

## Summary

### *The Sons of Daidalos, the Wards of the Airs* *An Idea of Genius in Herder's Philosophy of History*

This paper provides an analysis of the concept of genius in J. G. Herder's theory of literature and philosophy of history. The identification of a genius with a poet (a philosopher), who freely defines the rules and goals of his work, was preceded by a reflection of the Ancient Greek tradition (the sophists, Plato, Aristotle), where a model of artistic production considered as "imitation" (*mimesis*) was developed. In late 18th century, two different interpretations of the concept of genius crystalized in German philosophy. One continued in the rationalist tradition considering art as an exploration and imitation of Nature (Gottsched, Lessing, and Kant). The other sought a separation between poetry (considered to be a representative of the highest artistic form) and natural facts and the rules of their (scientific) knowledge (Hamann, Herder, Jean Paul, and Early Romanticism). Their goal was not to define the concept of genius, but to discover the opportunities brought by the principle of genius in the defence of the competence of the creative subject, the originality of the author, and the metaphysical-ontological irreplaceability of the work of art. J. G. Herder brought these characteristics from the field of critical philosophy of art, literary theory and criticism, and literature and poetry into the emerging field of political philosophy of the nation, which depicted an ideal of Germanism, German nation, Germany and German individuality. However, Herder was not a proponent of aggressive German nationalism, as he is often described: his effort to build a new, united Germany, that is, his effort to reach the ideal of the genius of Germanism (*Deutschtum*) by means of poetry (*Dichtkunst*) was in accord with the humanistic ideals of the history of mankind, in which there is no place for nationalistic, racial, religious or cultural dominance and arrogance. The paper is supplemented with translations of two of Herder's odes: The Genius of the Future (*Der Genius der Zukunft*), and To the Genius of Germany (*An den Genius von Deutschland*).