



# Existenz

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## EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

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This volume contains four critical reviews of the English edition of the late Krzysztof Michalski's *The Flame of Eternity: An Interpretation of Nietzsche's Thought*, Princeton University Press, 2012. The book has also been published in Polish, Russian, and is forthcoming in a French edition. The reviews are by senior scholars, Babette Babich, Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University; Sigridur Thorgeirsdottir, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Iceland; Lydia Voronina, US Department of State, retired; Tom Rockmore, Professor of Philosophy at Duquesne University. James Dodd, Professor and Chair in the Philosophy Department at the New School of Social Science in New York authored the introductory tribute to "Krzysztof Michalski as Educator."

Owing to matters of health and other contingencies, the KJSNA panel review of Krzysztof Michalski's *Flame of Eternity*, scheduled for the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in Atlanta (2012) did not take place. Nevertheless, our panelists agreed, as Babette Babich put it, Michalski's *Flame of Eternity* is a remarkable invitation to read Nietzsche "without guiderails," as it were. Thus all our reviewers are in agreement, for various reasons with Charles Taylor's single word "exceptional" endorsement on the book's dustjacket cover, and are certainly different than Richard Schacht's early dismissal, viz., that he just doesn't understand "this kind of writing."

Also in this volume, an original novella by Herbert Mason, Professor Emeritus at Boston University, on the classic myth and medieval folktale "Seven Sleepers of Ephesus" casting new light on the development of Islamic Studies in the United States, especially studies in Sufism. Mason blends his own biographical information into a captivating narrative of an enduring love story with wit and wisdom, nicely balanced with suspense, and a keen observation of human behavior. We feel tempted to add the usual disclaimer, "any resemblance to real persons, dead or alive, or other real-life entities, past or present, is purely coincidental," but the final call will be for our readers to determine whether the characters in Mason's story are fictitious or real.

The Editors,  
Alan M. Olson  
Helmut Wautischer

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of *Existenz* is to encourage research and publication on problems and topics consistent with the general overview of Karl Jaspers, namely, the history of philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics; psychology, philosophy of religion, politics, culture, and the arts. This journal serves as a publication outlet for various international Jaspers societies, including those in the United States, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, and also considers direct submissions of articles for online publication. *Existenz* is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index*.

### **Correspondence**

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