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Introduction to the Issue

In April 2022 an international academic conference entitled “The Individual and the Community in American Philosophy Today and in the Twentieth Century” was organized by the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, a part of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Thirty-eight scholars from America and Europe presented research into the manners and ways American thinkers have problematized the relation between the individual, society, and culture, while also discussing the relevance of these ideas for our present day and age, and placing them in dialogue with other philosophical traditions. The conference gave rise to the idea of bringing into existence this volume of papers.

The topics of the essays gathered in the two subsequent issues of *Ruch Filozoficzny* (the current one, vol. 78, no. 4/2022 and the subsequent – vol. 79, no. 1/2023) range – to mention just a few examples – from John Dewey’s political philosophy as probed in the light of some ailments of digital democracy, to John Lachs’ stoic pragmatism as a viable philosophy of life; from the tradition of anarchic individualism to Richard Rorty’s ideas on the American Left. The collection opens with Herman Saatkamp’s timely reflection on how naturalism – as exemplified by Dewey’s and Santayana’s versions of it – may respond to the challenges faced by academia in this moment of a crisis within democracies and the democratic world in general. Notably, the volume features five papers

devoted to the philosophy of George Santayana, whose works are currently being translated and published into Polish.

With this opportunity I would like to express my gratitude to the George Santayana Society for helping me to spread the word about the conference among American scholars, and to Charles Padrón, who kindly accepted my invitation to co-edit this volume with me.