

## Preface

A robust sense of reality is essential for a healthy mind. If one feels unsure of the real, if one loses confidence in one's ability to grasp reality and to cope with it, one is mentally ill. It may be said, in a philosophical sense, that the modern Western mind, to a considerable extent, has lost its sense of reality. We are beset with subjectivism on every hand. Philosophers have examined the issues and, sharing the culture being examined and bent on consistency, they have, for the most part, defended and extended the condition. One may well ask if such a loss of a philosophical sense of reality on the part of a culture is a "sickness" or "derangement" which will infect the lives of those who embrace it. In any case, subjectivism versus realism is an important issue in this age, not merely within professional philosophy but for our culture as a whole.

Everett W. Hall (1901–1960) was a severe critic of subjectivism and a staunch defender of realism. His major works (*What Is Value?*, 1952; *Modern Science and Human Values*, 1956; *Philosophical Systems*, 1960; *Our Knowledge of Fact and Value*, 1961; *Categorical Analysis*, 1964) constitute one of the most systematic, extensive and sophisticated efforts in our time at developing in detail and defending a realistic philosophy. He calls into question and goes behind the basic assumptions which have generated subjectivism in our modern culture and points out new ways of thinking which lead to realism. His work is of such importance that it demands critical assessment by his peers and serious consideration by thoughtful men everywhere concerned with the basic problems of our culture.

In this issue of the *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, ten philosophers, including outstanding contributors to the ongoing philosophical debate of our time, critically examine theses and topics in the philosophy of Everett Hall and make important contributions of their own. These essays, with the exception of the last, were originally presented in the spring of 1963 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in connection with the dedication of the Everett W. Hall Philosophy Seminar Room.

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