From the Editor

To present another comprehensive view on the matter of economic methodology, we are happy to start this issue with a revised version of Lawrence A. Boland’s paper on the Theory and Practice of Economic Methodology, which has no previous exposure to the English-speaking audience. It is followed by a number of papers on the nature and status of economics as a science/social science, somewhat of a spillover and outgrowth of last issue’s symposium on "How Scientific is Economics". In addition, there are some papers on methodological issues in certain specialized fields.

The history of economic thought has always been a fertile land for methodological investigation. In this issue, Marshall, Keynes and Machlup are subject to scrutiny and re-interpretation. There are also a few critical book reviews edited by Kevin D. Hoover, and an interview with Hoover himself by Y.B. Choi.

In our search for a theme as the focal point of discussion in the next issue, H.W. Arndt has volunteered to serve as agent provocateur and kindly contributed his piece on The Purposes of Political Economy. Since and despite Marshall, much Political Economy has appeared in the garb of Economics. Ideological issues aside, this undoubtedly has serious methodological implications, and it is further complicated by the recent upsurge of interest in Political Economy, both revival of the Old and emergence of the New. We hope the Arndt paper will help kick off a discussion and welcome especially papers on Political Economy and Economic Methodology for the upcoming symposium.

We are thankful for encouragements and criticisms from our readers and the continuing support of our area correspondents. Particularly valuable are suggestions concerning format and style standardization, copyrights and computerization. We shall strive to incorporate these ideas to improve production.

Instructions to Contributors

1. Manuscripts should be type-written on one side of the paper, double-spaced with sufficient margins.

2. Manuscripts should preferably not exceed 30 pages. They should be carefully checked and considered final.

3. All pages should be numbered consecutively. The first page should contain the article title, name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of author(s), and the present address of the author to be contacted.

4. Acknowledgements (if any) should be given in a note at the end of the article before the Endnotes.

5. Endnotes should be used instead of Footnotes. They should be numbered consecutively and kept to a minimum.

6. References should include only the most relevant items. They should be numbered consecutively according to alphabetical order of the last names of authors, and be complete in respect of year and place of publication, pages, etc.

7. To facilitate production, articles on disks can be submitted. We accept ASCII Text File, Pagemaker 4.0 File, Microsoft Word File and Word Perfect 5.0 File with hard copies.

8. Upon acceptance of publication, the author(s) will be asked to transfer copyright to the publisher.