencies of the interpretations under discussion. Secondly, he tries to compare the conceptions under consideration with some alternative attitudes, especially with the approach of the so-called existential metaphysics.

Robert Poczobut

**Doxastic contradictions and rationality of beliefs**

The article provides a critical-comparative analysis of selected positions lending grounds for limitation of the classical principle of consistency of belief systems. The first part contains arguments of C. Cherniak, P. Klein, R.C. Pinto, N. Rescher and R. Brandom for the inevitability of contradictions in human belief systems. The second part presents several systems of paraconsistent doxastic logic (N.C.A. da Costa, S. French, G. Priest) formally tolerating (in various ways) contradictory beliefs. The analysis especially focuses on the weaknesses of the paraconsistent interpretation of the self-deception phenomenon and the contradictions resulting from the so-called Moore's paradox.

Arkadiusz Chrudzimski

**The semantics of the privileged access**

In the paper we present some interesting aspects of the traditional account of the theory of intentionality that after Sellars is commonly called „the myth of the given”. The most characteristic aspect of this doctrine is the essential interrelation between the theory of intentionality and the idea of the Cartesian sphere of epistemically privileged access. This interrelation allows in turn to link very naturally the theory of intentionality to the doctrine of epistemological foundationalism. The theory of intentionality of this kind assumes that every intentionality is of the descriptive, «Russellian» nature. Consequently, all the contexts *de re* pose a very serious problem for this theory. On the ground of Chisholm's theory we show how the partisan of «the myth of the given» could manage these problems.

Izabela Bondecka-Krzykowska

**Computer proofs and the epistemological status of mathematical theorems**

The article is an attempt at collecting and systematizing views on the role and place of computers in mathematics, in particular the news on the consequences of using computers in proving mathematical theorems. The following issues are considered in the article: the problems connected with the concept of mathematical proof and its features; the attempts at answering the question whether computer proofs are real mathematical proofs; the problems with methods of checking correctness of classical and computer-assisted proofs; and finally the problem of the reliability of proofs and a related problem of the validity of mathematical conjectures. The main issue under discussion is the problem of philosophical consequences of regarding computer-assisted proofs as rightful in mathematics and especially its possible influence on the opinion that mathematical knowledge is *a priori*.

Teresa Rzepa

**Władysław Witwicki's psychology of missed opportunities**

Many years' I have spent exploring the psychological work of Władysław Witwicki authorizes me to utter a general verdict, contained in the title phrase „psychology of missed opportunities”. In the article I present arguments for this diagnosis, looking for the origins and results of «Witwicki syndrome», which may be helpful in diagnosing other scientists' production.

The essence of that syndrome consists in: first, thinking of numerous and original ideas and visions of achieving them; then, making a weakly justified choice from among them — and, finally, stubbornly arguing for the chosen solution to the problem is the only permissible. I illustrate the symptoms of the characterized syndrome by the examples taken from the range of Władysław Witwicki's proposals, both theoretical and methodological,

Jerzy Bobryk

**What can modern psychologists learn from Władysław Witwicki?**

The article is devoted to the evaluation of the ecological alternative in cognitive psychology. The theory of «extended mind» is discussed in this paper as a version of ecological psychology. The authors of the theory of extended mind advocate «active externalism», based on the active role of the environment in driving cognitive processes. The environment driving cognitive processes comprises books, diagrams, language, and other culture products. Władysław Witwicki's psychology and his idea of real presence of persons in cultural products which they create, provide a conceptual framework for the undertaken analysis and evaluation.

Jan Woleński

**Władysław Witwicki as a philosopher**

Władysław Witwicki was first of all a psychologist, but he graduated as a philosopher in Lvov University, being one of the earliest pupils of Kazimierz Twardowski. He was a representative of the descriptivistic branch of the Lvov-Warsaw School. In the area of psychology he realised the important postulate of his teacher, who persuaded his students into writing original handbooks to give Polish scholar contributions their due: it is this which was the beginning of Witwicki's *Psychology*. In the area of philosophy he was particularly interested in the foundations of (descriptive) psychology. Witwicki's ontological and epistemological views are close to realism. In ethics he defended absolute character of moral norms against scepticism and relativism. In general, Witwicki acceded to antiirrationalism, the common standpoint in his School.