

PREFACE

Dear Professor Taljaard,

Your pupils and colleagues join with your family and friends in the festive spirit on this special occasion – your sixtieth birthday. Today, this 29th day of October, 1975, admits you to the ranks of those, strong of constitution, on whom God has bestowed a life packed with richly varied experiences. Congratulations! May God bless you and may the Lord be your shepherd, leading you beside quiet waters in years to come.

This modest *festschrift* has been planned and prepared by your pupils, colleagues and friends. We present it to you on this joyful occasion to highlight our esteem for your distinctive contribution to South African cultural and academic life. For the last 27 years you have taught Philosophy at the University of Potchefstroom. Many a student can attest to your dynamic, informal approach in the class room, your special interest in young people, and your untiring endeavours to set them thinking for themselves, discovering along the road the wealth of God's wonderful creation in the light of His Word. This has become the motive, so it seems, for your academic studies and teaching as well: 'human insights are fallible; put your trust in the Word of God Almighty'.

In a very special way you have combined a keen interest in socio-cultural activities with a theoretical analysis of the basic problems involved. The title of this volume of philosophical essays reflects this facet of your academic work. Although not exactly what we had in mind initially – the fate of many a *festschrift*, alas! – we do hope that the present collection of essays may give some idea of the stimulation and merit in your efforts to till the soil in this specific area.

Not only as a philosopher trained in the European tradition, with several contacts overseas, but also as a foundation member and the first chairman of the Philosophical Society of Southern Africa, you have distinguished yourself well beyond the boundaries of your local sphere of activity, exhibiting a lively interest in philosophical manifestations and developments in South Africa and abroad. We would accordingly like to express our sincere thanks to the Editor

of *Koers* and his Editorial Committee for the opportunity to publish this *festchrift* as an international number of this Journal in English, as well as for their kind co-operation during the final phases of editing this volume.

We sincerely appreciate the spontaneous willingness Prof Dr B Zijlstra, a member of the *Institute for Christian Studies* in Toronto, showed in reading the typed articles shortly before release to the printer, as well as his co-operation with G Van de Zande of the *Wedge Publishing Foundation*, who made possible the distribution of this *festchrift* in Canada and the United States. Our thanks are also due, inter alia, to Mr A J van der Walt, Managing Director of *Pro Rege Book Shop*, Potchefstroom, for his moral support and financial aid, to Miss P. Haasbroek for her assistance in typing many a letter which the Editorial Committee has written during the past years, and finally, to Mr L Dercksen for his novel cover design.

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