From the Editor

This issue starts off with a Symposium on Political Economy. H.W. Arndt is surely successful as an agent provocateur, for his article “The Purposes of Political Economy in our last issue has brought forth a barrage of papers. From various angles our fellow economists react to his ‘economics’ orientation with vigor, including perspectives from constitutional (normative) political economy to post-Keynesianism; discussions on the interaction between politics and economy as well as the relation between the two respective academic disciplines, political science and economics; and attempts to classify and delineate economics and political economy in which, according to one view, they are synonymous, but according to another, not even Marx was a political economist; and so on.

This symposium has succeeded in bringing together a wide range of views on a controversial subject usually not found in other periodicals. We plan to do this more often with the hope to trash out more ideas on methodology-related subjects so that we can all be aware of what our fellow economists are thinking. In this effort, we certainly welcome suggestions of subjects and above all volunteer agent provocateurs.

Among Articles, Levins and Warren deal wittingly with “mathematics is a language”, while Backhouse heeds that methodology should not be allowed to wither away. Several others are on structural problems as reactions against the mainstream mode of analyses, followed by some studies on economic thought.

In the Book Review Column, there are interesting reviews of two works on the history of econometrics and two volumes on New Keynesian Economics.

Since its inception originally as an informal bulletin for exchange of ideas, Methodus has by now assumed increasingly the standing of a formal journal. In striving to maintain some kind of balance and to achieve quality control, it has been suggested that we should separate the formal from the informal part with different publication policies. On this matter, we should appreciate views and guidance from our readers.

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.