

PREFACE

It is appropriate that an issue of the *Bulletin* devoted to the work of Paul Ricoeur offer materials both in French and in English. More than any other contemporary French philosopher, perhaps more than any French philosopher ever, Ricoeur has done important work on both sides of the Atlantic. Not only did he enjoy a long and prolific career at the University of Paris, he also held the John Nuveen Chair at the University of Chicago. He has lectured in many colleges and universities both in Europe and the United States, indeed throughout the world, as the published bibliography of his work indicates.

This issue of the *Bulletin* brings together under one cover materials that will be of immense help to Ricoeur scholars. Chief among these is an interview conducted with Professor Ricoeur by Professor Charles Reagan in the summer of 1991. One of several such interviews, this piece forms part of a larger intellectual biography of Ricoeur being prepared by Professor Reagan.

Also included in this issue is previously unpublished information about the Ricoeur archives project at Ohio University. This archive offers not only an extensive collection of offprints of major published works, it also contains an collection of papers from Ricoeur's Chicago period, including unpublished lecture notes. Details of the holdings of the Ricoeur archive and the rules for its use are included.

The bibliographer of Ricoeur's work, Professor Franz Vansina of Louvain, prepared a short bibliography of Ricoeur's works for this issue. The complete published bibliography of Ricoeur's works, also compiled by Vansina, is duly noted both as the index for the Ricoeur

archives at Ohio University and in brief bibliography included in this issue.

The *Bulletin* also offers three articles dealing with various aspects of Ricoeur's work. Each article treats a different theme in Ricoeur's work and shows both the variety and unity in his thought. The article on the language of transcendence focuses on the necessity for and limitations of symbolic discourse. Professor Anderson's discussion of Ricoeur's aesthetic theory shows the welcome alternative it provides to the excesses of postmodernism. Finally, Jeff Lewis's analysis of commonalities between Ricoeur and Kant provides an interesting application of themes from Ricoeur's latest book *Soi-même comme un autre*.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is offered with the hope that it will help Ricoeur scholars and entice those not familiar with his work to become more aware of his important contributions to twentieth-century thought.

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