

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
FOR PHILOSOPHY  
AND HUMANISTIC STUDIES**

*Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*

**BULLETIN  
1956 - 1957**

**C.I.P.S.H.**

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF U.N.E.S.C.O.

U.N.E.S.C.O. HOUSE

19, AVENUE KLÉBER - PARIS XVI<sup>e</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

Four *Bulletins*, devoted respectively to 1949, 1950, to the three years 1951-1952-1953 and to the years 1954-1955, have successively reviewed the activities of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies since its foundation in January 1949. The present *Bulletin* proposes to give a summary of the Council's achievements in 1956-1957.

During these two years the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies has pursued the task it had set for itself nine years ago. From an administrative point of view, it has found its balance. It now covers all the fields which make up the realm of humanistic studies. Improvements or changes may always be made, but the general framework of the Council is now fixed and the task it had set itself in this respect has been successfully carried out.

Revised and definitely adopted in 1955 by the Third General Assembly of the Council, the C.I.P.S.H. constitution has proved satisfactory and has contributed to put the structure of the Council on a solid basis (1).

An important innovation in the method of distributing subsidies to the Council bears witness to the confidence which the organization has inspired to the U.N.E.S.C.O. General Conference, Executive Board and Secretariat. Henceforth the subsidies allotted to the member organizations of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, instead of being paid directly by U.N.E.S.C.O. to the various beneficiaries, will be turned over in a lump sum to the Council, which will have the responsibility of distributing them among its member organizations. This new system means that, within any given year, changes may be made freely by the C.I.P.S.H. up to the last minute—provided, of course, that the Director General of U.N.E.S.C.O. is notified of the changes. The new arrangement gives the Council both greater responsibility and greater freedom.

At the same time as its fundamental structures were thus revised and improved, the Council continued in 1956 and 1957 to concern itself actively with the important question of its geographic basis. This problem is a delicate one and is of capital importance for the development of the C.I.P.S.H. On

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(1) The text of the Council's Constitution and a list of its member organizations and their officers may be found at the end of this *Bulletin*.

the one hand, it is normal and extremely desirable that all the world's countries be associated as closely as possible with the activities of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. On the other hand, it is certain that the state of advancement of humanistic studies is unequal in the various regions of the world. The problem before the Council is therefore to ensure the pursuit of its scientific work at the highest level while trying to associate with it the scientific organizations of the greatest possible number of countries.

The Council first asked all its member organizations to make every effort to give their own structure as broadly international a character as possible. Very considerable progress in this direction has been made within recent years. All the member organizations of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies are now represented in at least three parts of the world, most of them in four and several in all five.

In several countries (Iran, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Colombia) national committees set up to establish links with the Council have pursued their activities. The final aim of the C.I.P.S.H. remains the setting up of a vast network of international learned organizations grouped by fields of study; but the national committees for humanistic studies can ensure contact with the C.I.P.S.H. on a provisional basis and become, in the future, the nuclei of national learned societies affiliated with the Council's member federations.

Like its predecessors, the present *Bulletin* contains a brief summary of the Council's projects: meetings, publications, surveys and projects of a general character.

Among the meetings, three general types may be distinguished: the great international congresses which—usually every five years—present a summary of the work accomplished in one or another field of humanistic studies; the administrative meetings which concern themselves with indispensable questions of organization and budget; and the symposia and meetings of committees of experts which bring together specialists responsible for studying some precise problem.

The international meetings held under the auspices of the C.I.P.S.H. in 1956 and 1957 met with considerable success. The plans of work adopted and the system of publication of the *Reports* and *Proceedings* proved to be most satisfactory, and the international contacts which are made at such meetings turned out to be extremely useful and fruitful. Congresses and seminars are among the most encouraging forms of the collective work which parallels and reinforces individual work in a permanent way.

In addition to meetings subsidized by U.N.E.S.C.O. on recommendation of the C.I.P.S.H., the present *Bulletin* also mentions a number of other meetings of an international character concerning which detailed information has reached the C.I.P.S.H. Secretariat and which it seemed useful to note.

Among publications, two great series have continued to receive help from U.N.E.S.C.O. on recommendation of the Council: bibliographies and scientific works. In most cases, the situation of learned bibliographies has remained extremely difficult. Although they are indispensable to the advancement of science, they are intended for only a limited number of scholars. Their sales remain very small. But even if they are addressed to a small number of users, they govern, in a sense, the advancement of science. Even works of popularization are made possible only by the arduous work of scientific research, which is undertaken only by a few. This situation has, of course, material implications which are not improved by the growing number of organizations—and therefore

of bibliographies—entitled to benefit from subsidies which cannot be swelled by a proportionate increase in the resources available.

As for the scientific works assisted by the C.I.P.S.H., it must be clearly stated that they still belong to the realm of erudite research. This fact has been criticized. It is nevertheless indispensable that at a certain stage this sort of work should receive support. The Council certainly does not underestimate the importance of popularization at a respectable level. It is certainly not in favor of reserving science for a small number of specialists. But if the results of scientific work are to be circulated as widely as possible, it is necessary that the work itself be obstinately pursued, and at the highest possible level. The necessary condition for the publication of works addressed to the general public is that specialists and scholars pursue research that is often thankless, sometimes even misunderstood, but which will become the source of the scientific information that, in turn, will be circulated among the masses at a more accessible level.

This work of popularization has already been begun by the Council itself at a very high scientific level. In Chapter III of this *Bulletin*, information will be found concerning the review *Diogenes*. Founded to inform specialists in various fields of the work being done in other branches of study, and to keep the cultivated public informed of the hypotheses, and the progress of contemporary science, *Diogenes* has succeeded in becoming a link among different branches of study and different cultures. Its several parallel editions have acquired a more than honorable place in public and private libraries, and the results achieved are no longer merely encouraging. *Diogenes* has now become an international scientific organ, a useful working tool, a valuable channel of information and the major creation of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies.

Finally, in 1956 and 1957, the Council continued to interest itself in a number of general projects and surveys. After the surveys concerning the nature of freedom, the origins of National-Socialism, after the survey of mental habits from the viewpoint of language—entrusted to the Permanent International Committee of Linguists—after the survey of the possibilities of broadening the teaching of the humanities, the Council continued to participate in a certain number of projects of broad international significance.

Information will be found in the present *Bulletin* (p. 17 and p. 18) on the assistance which the Council furnished to U.N.E.S.C.O. in the drawing up of the program of translation of representative works. As in 1953 and 1955, a committee of experts was called together to advise U.N.E.S.C.O. in this field.

A new and important project was launched by one of the member organizations of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, the International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. The project involves a study of languages and cultures threatened with transformation or extinction. Information concerning this project, which is both important and urgent, will be found on page 14.

The *Bulletin* also contains information (see especially p. 14) concerning the whole-hearted support brought by the Council to U.N.E.S.C.O. in the launching of the latter's major project dealing with mutual appreciation of the cultural values of East and West.

Finally, the Council began the survey—to be continued in years to come—of the role of classical and humanistic culture in education and in cultural life today. Information on this subject will be found in Chapter IV. This survey follows the same lines as the one made in 1954 and 1955 concerning the possibi-

lities of broadening the teaching of the humanities. But it approaches the problems from another point of view. Whereas in 1955 the committee of experts had concerned itself essentially with the educative value of the humanities of East and West, the current survey poses the problem of the role of classical and humanistic culture in general in the modern world.

Such are, very briefly summed up, some of the activities of the Council in 1956 and 1957. During these two years, as in the past, the Council was conscious that, in proportion to the immensity of the needs in the field of humanistic studies, the help it could give to scholars and their work was all too often insignificant. But it was also conscious of having utilized its available resources for the best and of having contributed, as far as its possibilities allowed, to the establishment of concrete bonds of confidence among all the world's scholars.

The essence of the Council's mission comes from its position as an intermediary between the learned organizations, on the one hand, and U.N.E.S.C.O. on the other. Without close collaboration with scholars throughout the world, and with the U.N.E.S.C.O. Secretariat, its task would be vain and impossible.

It is only through its member organizations that the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies has a real existence. It is a duty to point out here, once more, the constant devotion and diligent activity of the limited, voluntary and overworked secretariats who are willing to take from important scientific work the hours necessary for thankless administrative tasks.

The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies also wishes to express here its gratitude to the U.N.E.S.C.O. Secretariat. Since the Council's establishment, it has never lacked for generous support and help from this organization, which has always shown it the broadest and most friendly understanding. To the Director General of U.N.E.S.C.O. and to the members of its Secretariat, all of whom are friends of the Council, goes our very sincere gratitude.