

*Research*

**The Institute of Theology & Philosophy,**

**MILLTOWN PARK, DUBLIN 6.**

Telephone (01) 976731

**Research**

Expect set precise instructions on how to do it

Always a concrete particular individual task guided not by abstract generalities but by the self-correcting process of learning which also generates common sense

Go to the master in the field of general or special research in which one proposes to work, follow his seminar, write a dissertation under his direction, stay with him till you are familiar with all the tools he employs and you understand just why he makes each of the moves he performs

Expect an account of the data relevant to theological research:

in so far as it is methodological ok; not in so far as theological.

Distinguish: human, religious, Christian, Roman Catholic studies;

all have data, some broader, some narrower

later in Communications relation of theology to religious, human studies

now data in various Christian communions

Scripture alone or Scripture and tradition

Tradition = explicit teaching of apostles ; = ongoing teaching of church

Teaching up to Nicea, Ecumenical councils, 1054; Scholasticism; Trent, Vatican I II

Not all answers correct; but solution arrived at in 6th, Doctrines.

Methodologically: let each follow his present practice. Theologians

already differ not only in determination of privileged area of data

but also in interpretations, in accounting for movements, in doctrines.

in systematics. Differences reduce to different causes. Dialectic

concerned to unearth those causes, hence through foundations to eliminate

evils, through eliminations to bring about unity.

Interpretation 1

## The Institute of Theology & Philosophy,

MILLTOWN PARK, DUBLIN 8.

Telephone (01) 976731

### Interpretation

Basic Exegetical Operations

Understanding the thing

Understanding the words

Understanding the author

Understanding oneself

Judging the correctness of one's interpretation

A Clarification

Stating the meaning of the text

Hermeneutics: principles of interpretation

Exegesis: task of interpreting particular text

Hermeneutics: total task (includes doctrines, communications) G. Amer Betti

functional specialty (distinct from doctrines systematics commun)

Matter: the more systematic a text is, the less the need for interpretation

common sense: of one's milieu; meaning obvious

of another milieu: task of interpreting

complicated: world consciousness, historical consciousness

human sciences, meaning basic category; hermeneutics basic discipline

interpreting = knowing a meaning = cognitional theory

modernity = freeing from tradition authority = initiative

### Basic operations

Understand object, thing: student learns from text about object

exegete may know all about object yet task not yet begun

More he knows about object, the better: marks + exp and judgement character

Principle of Empty Head Bultmann 214 158

Under words: author means P, reader thinks of Q

controversialist, exegete

recurring instances of P & Q

understanding preconceptual, commonsense structure, hermeneutic circle

rules in order to understand = else mere pedantry

Understanding the author

read + little understanding and much puzzling

reread + slight understanding and more puzzling

life long process of becoming a scholar

The Institute of Theology & Philosophy,

MILLTOWN PARK, DUBLIN 8.

Telephone (01) 978731

Understanding oneself

Classics in religion letters phil theol beyond initial horizon of their inter-  
and come within their horizon only through a conversion of the interpreter  
Self correcting process of learning has to be pushed to a revolution in reader's outlook  
This is existential dimension in problem of hermeneutics

Conversion is only basic step; has to be worked out in all its implications

Fr Schlegel 219

Further, classics ground a tradition, tradition provides context within which  
interpreters operate, the Vorverständnis interpreters bring to text Act 24 32; 28 26 220

Interpreter has to be critical not only of himself but also of tradition in which raised

Judging correctness of interpretation

Criterion: as insights Insight 283 ff no further relevant qq

Begins from own interests concerns viewpoint

Gradually come to understand concerns interests viewpoint of author, the  
context of his thinking

Heuristic: word sentence paragraph chapter section book opera omnia life & times

actual: intersweaving of qq and aa in limited groups

answering one gives rise to more, ans them and stillmore,

in topic changed, infinite process; if topic limited, decreasing returns

What is the topic? It is to be discovered. By persistence or good luck one  
hits on some element in context of qq and aa; sooner or later one hits on  
another; for some time progress may be slow; then rapid succession of fresh  
insights, contrast revision of previous views; finally tapering off; no further  
relevant qq. There emerges the overall topic and its subordinate parts;  
persistence at understanding thing words author self, attending to what one  
has not yet understood, finds fuzzy obscure

Judgement possible: in no f qq, certain; if perhaps some I have not thought of, modesty;  
if some unanswered, how many, basic or peripheral, nuanced judgement

Interpretation 3

The Institute of Theology & Philosophy,

MILLTOWN PARK, DUBLIN 6.

Telephone (01) 878731

Clarification

Schleiermacher (understands better than author) Collingwood (reenacts past)

Grace and Freedom

Interpreter understands what author probably never made explicit

Great aid in accurate interpretation

Does not remove accidental obscurities that depend on particular circumstances beyond discovery

Stating the Meaning of the Text

By exegete qua exegete: second functional specialty

Further statements in history dialectic doctrines systematics communications

Bultmann (systematics from Heidegger) Gadamer (Tell significance of text in your life)

Denzinger

1) For colleagues (notes articles monographs)

Technical, supposes familiarity with tools, dicta encyclopaedia

supposes ability to understand summary statement on state of q

does not narrate his every step but gives conclusions & reasons

2) For pupils

Seminar, dissertation: takes them through all the steps

3) For theologians in other specialties or fields

Descamps 232 171

Reconstruct mentality of another time and place: primitive languages

and later developments (Cassirer Snel)

Occult entities (Hebrew Mind, Hellenism, Scholasticism)

Agreement

Common sense

Understanding

Judging prob cont

Judging rent creation



Interpretation MS3

then understanding develops in quite different manner  
Brief consideration of systematic  
branches of e.g. - we all have had the notion  
concerning the scientific

Deliberate

use of letters, the language, the objects, the historical

major horizons

scholarly & scientific

will use to understand ancient  
empire

common sense & scientific

technician

common sense & scholarly

~~list expression~~

Truth

proximate criterion

are there further relevant questions

<u>relevant</u> context		<u>material</u>
		<u>formal</u>

center looking, knitting together		?? + aa
--------------------------------------	--	---------

Topic

it has to be discovered

really set of topics

- major - superordinated
- minor - subordinated

↓  
it

meaning

if really no more - certain

there may be more that I have not  
thought of crucial

then are more great or little significance

mean		on center
		on periphery



Truth  
route

as development - one's project in living

sharing a cultural social regard  
adopting it to oneself

each new advance is a function

of precisely formulated

principles  
laws  
hypotheses

but of all previously acquired insight

*Verständnis*

our tradition may be biased

but univ. doubt is just procedure  
seriously

Wissenschaft vs Doctrines

Science | learn the processes of the present

it being involved in processes of past

enter into diff values  
outlooks

whom judge past by present

but also find the past a challenge to the  
present