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ENGLISH SUMMARIES

R. GLAUSER, Philosophy, Reason, History, RThPh 1995/II, p. 113-125.

The author explains and defends the idea that significant knowledge of the history of philosophy, conceived of as a descriptive, interpretative and valuative discipline, is indispensable for a precise type of philosophical knowledge: the understanding of why current fundamental philosophical problems appear precisely with a particular structure or well-defined theoretical form. Such knowledge is philosophical because it is part of comprehending the problems themselves.

J.-D. ROUGEMONT, Spinoza and Totalitarianism. Fiction and reality, RThPh 1995/II, p. 127-141.

Spinoza proposes an hypothesis and denies that it can be concretised: the hypothesis of totalitarianism. We remind the reader what totalitarianism is, as a project and as a reality (§ 1), and we explain what Spinoza says of it (§ 2). Then we point out the limits he fixes to any political power: the integrity of human nature and the freedom to think (§ 3, 4). We show that the violations of these limits, which he judges unthinkable, are the very ones which Nazis and communists have tested and applied (§ 5, 6). Finally we mention the essential question of the role of violence and its "extinction" in the totalitarian State, in other words the question of the "withering of the State" (§ 7).

B. REYMOND, The Paradox of Religious Architecture. Comments on Paul Tillich, RThPh 1995/II, p. 143-153.

Tillich was one of the few theologians of our century to be interested in fine arts, particularly architecture. At the same time, he constantly insisted on the "Protestant principle", a protest against any reduction of the divine infinite to the finiteness of our human condition. Yet architecture is finite by definition. How can it then be religious, that is, witness to what ultimately concerns us? The present article attempts to lengthen Tillich's incomplete reflections on this point taking into account both the contributions of Rykwert and the characteristics of specifically Reformed church architecture.

K. BLASER, Theological Studies according to Schleiermacher, RThPh 1995/II, p. 165-162.

The translation of Kurze Darstellung des theologischen Studiums into French merits appreciation insofar as such an excellent edition is now available. It also invites a critical evaluation of the present reception and usefulness of this text which remains a milestone in the history and introductory books of theology.