

PREFACE

The present volume 'Place and Location. Studies in Environmental Aesthetics and Semiotics' IV marks a qualitative change in comparison with the previous three collections by the same name: from this issue on, the collection appears as an annual periodical. In the future, it is open for all contributions in various fields of interdisciplinary research concerning human–environment relationships and representations of environment.

'Place and Location' IV is for the most part dedicated to articles written by Estonian scholars and researchers. It is intended to provide a glimpse into the present state and current topics of Estonian location-studies, primarily its semiotics-oriented line.

The articles in this volume have been grouped into three sections.

In the first section, Alexandros Ph. Lagopoulos and Maria-Georgia Lily Stylianoudi apply methods of structuralist semiotics in order to demonstrate that these are very relevant in the analysis of several social phenomena. In this particular case, the focus is on the structure of the classification system used in the ancient Ethiopian royal camps, and later applied to all kinds of military camps, to palaces, to churches, and even to the regional organisation of the country.

In the second section, one finds articles by four authors representing the department of semiotics of the University of Tartu: Peeter Torop, Kati Lindström, Kadri Tüür and Anneli Mihkelev. The common denominator of the articles is the interest in the spatial phenomena as they appear in different texts, applying mostly the analytic tools from semiotics and literary studies. Text as an intersemiotic space is the theme of Peeter Torop's article. Treatments of nature representations in Estonian haiku and contemporary Estonian prose follow, as well as a discussion of some representations of urban space in Estonian poetry.

The topics of the third section move on into 'spatial reality', investigating the various ways and effects of human immaterial interference upon it. Topics such

as tourism, the image of the city in movies, art in the urban environment, and the impact of the virtual upon the real are discussed in the articles by Kerttu-Kaisa Kiviselg-Lindeberg and Inga Külmoja, Eva Näripea, Karin Laansoo and Jaak Tomberg respectively.