

Some part, if not all of the contents of this file, are Lonergan's notes, used for his Seminar on Method in Theology, in Dublin during August 1971.

### Reasons

- ① See Milltown Park note paper included in notes for lecture on Research: (4 pages), also at end of lecture on history.
- ② At MP, Lonergan asked us to prepare a shortened version of the typescript of his book for use in <sup>some of</sup> his lectures. So I find notes from my own typewriter in the lectures on history (6,7) & Doctrines (1,2); (8,9,10).

I would suggest that the notes up to the lecture on history are his own notes. The notes from the lecture on history & historians, doctrines, systematic & communications were made at MP for him from the typescript of Method

Bill Matthews,  
Sept 11, 1989.

8/15/90.

Numbers pencilled in on the top right  
hand corners of these pages were  
added when the notes were be studied  
in the preparation of Method for CW

Des O'Grady, J.

Three Channels

art not science, lab sem not lecture, concrete example, critique of perform true for initial thought on method, for finer points in specialized areas

select study analyse conspicuously successful science

Arist. math; today natural science

differ

other disciplines scientific insofar as similar -- lower rank where they

unsatisfactory for others: some direction where similar; elsewhere no help

alternative: derive preliminary notion of method from successful -

proceed to cognitional theory

find in it properties of method; transcendental method

determine relation function of trans re particular methods

Preliminary Notion

Method normative pattern of related and recurrent operations yielding cumulative and progressive results

distinct operations - each related to others - relations form pattern - pattern right way to do it - indefinite repetition of oper in pattern - results cumulative - progressive

spirit of inquiry - observations and description - problems -

discovery - hypothesis - suppositions and implications - devise experim

recur related ~~xxxxxxx~~ progressive cumulative

not precise enough for nat sc -- too specific to be transferred elsewhere but a lead

rules to be followed blindly by anyone (Gadamer)

ok for assembly line, New Method Laundry -- same result every time

discovery needed for progress - synthesis for cumulative - statistical

not rules but pattern whence rules can be derived

operations not limited to logical operations: includes but adds

inquiry observation discovery experie nt synthesis verification

logical alone tend to eternal immutable -- not Gk metaphys but logic static

not movement within logic -- Hegelian dialectic within closed system

but logical and not logical in dynamic synthesis

logical consolidate what has been achieved -- cross section of moment

non-logical move on to new discovery new formulation new applic of logic

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Basic Pattern of Operations

Operations: seeing hearing touching smelling tasting kinesthesia  
 imagining inquiring understanding conceiving formulating reflecting  
 marshalling and weighing the evidence judging deliberating  
 evaluating deciding speaking doing writing

Assume some familiarity with these terms: ask about patterns:  
 through discovery of pattern come to know operations in their  
 relations to one another -- explanatory knowledge

High demand on student reader  
 has to arrive at his own primitive experience  
 evoke operations in his own consciousness  
 discover in his own spontaneities the relations of operations to one another  
 otherwise this and subsequent lectures -- book on painting for blind

operations are transitive; they have objects; grammatical sense;  
 psychological sense - by operation one becomes aware of object -  
 in the operation the object becomes present to me

psychological sense is meaning of intend, intention, intentionality  
 my awareness of object and object's presence to me

operations in list are operations of an operator - named subject  
 subject not only grammatical sense but also psychological sense  
 in operation he becomes present to himself and his operation present to him

this psychological sense ≠ conscious consciousness  
 none of the operations occur in dreamless sleep coma  
 whenever any of the operations occur, the subject is aware of himself  
 himself operating, present to himself operating, experiencing himself

operations then have twofold psychological dimension  
 as intentional they regard ~~xxx~~ objects, make objects present to subject  
 as conscious they make ~~subject~~ operating subject present to himself

ambiguity of presence awareness

object is present as what is gazed upon attended to intended  
 subject is present as gazing attending intending  
 hence possibility of giving all attention to object  
 consciousness self peripheral *gazed upon - central E. gazing*

experiencing himself operating

not another operation but one and the same: intentional & conscious

introspection

literally inspecting within -- methodical  
 consciousness is internal dimension of looking out  
 heightened not by changing direction (only omits object & act)  
 but by broadening interest span  
 adverting not only to color shape but also to me seeing (open close)  
 not only to sound but also to me hearing etc

just as we move from data of sense to inquiry insight formulation  
 so too from data of consciousness to inquiry insight formulation  
 inversely, back from formulations to data identified in one's own  
 sensing inquiring coming to understand etc.

invitation  
 to doing  
 sketch  
 here

## different levels of conscious intentionality

dream state : fragmentary obscure

waking : empirical ~~xxx~~ data of sense and of consciousness

intellectual : inquiry insight formulation

rational : reflection reflective understanding judgement

responsible : deliberation evaluation decision

in outer world

Two movements: up from data of sense to understanding then judging acting  
across from data of consciousness, from self as experiencing  
understanding judging deciding subject to objectification  
of self, to subject as object

## Qualitative difference of levels of consciousness:

empirical sensing - not conspicuously different from higher animals

intellectual - sensible is intelligible, can be understood

int consciousness is intelligent - inquires to understand - arrives at  
understanding, - speaks and acts as one that has understood

rational - insights dime a dozen (Psychiatrist Halifax)

critical consciousness - demanding evidence - bowing to evidence -

refusing to go beyond evidence - concerned with an absolute,

a virtually unconditioned, hence sciences just probable

responsible - what is or can be - what am I ~~do~~ to do about it --

is what I am doing worth while

## Qualitative difference of objects intended

intending of sense - receptive formative (Gestalt) but creation is hallucin

imaginings - representative creative

understanding - not the given but the possibly relevant, hypothetical

judgement - grasp of unconditioned - independence of subject -

not what appears seems to me might be thought inclined to say but is so

deliberation evaluation decision - fuller self-transcendence, principle  
of benevolence beneficence, capable of genuine loving

## Categorical and transcendental

CATEGORIES and determinations, have a limited denotation, vary with  
cultural variations, illustrated by Levi Strauss totemic operator,

explicitly named categories as Arist sub qua qual

not so named: four causes, genus difference species property accident

products of so achievement: physics periodic table evolutionary tree

Heidegger's existentials etc

Transcendentals: comprehensive in connotation, unrestricted in denotation,  
invariant through cultural change

categories needed for determinate questions and answers

transcendentals in questions as of kind: for intell, for reflect, for delib  
radical intending that moves us from ignorance to knowledge

a priori: go beyond what we know to seek what we do not yet know

unrestricted because answers only give rise to further questions

comprehensive because they intend the unknown whole, totality of which  
answers only yield part

int beyond experiencing to what why how what for

refl beyond understanding to truth and reality

deliberation beyond fact and potentiality to truly good - *right and good*

distinguish trans notion and transe concepts

former condition of possibility of cultural advance -- invariant or new

type of man -- latter product of cultural advance, can be, have been  
formulated inaccurately

radical obscurantism: any neglect obscuring of dynamism by which we  
attend inquire reflect deliberate

**Elementary and compounded operations and objects**

elementary operation and object; seeing and seen, hearing and heard, etc

know: in elementary sense is any single operation

know: human knowing; compound of several elementary operations

compounding is the work of the transcendental notions

what is experienced is what is understood

understood

affirmed

affirmed

pronounced worth while

transcendental notions are unfolding of single thrust, eros

process of self-transcendence: from world of sensory immediacy to

world reported by travellers writers scientists philosophers religions

from self-transcendence of truth to self-transcendence of goodness

To know good we have to know real, to know real we have to know truth,

to know truth we have to understand, to understand we have to attend to data

So intimately are they interconnected that we are single subjects in a unified world and have to pause discriminate name to discern many operations in their pattern

**Basic pattern is dynamic**

materially: it consists of operations, like melody, dance; unlike statue

formally: it assembles itself, spontaneous we sense, intelligently we

inquire, rationally we reflect, responsibly we deliberate

materially and formally dynamic pattern is open-eyed: attentive intelligent responsive

Transcendental Method

Basic pattern is a method: normative pattern of recurrent and related operations yielding progressive and cumulative results

Basic pattern is a transcendental method; it is not confined categorially to any generic or specific type of result to any limited field of investigation

other methods aim at meeting exigences exploiting opportunities of particular fields

transc method aims at meeting exigences and exploiting opportunities of human mind itself

it is a concern that is both foundational and universally relevant

foundational: know pattern of operations in any investigation

universally relevant: always worth while to know precisely what one is doing

In a sense everyone knows and observes transcendental method

inasmuch as attentive intelligent reasonable responsible

conditions of possibility of being a person, authentic human being

In another sense quite difficult to be at home in transc meth

not achieved by reading books, listening to lectures, analysing language

heighten one's consciousness to objectify it

something each one has to do for himself

in the measure he does so, knows precisely what he is doing in doing X

Objectification

applying the operations as intentional to the operations as conscious

for brevity's sake: let operations be experiencing underst judg decid

then experience experiencing understadingjudging deciding

understand unity and relations of experienced ex und jud dec

affirm understood relations of experienced exp und jud decid

resolve to conform to normative component in dynamic rltns

Experience one's experiencing understanding judging deciding

experience is just consciousness -- these operations are intrinsically conscious as well as intentional -- one cannot perform them without

some consciousness of them -- but that consc may be peripheral

broaden out to attend not only to object intended but also to intending

easy with seeing - open and close eyes at will - seen seeing

more difficult inquiry understanding formulating reflecting grasp uncon

operation must occur - conditions for occurrence fulfilled

must advert to intended object, but not mainly exclusively

operations must occur not only in single instance but in great variety

"Insight" as five finger exercise book

Understand experienced experiencing understanding judging deciding

operations are to be experienced not only singly but in relations

not merely conscious operations but also conscious processes

sensitive process is spontaneous vital psychic -- inquire into it

not just as object but as occurring in me consciously

intellectual process is the intelligent search for the intelligibility

of the sensible -- exigences of intelligence

rational process is the critical demand for evidence for the intell

of the sensible

deliberative process is the responsible determination of actions on

others on things and in making oneself

operations occur in context that is formally dynamic  
that calls forth and assembles its own components  
that does so attentively intelligently rationally responsibly

there is a unity and relatedness and interdependence that exists  
and functions before we advert to it, understand it, objectify it

it is a unity and relatedness quite different from that that  
is found in natural science - there merely intelligible - here  
intelligent reasonable responsible

Affirm understood relations of experienced experiencing and judge affirm  
the

1 do conscious and intentional operations occur

no one (unless deprived of some organ) is going to say that

never in his life did have the experience of seeing or hearing,  
of tasting or smelling or touching, of imagining or perceiving,  
of feeling or moving

or if did appear to have such experience, then it was merely  
appearance since all his life long he has gone about like a  
somnambulist without any awareness of what was going on

no one prefaces his lectures with the statement that he personally  
never had the most fleeting experience of intellectual curiosity,  
of inquiry, of striving and coming to understand, of expressing  
what he had grasped by understanding

articles

how rare is the man that prefaces his books with the reminder  
that never in his life did he experience anything that might be  
named critical reflection, that he never paused about the truth  
or falsity of any statement, that if he ever seemed to exercise  
his rationality by attending to evidence and weighing it, still  
merely apparent

how uncommon are those that preface their books with the warning  
that never in their lives have they acted responsibly and least  
of all were they concerned with achieving something worth while  
in writing and publishing the present volume

in brief conscious and intentional operations exist, and anyone  
that wants to be counted out has only to disqualify himself by  
claiming to be non-responsible non-reasonable non-intelligent  
somnambulist

2 Do they exist in the alleged pattern - is it not merely hypothetical,  
what seems true enough at present but later will have to be  
modified?

pattern itself - dynamism of human conscious intentionality --  
to change that is to put out a new edition of man

account of pattern -- undoubtedly will be better known the more it  
is studied

but limit to revision if revision means further data better understood  
in new pattern



Functions of Transc Meth

Normative

not just authority  
not just success, it works  
but transcendental precepts: be attentive intelligent reasonable resp  
plus determinations from experience

Critical

scandal: scientists agree, philosophers theologians disagree  
what am I doing when I am knowing, why is doing that knowing,  
what do I know when I do it  
divergence between answer to (1) and performance  
divergence over (2) or (3) reducible to divergence over (1)

Dialectical

critical can be applied to every cognitional theory, explicit or implicit  
line up positions and counter-positions

Systematic

*transc* hermeneutic problem vanishes when expression adequately systematic  
no hermeneutic literature on Euclid's elements *(Applied critical method)*

basic terms and relations defined implicitly  
derived in terms of basic

Continuity without Rigidity

continuity from continuity of man - radical revision not possible  
without rigidity, because cognitional theory can develop

Heuristic

unknowns in terms of transcendental notions  
further determinations from systematic function

all method an exploitation of intending what as yet is unknown

Foundational

*accumulated*  
special methods from experience of investigators in their fields  
but besides special norms there are common norms *problems*  
besides problems peculiar to special fields there are interdisciplinary  
inasmuch as special methods are grounded in transc method  
sciences can be mobilized within higher unity of vocabulary thought  
orientation criticism, able to attack interdisciplinary problems  
coherently, to complement one another effectively, to attack  
more fundamental problems that now are neglected

Relevant to theology

theology has its methods - derived from experience of past  
but its methods are, however peculiar to theol., none the less  
the work of human minds performing the same basic operations in the  
same basic patterns of relations as common sense and sciences  
true that one attends inquires reflects decides differently in  
natural sciences, human sciences, theology, still there is no  
transition from attention to inattention, inquiry to indifference,  
critical to uncritical, responsible to irresponsible

*Congar  
School  
Newrichio*

*Our world mediated by meaning*

Objects of theology not beyond transc method  
transcendental notions are unrestricted  
regard everything about everything  
God supernatural are

Not a new resource in theology  
theologians always had minds and ways used them  
transcendental method helps to make better use of resource always used

A key to unified science  
immobility of Arist ideal: necessary causes and immutable effects  
sciences as logically ordered results, distinguished by formal  
objects, related by relations between formal objects  
modern sciences are on the move  
Aristotelian type of unification useless because presupposes static  
only unification possible is unification of methods, through methods  
methods change but only slowly - scientists rely not on theories but  
on methods  
method compatible with developing science, developing religion,  
developing dogma, developing theology  
it is the pattern of change

Theology and philosophy  
abrogates the old metaphor - ancilla, handmaid  
not philosophy in general but three precise questions  
what am I doing when I am knowing - why is that knowing - what is known  
not these questions qua philosophic but qua methodical  
questions are raised because theologians have minds and use them ~~and~~  
and should know just what that means and implies