

SOFDAWARE 8
BEGINNING FUNCTIONAL COLLABORATION
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This is the eighth in a series of essays aimed at a collaborative start on this difficult project sketched by Lonergan in 1965. **SOFDAWARE** is just a handy name built from the title of the only section in *Method in Theology* in which Lonergan details group collaboration: “The **Structure OF Dialectic**”¹ The aim is to become operatively **AWARE** of this structure within the total movement from research to communications and round again. This awareness would, then, reach towards generating the structures of collaboration required for the other specialties.

Obviously, anyone, or any group, can get going on this. It seems a good year to take up this long-delayed challenge, and I am making myself available for such a collaborative effort.² The first essay in the series³ describes the collaboration that nudged me to this availability, in particular leading me to abandon the Cantower project in favour of this global venture.⁴

The venture is to become eventually a global cultural venture, but it needs a

¹249-250.

²My email is pmcshane@shaw.ca. I already have offers of other collaborators whose e-mails can be made available. Collaboration, however, does not require such public availability. Indeed, one feature of the collaboration is the input of questions about how collaboration might be developed, with the anonymity of the question-poser guaranteed. Questions and suggestions would be handled in an ongoing Website series titled *Quodlibet*, but they can also be handled in private correspondence.

³Available on www.philipmcshane.ca, as are the Cantowers mentioned shortly.

⁴That essay also serves as an Introduction to a projected four-volume work containing Cantowers 1-41: 400,000 words of the million words originally planned.

stumbling start. *Journal of Macrodynamical Analysis* 4(2004)⁵ illustrates such a start within the specialty of Interpretation, and the following volume has as focus the specialty Dialectic. But anyone can move in anywhere in the circuit of specialties, in any topic. For some, the involvement might have to be discrete initially: there is the tricky business of getting a thesis passed, or getting a job, or getting tenure.

Method in Theology is not very explicit on the operative meaning of **function**: you might get some light on this, and on the flow through the circuit, from Cantowers 34-41, which make an effort to throw some light on the baton-passing round the relay of specialties.

⁵Available <http://www.mun.ca/jmda>