Can we speak of a ‘European mind’? If there is one, how far is it identifiable or quantifiable? Which are the sinews in its thread? How, where and to what extent does it figure in time and space?

As the papers selected for publication in these proceedings amply demonstrate, the discussion encompasses disciplines right across the spectrum of scholarship—from archaeology to philosophy, history to governance, the arts and the sciences. Above all, perhaps, it evokes and portrays the spirit of free enquiry, the cutting edges of engagement, dialogue and discourse, the shared heritage of which has perhaps most singularly shaped a European mind and identity in its multiple and changing forms, genres and varieties. Speakers and discussants explored the realms of ethics and freedom, of politics and society, of culture from the humanistic to the cosmopolitan, including technology and communications.

The personal and the national, no less than the regional and the global, other perspectives — instructive and provocative — in so what may be said to have constituted a recognizable European narrative and identity, distilled and crystallized in norm and artefact in spite of, or indeed because of, variety and change in the face of new evolving scenarios, inventions, movements and challenges in both theory and practice.

From the Introduction