



ACADEMY OF CULTURAL HERITAGES
ACADÉMIE DES HERITAGES CULTURELS
ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΙΚΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ
KULTTUURIPERINTÖJEN AKATEMIA



Acropolis 1966



Acropolis 2023

Eero & Hannu 75 years. On the Roots of Humanism

Symposium at Ermoupolis, the isle of Syros (Cyclades, Greece), October 5-8, 2023

Eero Tarasti and **Hannu Riikonen** were both born in Helsinki in 1948 in the families of civil servants. They got to know each other at the Normal Lyceum of Helsinki, from 1959 to 1967. At school they had extensive studies in Latin and, in addition, a three-year course in Greek. They both became Wagnerians, after having attended a performance of *Parsifal* at the Finnish National Opera on Good Friday in 1961. At the age of 12 they launched a summer correspondence, which has continued until now. The first letters from the years 1961-1976 have been published as a book entitled *Eero ja Hannu* (Helsinki University Press 1999).

Their first trip abroad together was to Greece, Athens, Delphi and Mycenae in summer 1966. They graduated in 1967. Eero started studying theoretical philosophy at the University of Helsinki, and music at the Sibelius Academy, piano as his major. Hannu began his studies at the University of Helsinki, in classical philology and comparative literature and aesthetics. They received their PhDs in 1978.

Hannu became associate professor and acting professor of comparative literature at the University of Turku for the years of 1979-1993; he was appointed to the chair of

comparative literature at the University of Helsinki in 1994; Eero became professor of art education and musicology at the University of Jyväskylä for the years 1979-1983 and musicology at the University of Helsinki in 1984. Together they founded the Semiotic Society of Finland in 1979. They are members of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters and the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters.

They became *professores emeriti* in 2016. Yet, professors never retire! The cooperation of Eero and Hannu continues among other things on the island of Syros in Greece, one of the venues for the activities of the Academy of Cultural Heritages which they founded together with Professor Altti Kuusamo in 2016.

The theme of the symposium, “Eero & Hannu 75 years. On the Roots of Humanism,” deals with and reflects these rich years of scholarship and other common interests of the celebrants and answers on their behalf the question *Comment devient-on un humaniste?*

The place of the event is the Ritsos Hall of the Cultural Centre of the town, behind the Town Hall and opposite the Apollo Theatre. **Registration for the symposium with or without a paper by September 15, 2023 to the assistants Aleksi Haukka (aleksi.haukka@helsinki.fi) and Paul Forsell (paul.forsell@gmail.com).** The languages of the symposium are Finnish, Swedish, English, French, German and Italian. The affiliation, title and abstract of the paper must be sent by the date above. **Participation fee to all is 100 EUR** and it has to be paid by the same date to the bank account of the Academy of Cultural Heritages (FI40 1544 3000 0285 84; BIC: NDEAFIHH).

Recommended hotel at Syros, Ermoupolis, is Syrou Melathron, but there are several other hotels in the town as well. Travelling to Syros takes place by a ferry boat from Piraeus (Athens); the voyage takes between ca. 2 and 4 hours depending on the ferry.