

Editor's Introduction

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There is a not often acknowledged tradition of incomplete works. The incompleteness can be accidental or deliberate. In the former category we have Aristotle's *Opera Omnia* which remains fragmentary because of the destruction of the library of Alexandria and other ravages of time and history. In the latter category we have Aquinas' *Summa Theologica* and Lonergan two great economic essays, *For a New Political Economy* and *An Essay in Circulation Analysis*. Both Aquinas and Lonergan deliberately ended their projects. While the incompleteness of these works, whether deliberate or accidental can frustrate researchers, there is, I believe, also a bright side. The reader is given the opportunity to imagine what might have been. This shifts the ground in readers themselves; it invites us to enter imaginatively into the mind of the writer so to envisage, based on what they understand of the writer, where the work might have gone. And then, perhaps, to develop those ideas.

Our present volume is the first published document of an incomplete collaborative project. In January of 2011 a groups of hopeful members of SGEME began what was projected to be a three-year cycle of eight volumes per year devoted to functional collaboration. I would characterize the over-all conception as symphonic, and precisely so, because the collaboration clearly had a conductor and an orchestra. The broad chart of the collaboration was composed by Philip McShane and the orchestra was made up of players who, for the most part, were unaccustomed to participating in a symphonic research orchestra. After a year's work, the conductor called a halt to the project at the point where attention was turning from dialectic to foundations.

The overall design of the collaboration was ambitious and like many efforts that aim high, what is accomplished, while it may fall well short of the intended goal, is nonetheless worth the effort. Would we ignore Coleridge's *Kubla Khan* because its composer was interrupted? With this in mind it is our intention to publish some of these highlights focused on functional research, functional interpretation, functional history and functional dialectic in our next three or four volumes. These contributions will include the efforts of both the conductor and the orchestra members.

This first volume of the series devoted to functional research is perhaps best approached as the score of an incomplete symphony or - perhaps a better analogy - the beginning of the first part of Wagner's

four part *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. The conductor, Philip McShane, invites the reader over the course of a short book-length exposition to participate in a collaborative effort in imagining how functional research might go forward from now on. He offers a wealth of possibilities for advance, some quite specific as in his suggestions for further research into Lonergan's work, as well as more general and foundational suggestions regarding how to do research functionally and collaboratively. In total the work itself is divided into seven chapters of manageable length.

After the end of the seminar in 2012 the work of many of the SGEME seminar participants shifted towards contributions to a series of Lonergan Conferences held in Vancouver. One result of this is the recently published volume *Seeding Global Collaboration*, edited by Patrick Brown and James Duffy.¹ Participants have also pursued their own projects rooted in work begun in the seminar. Robert Henman's *Global Collaboration: Neuroscience as Paradigmatic*, recently published by Axial Publishing, is a project seeded in the seminar that blossomed into a book. This issue also includes Bruce Anderson's review of Henman's effort.

In editing the work for this journal edition we have, except for matters of needed clarity, left the author's original as it stands with its anticipation of a completed project without attempted to rephrase the wording in light of the premature ending of the seminar.

¹ *Seeding Global Collaboration* (Vancouver: Axial Press), 2016.