

Archival exhibition around *Philosophy of the Will*

As was customary in France in those days, the doctoral thesis that Paul Ricoeur presented for examination at the Sorbonne on Saturday 29 April 1950 (cf the notification sent by the ‘Secretary of the literature faculty at the University of Paris’, **Preparations for thesis examination**) comprises his main thesis on the Philosophy of the will, and a supplementary thesis: his translation of Husserl’s *Ideen I*.

As we know, this translation had been started in the margins of the edition of *Ideen I* that he had been able to take out of the camp library in Oflag IIB.

The major thesis (cf **Introduction to the thesis examination**¹) had been started before World War Two and much of it was written in captivity (cf **Notes and preparatory drafts 1933-35 and 40-45**).

We also find an informative **Plan of the thesis on the will** composed in 1942 – of which transcripts in French, English, Spanish, and soon in Italian are given – (work resulting from the friendship and collaboration of various members of the Fonds Ricoeur around the world).

As early as 1948, Paul Ricoeur set out to find a champion to publish and support his thesis. Prof. Jean Wahl, when approached, accepted, but was unable to write his report in time because of his tenure in Chicago where he was teaching in the philosophy department. It was Professor Rene le Senne who would not only give permission to publish both the major and the minor thesis, but also facilitate this publication and organise the examination (cf. Letter from le Senne, in **Preparations for thesis examination**).

Thus these two theses were published: Paul Ricoeur composed a succinct presentation (cf. **Presentation**); *The Voluntary and The Involuntary* is dedicated ‘to M Gabriel Marcel’, who acknowledged receipt of the book with emotion, to which Paul Ricoeur then responded (cf. **Correspondence**). The publication of the translation of Husserl rendered him worthy of a prize created in memory of Jean Cavailles : Raymond Aron announced this honour in a letter to Ricoeur (cf. **correspondence**) , making clear that the prize was given to mark above all his translations of, and commentaries on, Husserl; he finished thus: ‘Permit me to add that the Society considers that the author of the prize-winning book is someone whom Jean Cavailles would recognise as a companion .’²

Finitude and Culpability, volume 2 of *Philosophy of The Will*, was published in 1960, in two separate volumes, *Fallible Man* and *The Symbolism of Evil*, which the editor presents here (cf. **around the publication of Finitude and Culpability**). Paul Ricoeur dedicated this work

¹ See the transcription of this document below

² **Jean Cavailles** (1903, 1944), was a French philosopher, specialized in philosophy of science. He took part in the French Resistance within the *Libération* movement and was shot by the Gestapo on February 17, 1944.

to 'M. Jean Nabert', who responded with a letter full of restrained emotion) cf Letter from Jean Nabert).

Annexe 1: Transcription of the document: Introduction to thesis defence: I will attempt to isolate and separate, in a somewhat artificial manner, the varied intuitions that defined my work on The Invol (sic) and the Invol. I believe I chose the subject in 1937, in agreement with M. Laporte, who was supervising my work right up to his very unexpected death. I had the opportunity to articulate a version of my work in a comm.. (communication/ letter) to the Western Phil. Soc. In 1939, published in the bulle. Of the Society of []; this comm.. aroused some attention; in it I was looking at the relationships between effort and choice on the one hand, and motivation on the other. I have retained the essence of this in my final work.

[top of page 2]

I resumed my work towards the end of 1941, while in captivity. The absence of research facilities and the length of time available for reflection gave my work a fresh turn: personal investigation definitely won the day in preference to historical enquiry or empirical research; circumstances encouraged me to dare to do serious research and a synthesis in which cited works and historical references would be reduced to a bare minimum. By the time I returned to France in 1945, the core of it was written and I completed it during the years when I was recipient of a grant from CNRS (National Research council); I simply included additional technical details, without going back to the drawing board. I delayed completion of this project a little in order to write up with Dufresne our lecture notes on K. Jaspers and to complete them with a study on G Marcel

Annexe 2 :

Translations of *Le volontaire et l'involontaire* :

English: *Freedom and Nature: The Voluntary and the Involuntary* Northwestern University Press . 1966,

Spanish: *Lo voluntario y lo involuntario. I. El proyecto y la motivación.* Traduction de l'introduction et de la 1^e partie . Buenos Aires: Docencia

Lo voluntario y lo involuntario. II. Pader, necesidad y cococimiento. Traduction de la deuxième et troisième partie par J.C. GORLIER. Buenos Aires: Docencia, 1988.

Italian : *Filosofia della volontà. I. Il volontario e l'involuntario;* Genova: Marietti, 1990, XXXVIII.

Japanese : *Ishi-teki-na mono to Hi-ishi-tekī-no mono. Tome I.* Traduction de l'introduction et de la 1^e partie de *Le volontaire et l'involontaire* Tokyo: Kinokuniya-shoten, 1993, 343 p.

Ishi-teki-na mono to Hi-ishi-tekī-na mono. Tome II. Kōdōsuru koto. Traduction de la 2^e partie de *Le volontaire et l'involontaire* Tokyo: Kinokuniya-shoten, 1995

Ishi-teki-na mono to Hi-ishi-teki-na mono. Tome III. Doi-suru koto. Traduction de la 3^e partie de *Le volontaire et l'involontaire* Tokyo: Kinokuniya-shoten, 1995

Czech : *Filosofie vůle. I. Fenomenologie svobody.* Praha: Oikoymenk, 2001.

Translations of *Finitude et culpabilité*

English : *Fallible Man* Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1965 (Paper: Gateway Editions).

The Symbolism of Evil ; New York : Harper and Row, 1967)

German: *Die Fehlbarkeit des Menschen. Phänomenologie der Schuld I.* Freiburg-München: Karl Alber, 1971, 186 p.

Symbolik des Bösen. Phänomenologie der Schuld II. Traduction de *La symbolique du mal* . Freiburg-München: Karl Alber, 1971, 407p.

Spanish : *Finitud y culpabilidad* (Ensayistas de Hoy, 63). Traduction de *Finitude et culpabilité* ; Madrid: Taurus, 1969, 718p.

Italian : *Finitudine e colpa* (Collezione di testi et di studi. Filosofia e metodologia). Bologna: Il Mulino, 1970, 638 p

Japanese : *Ningen – Kono ayamachi yasuki mono.* Traduction de *L'homme failible* par T. HISASHIGE. Tokyo: Ibun-sha, 1978, 233 p.

Finitude et culpabilité t.2 : la symbolique du mal

Dutch : *Symbolen van het kwaad. I. De primaire symbolen – smet, zonde, schuldigheid. II. De mythen van het begin en het einde.* Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 1970, 131 + 162 p.

Polish : *Symbolika Zła.* Traduction de *La symbolique du mal* par S. CICHOWICZ et M. OCHAB. Warszawa: Instytut Wydawniczy Pax, 1986, 328 p.

Chinese : *E de xiangheng* (Dangdai sichao zilie cangshu, 36). Taibei: Guignan tushu fufin youxian gongsi, 1993.

Korean : *Ak eui Sang Jing.* Traduction de *La symbolique du mal* par M.-S. YANG. Seoul: Munhak'kwa Jisōngsa, 1999, 330 p.

All these translations will be available when the space under construction for the Ricoeur Collection is finished on the top floor of the Institut Protestant de théologie library, 83 boulevard Arago, Paris 14°. It will be publicized!

C.G.