



Existenz

An International Journal in Philosophy, Religion, Politics, and the Arts

Volume 12

Number 1

Spring 2017

ISSN 1932-1066

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Volume 12/1, Spring 2017
10-Year Anniversary Issue

Editor's Introduction Helmut Wautischer <i>Sonoma State University</i>	iii
Translating Karl Jaspers on Greatness Ruth A. Burch and Helmut Wautischer <i>Lugano Paradiso, Switzerland and Sonoma State University</i>	1
Preface to the American Edition of <i>The Great Philosophers</i> Karl Jaspers <i>Basel, 1960</i>	6
Preface to <i>The Great Philosophers</i> Karl Jaspers <i>Basel, 1956</i>	9
Introduction to <i>The Great Philosophers</i> Karl Jaspers <i>1883 – 1969</i>	13
A Short Introduction to Jaspers' <i>Einleitung</i> to <i>The Great Philosophers</i> Florian Hild <i>Loveland Classical Schools</i>	50

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The academic trajectory of Karl Jaspers from criminology to medicine to philosophy illustrates his unwavering curiosity regarding the human condition and his relentless desire to advance knowledge, but more importantly it illustrates his firm belief of turning scientific knowledge into humanistic deed from a vantage point of lived wisdom. After a few semesters of studying law, Jaspers changed his field of study to medicine, furthering his keen interest in psychopathology; later on, after years of studying and practicing medicine, he put his focus on the study of philosophy since it proved to be the most apt academic field for pursuing the aim of fostering his kind of understanding of humankind. At the time when Jaspers set out to put together the ambitious project of a multi-volume history of philosophy, *Die Grossen Philosophen*, he had already published numerous philosophical writings. Volume one appeared in 1957, two additional volumes appeared posthumously.

A translation into English of this first volume was edited by his philosopher friend Hannah Arendt and published in 1962 by Kurt Wolff; however, Jaspers' 72-page introduction was omitted from it. The translator of *The Great Philosophers*, Ralph Mannheim, is widely acclaimed for his translations into English of French and German literary and political works; yet Jaspers scholars find his literary Jaspers' translations problematic as they are interspersed by generous editorial changes. Edith Ehrlich, Leonard H. Ehrlich, and George B. Pepper published in 1986 an emended abbreviated version of Mannheim's translation of the *Vorwort* to the German edition along with their translation of excerpts of the *Introduction* (approximately 9 pages of the German text). However, the translation of the *Introduction* offered here renders as close as possible the original German text in full length. Its difference in style from the Mannheim translation as well as the one offered in 1986 also warranted a fresh translation of both Jaspers' original *Vorwort* to the German edition, and his *Vorwort* to the American edition.

We are grateful to Hans Saner, the Karl Jaspers Stiftung in Basle, Elisabeth Wiedemann of Piper Verlag GmbH, and Jens Halfwassen and Thomas Fuchs from the Research Unit for the *Complete Works of Karl Jaspers (KJG)* of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities for their support concerning this first complete translation into English of the entire *Introduction to The Great Philosophers*. Special thanks to Dirk Fonfara, editor of the KJG volume containing *The Great Philosophers*, for his extensive support. We also thank Georg Hartmann from Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach (DLA) for providing us with the unpublished German text of Jaspers' American *Vorwort*. We thank the Karl Jaspers Stiftung for granting permission to publish a new translation of Jaspers' *Vorwort* to the American edition, and the Piper Verlag GmbH for granting the rights to translate and reprint in this 10-year-anniversary issue of *Existenz* the translation of: Karl Jaspers: "Vorwort" (p. 6-12) and "Einleitung" (p. 32-102) from *Die großen Philosophen* © 1957, 1981 Piper Verlag GmbH, München/Berlin.

Helmut Wautischer
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Helmut Wautischer

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ruth A. Burch

ADVISORY BOARD

Elena Bezzubova

Matthias Bormuth

Stephen A. Erickson

Tomoko Iwasawa

Suzanne Kirkbright

Raymond Langley

Gladys L. Portuondo

Czesława Piecuch

Reinhard Schulz

Mario Wenning

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

Direct all correspondence to the editors as posted at www.existenz.us/submissionguidelines.html