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Editorial

This volume consists of seven articles and one book review. The articles are arranged thematically.

Part one, which focuses on the foundations of life and biological information, includes three articles.

In “The Hypotheses of Silicon Biogenesis and the Problem of the Elementary Unit of Life: Part I. Sedlak’s Hypothesis of «Siliceous Life Forms» and Cairns-Smith’s Hypothesis of «Mineral Genes»” by Marian Wnuk the problem of the modeling of a minimal living system is presented from the viewpoint of the hypotheses of mineral origins of life. Special attention is paid to the hypotheses formulated by Włodzimierz Sedlak (siliceous life forms) and by Alexander Graham Cairns-Smith (the mineral “gene”). The possibility of the reconstruction of a new model of elementary unit of life is suggested. The significant works concerning above problems have been reviewed.

Mariusz Tabaczek, in the article “Timeliness of Aristotelianism in the Context of the Search for the Ontological Foundation of Biological Information”, shows the way from questioning genocentrism to a multi-faceted approach to biological information, against the background of historical development and the current state of philosophical research on the essence of information in general. In reference to the ontological dimension of biological information, an argument is presented in favor of the timeliness of the key categories of Aristotle’s philosophy of nature as fundamental for understanding and defining the most important aspects of information stored and expressed in the functioning of living systems (beings).

The last text in part one is the article “Mandeville’s Ship: Theistic Design and Philosophical History in Charles Darwin’s Vision of Natural Selection” by Stephen G. Alter. The author notes that although much has been written about the rhetorical illustrations used in **On the Origin of Species**, little has been said about the ship-and-

savage illustration, despite its importance in Darwin's work. His paper sets out to analyze three interconnected aspects of this analogy. Among other things, the author shows that the illustration of the ship was Darwin's response to the idea of theistic "design".

Part two, concerning the origins of law and society, contains two articles.

Riccardo Cavallo in the article "The Violent Origins of Law" examines two issues: can we ultimately trace the origins of law back to violence, and could it be that law is in fact a continuation of violence by other means? The background for these considerations is the relationship between law and violence as depicted in the Greek tragedy **The Eumenides**. Against this background, the author examines the aforementioned relationship, relating it to the twentieth century.

Agnieszka Droś, in the article "The Genesis of Society in the Thought of Bernard Mandeville", presents the paradox of private vices and public benefits of Bernard Mandeville taking as an example his views on the genesis of society, based mainly on the second volume of **Fable of the Bees** and **The Origin of Honor and the Usefulness of Christianity in War**. In her opinion, the evolutionary process of the development of society presented in the text differs from the views presented by the author in the first volume of **The Fable**, because the second volume emphasizes the long-term and spontaneous nature of the progress made by people with unremarkable minds. The author also argues that in his considerations Mandeville remains on the key topic of human nature and the importance of human vices in the proper functioning of social groups.

The third part, devoted to the problems of the extended evolutionary synthesis, contains two articles.

The background to Andrew Buskell's considerations, presented in the article "Reciprocal Causation and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis", are the arguments presented by Kevin Laland's team for the extended evolutionary synthesis. The author examines Laland *et al.*'s central concept of reciprocal causation. Reciprocal causation features in many arguments supporting an expanded evolutionary framework, yet few of these arguments are clearly delineated. The author clarifies the concept and makes explicit three arguments in which it features. He also identifies where skeptics can — and are — pushing back against these arguments, and highlights what he sees as the empirical, explanatory, and methodological issues at stake.

Daniel R. Brooks, in the article "The Extended Synthesis: Something Old, Something New", argues that we need an Extended Synthesis. In his view, the most comprehensive framework for the Extended Synthesis is the major transitions in evolution. The author advocates the older view that biology does not need to be connected with other areas of science in order to justify itself. He points out that Charles Darwin suggested the existence of a "higher law" but did not specify it. The Author believes that if

we can identify this law, the Extended Synthesis will become the Unified Theory of Biology that he and Ed Wiley talked about 25 years ago.

The volume ends with a review of the Polish translation of Phillip E. Johnson's book **Darwin on Trial (Darwin przed sądem, *Seria Inteligentny Projekt*, Fundacja En Arche, Warszawa 2020)**. The review is entitled "Theory of Evolution in Lawyer's View", and its author Krzysztof J. Kilian explains why Johnson's book deserves to be read and presents its main themes.

Krzysztof J. Kilian