Introducing *Analecta Hermeneutica* Volume 1

Welcome to the first issue of *Analecta Hermeneutica*, the official journal of the International Institute for Hermeneutics. From the foundation of the Institute (2001), we planned to publish the best current research in hermeneutics in an online, peer-reviewed journal. Since then, online publishing has emerged from the backwater: it is no longer the 'cheap' alternative to traditional academic presses. With the internet the first stop for anyone doing research the likelihood of getting read is far greater online than it is on paper. More importantly, AH believes in the principle of open access publishing. Knowledge is not a commodity; it is, rather, as the Scholastics put it, "the perfection of the intellect." Knowledge should therefore be accessible to anyone with the capacity to interpret it. With the advent of the internet this ideal is now realizable. However, the politics of the knowledge industry obstruct the realization of the ideal. In our view, the problem with online publishing is not quality control but distribution of quality. Open access journals are changing this, thwarting the efforts of publishing houses and universities to commodify and monopolize the distribution of knowledge.

With regard to quality, everything published in AH is subjected to exacting standards of editorial scrutiny. With our outstanding editorial board, we have no doubts that our journal will quickly emerge at the forefront of research in hermeneutics.

The content of this issue is drawn from some of the papers presented at scholarly events hosted by the IIH over the past years as well as individual pieces written for this issue. Since 2002 the IIH has hosted a number of academic meetings, in the form of satellite sessions of larger meetings–we have been a regular presence at the annual meetings of *The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy* and *The American Catholic Philosophical Association*–or stand-alone conferences such as the inaugural Hermeneutics Congress at St. Bonaventure University in 2002, and The Philosophy of Religion Conference at Mount Allison University in 2006. AH understands 'hermeneutics' in a broad sense. Wherever questions of how to interpret are raised or historical horizons are fused, we find a work of hermeneutics, whether or not this word is used or Heidegger, Gadamer, or Ricoeur are referenced. Hermeneutics is what is done for the most part in the teaching and research of the humanities and the social sciences. We are also interested in critiques of philosophical hermeneutics,

especially when such critiques can help to situate hermeneutics in the history of philosophy and theology.

It is worth pointing out that AH is a space where metaphysics in the best sense of the word is welcome. Hermeneutics is by definition inclusive. The point is not that "there is no truth"; it is rather that there are so many possible truths. AH is a space within which the varieties of human truths can show themselves.

Every issue of AH will remain open to new contributions. Taking advantage of the online medium, we invite readers to contribute papers in response to published papers or developing similar themes. If accepted for publication they will be published in the issue to which they are responding. Thus the first issue of AH will not remain static: we hope it will grow as the conversations it sparks generate new research and alternative interpretations.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the members of the editorial board and the reviewers of this volume for their contribution. Special thanks are due to Michael Austin, Michel-Antoine Xhignesse, Ashley Cake, and Carol-Ann Galego for their help in preparing this issue. We would also like to thank the Department of Philosophy and the Office of Research of Memorial University of Newfoundland for financial support.