

Foreword

This thematic issue of *Colloquia* is dedicated to Juozas Aputis (1936–2010), a key figure in Lithuanian literature of the second half of the twentieth century who played a pivotal role in the modernisation of narrative, in shaping standards of quality in the literary canon, and in the formation of an a-Soviet attitude. Most of this issue focuses on Aputis, including: Viktorija Daujotytė’s introductory article, five articles about the writer’s oeuvre, and five previously unpublished reminiscences appearing in the “Publications” section. Together, these texts reveal how the passage of time affects values associated with the classics, explore the boundaries of the late Soviet period and Aputis’s aesthetic discoveries, and discuss the author’s unique personality. The sixth article in the issue analyses musicalisation in the plays of Kostas Ostrauskas.

In honour of the memory of Dr. Hab. Algis Kalėda, this issue also includes that scholar’s last piece of writing about Aputis and Dalia Satkauskytė’s review of Kalėda’s monograph about Kornelijus Platelis. In the “Reviews” section Donata Mitaitė assesses Mindaugas Tamošaitis’s study about Eugenijus Matuzevičius, finding only that it lack a literary segment; Elžbieta Banytė offers a member of the younger generation’s view of Ellen Hinsey’s book of interviews with Tomas Venclova, *Nelyginant šiaurė magnetą* (Magnetic North); and Antanas Šimkus finds contemporary relevance in Valdemaras Kukulas’s monograph about the poet Paulius Širvys.

In the polemical section “Dominoes of Opinions,” the historian Rasa Čepaitienė argues that the renewal of bureaucratic pressures on humanities scholars, efforts at “optimising” Lithuanian Studies institutes, and the absurd attempts to regulate their work are an example of internal colonisation. This unpredictably changing reality raises an Aputis-like question: in defending our professional interests, will we succeed in also being responsible for the larger community – our nation?

JŪRATĖ SPRINDYTĖ, GINTARĖ BERNOTIENĖ