



Editorial

Liber Amicorum

This issue of *Phenomenology + Pedagogy* is especially dedicated to one of its cofounders, Dr. A.J. Beekman, on the occasion of his retirement as Professor and Chair at the Pedagogical Institute of the University of Utrecht. *Liber Amicorum* (Friendship Book), is a collection of articles brought together on the invitation of his former students and colleagues, who have written the introductory article for this issue. The various contributors to this issue offer their texts in a gesture of deeply felt friendship to Ton Beekman, who they wish well in his early retirement. Professor Beekman was, and is, not only a friend to many of us, he has also been a teacher to us. And the difference is that a teacher not only cares for what we *are*, but also for what we may *become*. I know that many have felt this double eros, of his friendship and pedagogy, in their relation with Ton Beekman.

An editorial of friendship may contain a personal note. I have been impressed with the way that professor Ton Beekman has been able to show his deep interest in and understanding of children. Few of my colleagues, educators by profession, who would visit our home, so quickly and naturally secured a special place in the hearts of our young children, Mark and Michael. Students enrolled in Beekman's course at the university always find their understandings shaped as well as deepened by the various anecdotes taken from daily life, that Beekman brings to his seminars. Professor Beekman's great gift to his students, and to all those close to him, has been his perceptive acuity and phenomenological discernment in the conduct of everyday life. As well, he is a person who enjoys scholarly argument and conversation, animated by the same pedagogic principle that makes him stand out as an example for all of us.