

# Symphilosophie

*International Journal of Philosophical Romanticism*

## Introduction: Romanticism and its Kantian Legacy

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This special volume celebrates and engages with Immanuel Kant's legacy and indelible influence on the romantics in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In recognition of Kant's enduring importance, we have invited authors to mark his 300<sup>th</sup> birth year with articles, translations, and reviews that take up Kantian themes present in romantic thinkers. Despite the contrast in styles between Kant and the romantics, the importance of Kant's critical system for the core ideas of romanticism is undeniable and inextricable. This year's issue 6 of *Symphilosophie* therefore examines the crucial residual influence of Kant on romantic philosophy.

We especially hope to present an array of perspectives, thinkers, and ideas that both take up Kantian themes in a romantic guise and challenge the presumed assumptions about what constitutes philosophical thinking. To the latter point, some romantics found Kant's connection between aesthetics and morality to reveal a greater affinity between philosophy, art, religion, and nature, than with science, while others found Kant to be the creative source for further work in scientific experimentation. No all-encompassing perspective can summarize what romanticism means or is about, even among the individual thinkers, who all held a wide range of speculative interests about life as a whole. In our endeavors to ask the questions concerning what romanticism is really about and how individual thinkers took up challenging Kantian problems, we discover the opportunity to interrogate novel ways of practicing philosophy itself. To this end, we believe that *Symphilosophie* as an open-access journal can help us to continue jettisoning some of the more

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deadening layers of academic malaise that plague publishing in many venues and to instead contribute to the life of thought and the life of our community of thinkers. We hold philosophy to be something more than an academic exercise and thus view romanticism to be more than a mere intellectual curio or historical trinket. Romanticism is at once an imaginative standpoint and an engagement with nature, art, and the irreducible other.

Kant was both daring in his efforts to go further than the scholastics and yet not willing to let enthusiasm run wild. That the beauty of nature and the example provided by genius in art could serve as a symbol of morality signaled to the romantics of all kinds that philosophy still has living blood in its veins that will ultimately transform society. We have included contributions that express romantic philosophy from these varying perspectives.

Our main section reflects the broad variety of Kantian topics in numerous romantic thinkers. Eight research articles analyze Kant's influence in the works of Friedrich Schlegel, Novalis, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Karoline von Günderrode, Sophie Mereau, Friedrich Schleiermacher, and Ludwig Tieck. The texts bring to light the oscillating reception of Kant's philosophy between critique, continuation, and transformation. We are greatly indebted to authors Bärbel Frischmann, Serena Feloj, Cody Staton, Anna C. Ezekiel, Margherita Giordano, Matthis Glatzel, Eran Horowitz, and Laure Cahen-Maurel for their wonderful contributions.

In addition, we are grateful for four research pieces in the miscellaneous section that do not specifically focus on the Kantian legacy as such, but are concerned with various central aspects of Romantic philosophy. We are delighted to be able to publish the contributions of Frederick C. Beiser, who discusses the multifaceted notion of romantic love; Márcio Suzuki, who deals with the relationship between philosophical and musical discourse; and Cecilia Rose Inkol, who examines the under-researched connections between philosophy and magic in Novalis. Also included in this *varia* section is an essay by the great Brazilian poet and philosopher, Rubens Rodrigues Torres Filho, who passed away last year and for whose contribution we are particularly thankful.

*Symphilosophie* is always pleased to present new translations of original texts for audiences beyond the original language. This year, we offer translations related to the main theme of the issue: David W. Wood provides us with an English rendering of a sample of Novalis's reflections on Kant and the critical philosophy (*On Kant*); Laure Cahen-Maurel translates into French a letter written in 1795 by Sophie Mereau to Immanuel Kant (*Lettre à Kant*); Augustin Dumont and Savannah-Lou Cochran-Mavrikakis supply a French translation of Karoline von Günderrode's *Apokalyptisches Fragment*;

Marlene Oeffinger completes another translation into English for us of some of August Ludwig Hülsen's work, this time his posthumously published *Philosophische Fragmente* (1813); and Cody Staton translates into English a piece by Friedrich Schiller called *Über den Gartenkalender auf das Jahr 1795*. As always, we are grateful to all these contemporary romantic philosophers and scholars for their translations of original source texts, which are accompanied by introductions and commentary.

This issue also contains two longer review essays in English. The first is David W. Wood's "Therapeutics of the Blue Flower", which is a survey of Dietrich von Engelhardt's four-volume project: *Medizin in Romantik und Idealismus* (Medicine in Romanticism and Idealism). The second review essay is by Felix Alejandro Cristiá. Titled "Novalis's Encyclopedistic Philosophy", it concerns Santiago di Napoli's brand new 2024 monograph in Spanish, *La enciclopedia de Novalis*.

These are followed by four book reviews of contemporary authors with works on classical German philosophy. Cody Staton reviews Lara Ostaric's *The Critique of Judgment and the Unity of Kant's Critical System* (Cambridge University Press, 2023); Claudia Melica examines Daniel Whistler's *François Hemsterhuis and the Writing of Philosophy* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022); David W. Wood looks at the edited volume by Katerina Mihaylova and Anna Ezekiel, *Hope and the Kantian Legacy: New Contributions to the History of Optimism* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2023); and Massimo Palma reviews Oliver Simons's *Literary Conclusions. The Poetics of Ending in Lessing, Goethe, and Kleist* (Northwestern University Press, 2022).

Finally, there is our usual Bulletin containing recent publications, upcoming conferences, and Calls for Papers.