

The editor's page

● The completion of this volume of *Ekistics* makes the guest-editor, Professor Calogero Muscarà, and myself really proud and happy. We are also relieved for having fulfilled, albeit partially and belatedly, a longstanding commitment, and are deeply grateful to all those who have joined us in this tribute to Jean Gottmann who has marked our lives since we first came across some of his thoughts. I remember Calogero Muscarà telling me what a struggle he had to go through for many years obliged to work in universities and other research institutions, without real interest, in physical geography, when his main interests were history and social and political sciences which were "more appealing for the explanation of life." It was only in the mid-1950s when he discovered Gottmann's book *La politique des États et leur géographie*, that he began to understand how effectively geography could be connected to his real interests. The long period of close collaboration, both nationally and internationally, between Gottmann and Muscarà, which started 20 years later in 1977, only ended with Gottmann's death in 1994 but Muscarà's keen interest and personal involvement in promoting Gottmann's thought never ceased. I myself, an architect-planner, already fully engaged in ekistics,¹ and a close collaborator of Constantinos A. Doxiadis,² will never forget the day I first met Gottmann in the early 1960s and how avidly I absorbed the relevance of his remarks on the complexities involved when trying to apply the interdisciplinary approach needed in assessing conditions for planning action. And this continued during all the years and on all the occasions I had the good fortune to be with him.

● I think it is appropriate here to remind readers of Gottmann's long involvement with ekistics – with Doxiadis for the first 15 years and thereafter with the rest of us.

His first contact with Doxiadis was in 1960. Three years later, in 1963, an abstract of a paper by him appeared in *Ekistics* for the first time. He first joined the activities of ekistics in 1964, at the Delos Symposium (Delos Two) – the annual week-long conference held on board ship at the invitation of Doxiadis, focusing each year on the discussion of a major theme. Since then, further to his participation in several Delos Symposia (1964, 1968, 1969 and 1972) Gottmann was one of the founders of the World Society for Ekistics³ of which he became the third President from 1971 to 1973, and never stopped being actively involved in ekistics until the end of his life.

Referring to the mutually gratifying relation between him and Doxiadis, Gottmann⁴ writes that his "colleague in the study of settlements and of the modern urban evolution, and a personal friend" – who also "knew and valued the power and lasting quality of ideas expressed in written words and symbols that outlive stone and style" – had in his overall effort two priorities:

- "to search for a widely publicized consensus on the present needs of human settlements, established by free and thorough discussion on an international and pluridisciplinary basis: the universality and complexity of the problems called for a broad spectrum of participants in the debate and in the agreement; this was attempted and largely achieved by the Delos Symposia and their Declarations from 1963 on"; and,

- "to further settlement analysis and planning on the necessary scale," develop ekistics – "a general body of theory, again on an interdisciplinary and worldwide basis ... a permanent, evolving and spreading scientific approach to the study of and action for human settlements."

The association of these two men, both so much ahead of their time, was profound, mutually enriching, and inspiring.

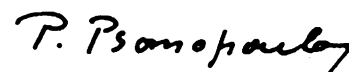
Naturally, the *Ekistics* journal was always an open forum for Gottmann and his thought. We have published many articles by him⁵ on a wide variety of themes, and also reports on and abstracts of his contributions to discussions in the international meetings or other programs of the Athens Center of Ekistics, such as the Delos Symposia. Furthermore he acted as guest-editor for three issues of the journal, the last being in 1990.⁶

● But we have never had the opportunity for such a comprehensive – though not exhaustive – presentation of his life and thought as in the present case where we have the privilege to host again and walk in the steps of this unquestionable authority together with so many distinguished scholars, having as a guide in this itinerary Calogero Muscarà,⁷ a very dear friend and colleague, and a real admirer and "disciple" of Gottmann. Muscarà, our world expert on Venice, further to being known for his exceptional contribution through research, teaching and writings to the wide field of geography and its relation to human settlements planning, became a member of the World Society for Ekistics many years ago on the strong recommendation of the great Master, and he is a participant in its meetings, and a regular contributor to *Ekistics*. Who could be better qualified to act as guest-editor for such an endeavor?

I will not expand here on the contents or the structure of the present volume of *Ekistics*. This task is so brilliantly fulfilled by the guest-editor in his introductory statement and his notes preceding each of the three parts into which the papers are divided. In this respect, the reader may also refer to the Ekistic Grid for each individual paper, and the Anthropocosmos Model on p. 391.

I would like, though, to stress how rewarding it is to know that whatever this effort represents it is only a step in a long process with a really substantial past and promising future. The agenda proposed for further action and the involvement of the younger generation in this process give us grounds for hope.

● In closing, let me be personal and appeal for the kind understanding of Mrs Bernice Gottmann for my initiative in using, without her permission, the photograph opposite this note. After all, on every occasion since we first met, whether as their guest or their host or simply a participant with them at meetings, not only in Athens, Oxford or Italy but the world over, Jean and Bernice were always together. So why shouldn't we feel that we are all together on this occasion as well?



1. See back cover of the journal.

2. Architect-Planner, 1914-1975, founder of ekistics and President of the Athens Center of Ekistics.

3. See inside front cover of the journal.

4. For all quotations in this paragraph, see J. Gottmann, "The ekistic philosophy of C.A. Doxiadis: a personal appreciation," *Ekistics*, vol. 41, no. 247, 1976, pp. 383-385.

5. See *Ekistics*, nos. 89, 107, 123, 155, 167, 174, 203, 204, 219, 233, 243, 247, 264, 272, 302, 314/315, 316/317 (see also pp. 405-408).

6. See *Ekistics*, nos. 274, 299 and 340/341 (see also pp. 405-408).

7. See biographical note of the guest-editor's introductory statement on the following page.