

***Practical aspects of freedom of expression, academic editing Wojciech Lis, Zbigniew Husak, Publisher Adam Marszałek, Toruń 2011, ss 572.***

Freedom of expression is one of the most important problems of modern societies, and in the same time the most important among civil liberties. We have a guarantee of freedom of expression, which is explicitly articulated in constitutions, laws. Their formulas can be found in international agreements, but little is known about the practical application of these guarantees. Freedom of expression is best expressed in the freedom of the press, through which the public is guaranteed to have access to political, cultural and economic spheres, etc..

The literature relating to the issues is ample, but still this problem is thoroughly studied by political scientists, lawyers, philosophers, etc.. Therefore, it is worth considering a book edited by Lisa W. and Z. Husak entitled *Practical aspects of freedom of expression*. It is a collective work included in the five comprehensive parts, each of them contains from a few to several articles of authors from different fields of study (a total of 25 texts). The editors undertook a tough academic task, because „the problems relating to various aspects of freedom of expression, have not only theoretical but also practical significance” (*Introduction* section).

The publication appeared in the famous Adam Marszałek Publishing series „Faces of the Media” (so far published in this framework include: *New media and tradi-*

*tional media. Newspapers, advertising, internet*, edit. M. Jeziński; *Democracy Media*. Theoretical analysis of the problem, S. Michalczyk, *Social aspects of new media*, M. Szpunar, and many others), although in the reviewed book we can find not only the texts of media experts, but also lawyers who skilfully combine theoretical knowledge with practice. This gives us a better picture of the title issues. The editors made sure that the publication had a transparent system, and the recipient could find an interesting issue for him. Furthermore, the authors of the individual articles write attractively and clearly for young viewers, and as a result they easily reach the students with their message. The publication opens the first part, entitled: *Axiological foundations of freedom of expression*, the second is: *Normative basis for freedom of expression*, the third: *The protection of personal rights, freedom of press writing*; the fourth: *Restrictions on freedom of press writing*; five: *Socio-cultural aspects of freedom of expression*.

The first part contains six articles written by (in order according to the contents) T. Tumor, M. Zdyb, K. Czuby, M. Malmon, M. Drozd, P. Bielawski. They concern ethical considerations and axiological aspects of freedom of expression, as well as the philosophical foundations and media mythologizing of freedom of expression. K. Czuba focuses on the recipient's responsibility for a word, as well as for culture of its transmission in terms of his human dignity. Free media means mainly independent media, independent, pluralistic and toler-

ant - those qualities accurately describes M. Drozd. Considerations of the author end with her argument about the ethics of media and protection of human dignity.

The second part contains five articles by: Lisa W., Z. Husak, G. Smith, P. Wisniewski, JS Secular. The authors focus their attention on the normative aspects of freedom of expression, considerations relate to the constitutional basis of freedom of expression (W. Lis, Z. Husak), but also represent the situation across the European Union. The authors try to explain the concept of freedom, addressing their reflections to JS Milla. Finally, they show the recipient that a state should be the guarantor of human freedom when it comes to the press and media. Prohibition of preventive censorship is expressly articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. Z. Husak (one of the editors of scientific volumes) leads his reflections on the *Ratio legis of the web pages registration*. Gives us a specific numbers on the registration of periodicals in our country. Noticeable is the increase of registrations of publications that are only online. Registration of the online magazines and newspapers is important from the viewpoint of copyright protection against fraudulent breach.

The third part consists of six articles by: V. Kossaka, K. Święckiej, A. Komandowskiej, A. Bodnara, B. Grabowskiej, A. Balickiego i D. Dychowskiej-Siniarskiej. These articles relate to the protection of personal rights in the context of freedom of press writing.

Considerations are undertaken here on privacy and personal rights protection in the press activities (V. Kossak), and widely discussed issue of the right to criticize (A. Komandowska).

The fourth part is a collection of six articles by: L. Szot, L.K. Jaskuły, A. Niewęglowskiego, W. Lisa, G. Tylca i D.G. Żaka. The authors examine in this part the specific constraints of press writing freedom, the limits of freedom of expression, as well as liability for the word that we place on internet forums (DG Zak). As it is pointed out by the scientific editor of the volume W. Lis „the exercise of freedom of expression should go together with a sense of responsibility for the consequences associated with that.”

The fifth part is opened by the text of M. Górka, and then T. Goban-Class, K. Gierełko-Klimaszewska, M. Szpunar, and Th. Galka. In the articles, the authors undertake reflections on the socio-cultural aspects of freedom of expression. T. Goban-Klas focuses on journalistic freedom in cases of terrorist acts, natural disasters etc.. These are very broad considerations, the broad context shows more explicitly how extensive is the spectrum of the issue of freedom of expression. M. Górka raises a question: Is freedom of speech just an illusion?

The publication, edited by Lisa W. and Z. Husak is an extremely valuable monograph. This allows us to ponder over the title issue in many aspects. It can be a reading

not only for students of journalism, sociology, cultural studies, political science, but also for lawyers. It will be certainly a valuable source of knowledge and useful in the classroom with students.

■ *Judyta Węglowska*